

AUTRICHE – FHWien der WKW

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¹ To update the agenda just click right on your moose

I. Your overall feeling after your semester abroad

I would without a doubt recommend Vienna and FHWien to anyone wanting to do their Erasmus. The city is beautiful, safe and offers a wide range of things to do, with lots of green spaces too. FHWien der WKW is a great place to study, there are a variety of courses to choose from, and the teachers are usually industry professionals/ guest lecturers. This means that you're able to get a taste of different teaching styles and add a more practical style to what we're used to. The courses are interesting, and, in my case, there were a lot of class discussions or times where we had to work in smaller groups, which meant that it was a lot easier to make friends and getting to know people. Of course, the ESN (Erasmus Student Network) also does an amazing job in organizing lots of events, so you'll definitely have the chance to meet lots of people from all over the world!

GRADE: 5

=> 0 (I do not recommend this semester abroad to my best friend) - 5 (I totally recommend this semester to my best friend)

II. Before the travel

A. Preparation

1. Visa

No visa needed.

2. The flight

I flew from Marseille to Vienna with Ryanair and purchased my ticket around two months in advance. Prices change quite frequently but it's generally quite cheap in the winter.

3. My luggage

In Vienna, especially if you're leaving for the second semester, you're going to experience all sorts of weather. In winter it gets very cold, be ready for snow! I would recommend packing underlayers; these were a real lifesaver for me. When you get to summer it can reach 30°C, people are outside in the parks tanning and even swimming in the Danube, so make sure to pack a combination of clothes suitable for all seasons!

4. Bank account

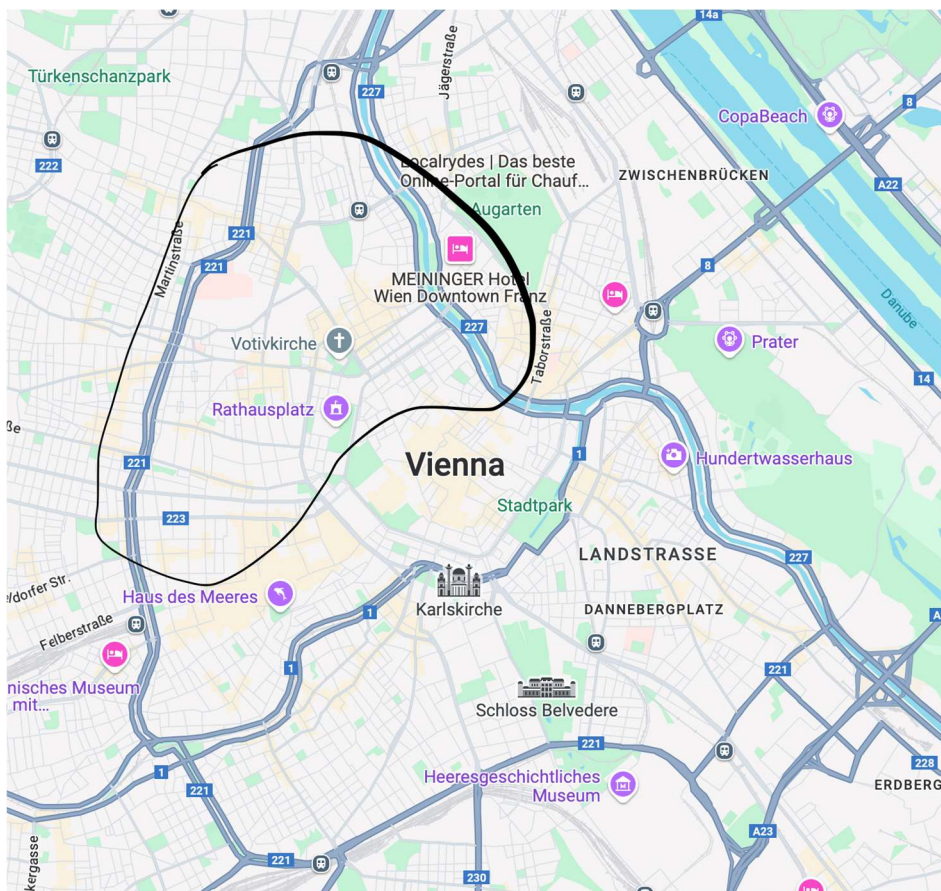
I didn't change banks and not many Erasmus students did either. You just have to be careful because in Vienna a lot of bars, restaurants, cafés are cash only, so you always need to have a little bit on you. Unfortunately, most of the ATMs will charge a fee apart from one which strangely worked for students with French bank accounts? It's called BAWAG and I was never charged any additional fees when taking money out.

5. Insurance

I didn't subscribe to any insurance in particular for Erasmus.

B. Housing

1. Where to live



I lived in the 18th district about a ten-minute walk away from FHWien. I recommend living not too far away from the uni because some classes start early in the morning or finish quite late in the evening, so it'll save you time.

The 9th and 18th districts are the districts closest to the uni, but I would also recommend the 2nd, 7th and 8th districts. Everything is very well connected in Vienna with an excellent public transport system, so you can get just about anywhere in around 20–30 minutes.

