



**BOSTON COLLEGE**  
OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

**VIENNA UNIVERSITY of ECONOMICS and BUSINESS**  
**2012-2013**  
**Program Guide**

Vienna University of Economics and Business

<http://www.wu.ac.at>

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### **Preparing for Study Abroad**

- To maximize your study abroad experience, you should prepare yourself by learning about your host country, its history, culture, and economy. You may want to begin with: [www.economist.com/countries](http://www.economist.com/countries) or <http://www.britannica.com/> for a summary.
- Know what is happening in the news in your host city by reading the local newspaper, *The Courier*: <http://www.allyoucanread.com/vienna-newspaper-austria/> or *The Standard* <http://derstandard.at/>
- Engaging with and adapting to a different culture is an inherent component of study abroad. You will find the following websites useful to learn about intercultural communication before you leave home: <http://www.pacific.edu/sis/culture/> and <http://www.peacecorps.gov/wvs/educators/enrichment/culturematters/index.html>
- Customs and traditions in your host country are different from those at home. To learn a little about the local customs and traditions you should visit the following website: <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/44183/Austria/274933/Daily-life-and-social-customs>
- You and your parents should refer to the Office of International Programs website ([www.bc.edu/international](http://www.bc.edu/international)) and specifically to the *Study Abroad Handbook* for more information regarding the abroad experience.
- Prior to your departure you will meet with your International Study Advisor at an orientation to help you further prepare for your study abroad experience.

### **On-Site Contact Information**

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### **Travel Information**

- You are responsible for making your own travel arrangements. In the past BC students have often used student travel agencies such as STA Travel at [www.statravel.com](http://www.statravel.com). These agencies generally offer competitive rates.
- To study in Austria, you must have a passport that is valid for at least three months beyond your estimated return date. You may apply for a passport at any major US post office. Be sure to start this process as soon as possible as it usually takes six to eight weeks to complete.
- You will need a visa in order to remain in Austria for up to 6 months. For stays of more than 6 months a residency permit is required. For more information about the process you should go to:

<http://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/embassy/consulate-general-new-york/practical-advice/visa-and-residence-permit.html>.

- You will need to apply **in person** and your documents (be sure to make copies) will then be forwarded to the Alien's Office for your area of residence. Once your application is approved it takes about 25 days for the consulate to issue your Residence Permit (visa) for the rest of your stay. You will find consulate offices in New York, Washington DC, Chicago, and Los Angeles.
- Within three working days of your arrival in Austria, and also in case you move from one accommodation to another, you have to register your residency with the municipal authorities (in Vienna called 'Magistratisches Bezirksamt'). You will find information about this registration process at the following website:  
[http://www.oead.at/welcome\\_to\\_austria/legal\\_practical\\_issues/life\\_in\\_austria/registration/EN/](http://www.oead.at/welcome_to_austria/legal_practical_issues/life_in_austria/registration/EN/). In order to register you will need the following documents: passport; birth certificate; registration form (*Meldezettel*), available from the registration office (must be signed both by the landlord/landlady and the tenant).
- To get from Vienna International Airport, located outside the city limits, to the city center, you can take the City Airport Train (CAT), the Airport Express bus, the Schnellbahn (S-Bahn), the Vienna Airport Service or a taxi. Don't forget to send your contact information abroad to OIP once you're settled.

## Academics

### Academic Calendar

Please consult the acceptance materials that WU sends you for the dates. Plan to stay until the last exam date. You must remain for all of your exams. As of now, the semester dates are:

#### Fall Semester 2012 (Semester 1)

9/7- 9/28	Introduction Days (Orientation, Cultural Program, German language course)
10/1 - 1/26	Teaching term*
TBD	Exams**

\* Courses for exchange students usually end before the Christmas break.

#### Summer Semester 2013 (Semester 2)

2/8-3/1	Introduction Days (Orientation, Cultural Program, German language course)
3/4-6/3	Term dates
TBD	Exams**

\*\* Exam dates depend upon the courses chosen; dates are at the discretion of the professors.

- You must participate in the pre-semester program; BC will pay the fees for the program but you must pay for housing.
- Before you arrive you may want to look at: <http://www.wu.ac.at/prospective/en/international>
- Courses are taught in German and English. You should look at the following website for classes in both English and German: <http://www.wu.ac.at/io/en/incoming/courses>
- You must take a total of 30 ECTS credits including a Business German language course.
- Course registration takes place prior to the beginning of the semester. A member of the WU faculty will be the academic advisor for BC students, and will provide help in selecting courses as well as advising on academic matters.
- Course approval information will be found at:  
<http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/academics/courseapproval.html>

- Information about transcripts and grades is available at <http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/academics/transcripts.html>

## Housing

- Although you will be paying BC tuition, you pay for your own housing. Payment will be made directly to the provider.
- If you arrive early, and need temporary accommodations, you will find helpful information at: [www.wien.info/en/travel-info/hotels-accommodations](http://www.wien.info/en/travel-info/hotels-accommodations). Additional information about the estimated cost of housing may be found at: [http://www.bc.edu/content/dam/files/offices/international/pdf/Updated\\_Budget\\_2010-.pdf](http://www.bc.edu/content/dam/files/offices/international/pdf/Updated_Budget_2010-.pdf)
- European students rarely live on or even near campus, so you should expect to take public transportation to the university. The following website has information about locating student housing in Vienna: <http://www.wu.ac.at/prospective/en/international/housing>
- Information about local transportation may be found at: <http://www.wien.gv.at/english/transportation-urbanplanning/public-transport/>
- Most students purchase a cell phone when they arrive in Vienna. During the orientation and cultural program you will receive information about buying a cell phone.

## Wellness, Health and Safety

- Make sure that you have had any required or recommended vaccinations for your travel destinations by consulting the Centers for Disease Control website at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)
- HTH Worldwide Insurance Services is an emergency health and emergency services provider. All registered BC students are covered by our blanket policy while living and traveling outside of the United States. Coverage is only for the dates of your program. We recommend that if you are going to travel before or after your program you purchase extended coverage from HTH. For more information, visit the following website: <http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/travel-health-safety.html>
- Visit the U.S. State Department website: <http://www.state.gov/> for important travel information including travel advisories.
- Adjusting to a new culture and environment can be stressful. You will have a smoother transition by making sure that you prepare to remain healthy. Following are some websites that provide important information and advice about how to have a healthy and safe experience abroad: [http://kidshealth.org/teen/your\\_mind/emotions/culture\\_shock.html](http://kidshealth.org/teen/your_mind/emotions/culture_shock.html)  
<http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/cultural-services/articles/cultureshock-stages.html>  
<http://