2. Find a flat or a room

I found my room via the links that are found on the FHWien website.

Personally, I decided to go for a room in a shared flat with Colivi. They rent out flats with shared kitchens, bathrooms, and common rooms mostly to international students. These flats are equipped with everything you need (towels, sheets, utensils for the kitchen, etc.).

I had quite a few friends living in student accommodations such as STUWO or The Social Hub. These were also good options, but more on the expensive side for a basic room.

3. Cost

I paid 590€ per month for a 11m² room in a shared flat. I had 3 other flatmates which I shared the kitchen and bathroom with, unfortunately we didn't have a living room. Most of my friends and other Erasmus students were paying between 500 – 700€ for a room.

III. When I arrive at the university

A. Inscription at the university

Before arriving in Vienna, you receive an official acceptance letter along with an email containing a link to the Mobility Online platform. This allows you to upload important documents such as your ID, Learning Agreement, and course selections. Communication with the international office is efficient as everything is done via email.

Once in Vienna, you're required to complete a mandatory city registration using a form called the Meldezettel, which confirms your residence and is necessary for both legal and university purposes. The university offers guidance on this step as well.

After settling in, you'll finalize your course schedule through an online meeting with a university advisor, and you'll also collect your student ID card.

B. Information on the university

1. Class

Cf. 3. List of courses and recommendation

2. Organization of the Class

The professors are generally very approachable and engaging, often bringing real-world experience from their professional backgrounds into the classroom. While the workload can sometimes be demanding, it's overall quite manageable.

Attendance is mandatory for at least 75% of each course. Classes typically run for 3 to 4 hours and are taught in intensive blocks lasting from one to three weeks. During this time, you complete the entire course, including classes, assignments, and the final exam.

As a result, it's rare to have more than two courses in the same week. Unlike at Moma, this means that there isn't a fixed exam period, each course finishes independently, so although the semester officially ends around July 1st, many students finish earlier depending on their course selection.

3. [List of courses and recommendation](#)

The university provides an extensive selection of courses taught in English (and German). We were given a detailed course catalogue, which was extremely helpful for planning. Students can either handpick their courses or opt for pre-set course packs. These packs are designed to avoid timetable clashes, making it much simpler to manage your schedule.

Airbnb, Spotify & Co.: Digital Business Models and Strategy

This course was separate from the "pack" that I picked and I'm very glad that I picked it as it was probably one of the courses where I learnt the most. The lecturer was an industry professional who shared valuable real-world perspectives, helping understand concepts such as, pricing strategies, MOAT through infrastructure and trust. The exam was based on a group project where we had to come up with a new digital business model for a successful existing brand. I would recommend this course and say that it's overall less demanding than courses at Moma.

Austrian Culture & more

This course was mandatory and you have it during the integration week. It's online during 3 days and designed to introduce us to Austrian culture. It was interesting but I thought that it was a shame that it was online as it could've been more captivating.

Business Ethics - Opportunities & Potentials vs. Limits & Threats; IL

This course was engaging and interesting. The professor was very friendly and brought energy to the class. Sessions alternated between lectures and interactive group work, where we identified and analyzed ethical dilemmas in various real-world contexts before presenting to the rest of the class. For the final assignment, we were required to write a paper examining a specific situation where a chain of unethical decisions escalated into a broader issue. I would recommend this and say that it's overall less demanding than courses at Moma.

Business Strategy and Strategic Controlling

This was the first course I took in Vienna, and unfortunately, also the most challenging in a negative way. The professor made the classes extremely long, lasting around five hours each day with only a brief break in between. Although the course ran for just two weeks with daily sessions, the pace was intense. Mornings were packed with lengthy lectures, and afternoons were dedicated to preparing case studies for the following day. While the subject itself was interesting, the amount of content covered in such a short time made it

difficult to retain anything effectively. Also this course took place during our 2nd integration week meaning that we missed out on several events. I would say that this course was a lot more demanding than Moma.

Cross-Cultural Management

This course was very interesting as the professor had a very good knowledge on the subject as she came from a very diverse background herself. She had a lot to offer to the course. What made this course even more interesting was its focus on cultural differences in business behavior. I especially appreciated the lively discussions and exchanges among students from diverse backgrounds, as the class included many Erasmus participants. It created a rich, multicultural environment that made learning and retaining the information a lot easier. I highly recommend this course and would say that it was the same as Moma.

Innovation Management

This course was led by the same professor as Cross-Cultural Management, so the structure and expectations were quite similar, the final grade was based on in-class participation, a written group report, and a group presentation focused on an innovative product or project. The workload was light and easy to handle, there was no homework between sessions, aside from preparing the report and final presentation. Overall, I found the course less demanding compared to those at MOMA.

International Business - Understanding International Context, Identifying Business Opportunities-

This course was very engaging and interesting. The professor was very attentive and made sure that we understood everything by showing us videos, and using other methods to help us retain the information. Classes were interactive, with students working in small groups to discuss key issues before sharing what they had said with the entire class. The workload was fairly demanding, as the final grade was based on quizzes, two group presentations, and three group papers. While I highly recommend the course for its rich content and interactive format, it does require a solid commitment. I found it more challenging than courses at MOMA.

Modern Business Concepts

In this course we only had 4 in-class lectures, the rest was done out of class and the focus was entirely on group work and project development. We were tasked with creating a business idea, which we progressively refined through written reports and presentations. Each lecture was dedicated to presenting different stages of our project. It's a good experience if you're part of a motivated team, but it relies heavily on self-directed learning. In terms of difficulty, I found it comparable to the courses at MOMA.

4. Exam

Exam formats varied by course and could include written exams, oral participation, presentations, essays, or reports. Final grades were usually split between a midterm

evaluation (accounting for 30–50% of the grade) and a final exam or project (worth 50–70%), depending on the course structure. Group work was a major component, and professors were generally fair and even generous in their grading. The Austrian grading system ranges from 1 (excellent) to 5 (fail), with 1 corresponding to 90–100% and 5 to anything below 50%.

IV. When I live there

A. Safety

Vienna is a super safe city and as a woman I never felt in danger when walking in the streets at night. There are also night busses that operate every day and on Friday and Saturday the metro runs all night.

Like any big city there are some places that you should avoid, I know that the 10th district doesn't have the best reputation but apart from that, Vienna is not dangerous whatsoever.

B. Phone and Internet

I kept the same phone operator (SFR) throughout the semester and never had any problems. Although I know that some people had to buy SIMs for 1/3 months.

C. Events

At the start of the semester, you'll know about all the events thanks to the ESN of FHWien. You'll be added to a group chat on WhatsApp, and there, the ESN coordinators will share the dates and locations of all the ESN events sometimes even non-ESN events too.

There are several Instagram pages dedicated to events in the city too such as: @goodnight.at_wien, @zwidemu, @1000thingsinvienna, @freytagevents, @dutanztmichmal.at, @redgroovesocialclub

One thing to take into consideration when going out is that a lot of the good clubs in Vienna are 21+ and that to be sure to have a table at certain bars you must reserve a table, as if it were a restaurant.

D. Sports

You can do a lot of sports but not via FHWien, most of the time you have to look into it yourself or ask people that are living there permanently, for example I asked some of the ESN volunteers. I played Padel with friends that reserved courts online via ASKÖ. There are also so many beautiful parks in Vienna which are perfect for if you want to go on a run or just picnicking with friends.

E. Eating

Vienna has a lot of iconic dishes to offer, such as Schnitzel, Kaiserschmarrn (which is like scrambled pancakes), Käsekrainer (which is a cheese hotdog) and of course you must try the Döner kebabs which you can find almost everywhere in the city for quite cheap. Billa and Hoffer are the supermarkets that I went too which both offer good quality food. Also just to note that the FHWien doesn't have a cafeteria or canteen so most of the time we would go to Billa and buy a sandwich if we ever had lessons during lunch.

F. Go to the university: bus, car, bike

I would walk to uni as it was only a 10-minute journey from where I lived but a lot of friends I knew would get there by public transport (metro or tram).

G. Travels

Vienna is such a central destination in Europe making it quite easy to travel anywhere. You can take the train or bus to Budapest, Bratislava, Prague, Krakow, Ljubljana and even more!

Personally, I traveled twice to Budapest, once with RegioJet (train) and once with FlixBus. Both means of transport were very quick, easy and affordable, around 20€ for a round trip. Budapest is a must visit – especially only being 3 hours away from Vienna. I also went to Bratislava with FlixBus which is not far from Vienna (1h15). It was a great day trip, and I enjoyed the city but wouldn't have needed to stay any longer as it's quite small.

I also went to Krakow with FlixBus for a weekend, this time it was a longer journey (around 8h) but very affordable, around 35€ for a round trip. This was a great, lively city with lots of things to do.

And last but definitely not least, was my trip to Albania which was so much fun and super affordable. We took a flight from Vienna to Tirana where we rented a car and visited several other cities, Berat, Vlore and Himarë. Just make sure to bring your passport as it's not in the EU!

H. Any other information you would have liked to know about

Make the most of everything, don't be afraid to say yes and go out of your comfort zone! The time goes by so quick so cherish it and remember that they're memories that will last a lifetime. Also, if you're in L3 and wanting to pursue a Master, try to have an idea of what you want to do and prepare in advance because the application phase can be stressful as you don't want to be missing out on things during the Erasmus but at the same time you want to prepare a solid application.

Also, if you want any more precise recommendations on food, cafés, bars etc. don't hesitate to contact me and I can pass you my google maps list :)

V. After your semester abroad

A. What are you planning do to?

I'm going to be studying music management in Paris at ICART.

B. Did you apply for master?

I applied for the Master MBD at MOMA and the MBA program at ICART and was accepted to both.

[remember to fill in the excel : <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/11-vB4ABdkzIJR1AQ82drWyAVXfnCpRYr8COkeKihnlS/edit?usp=sharing>]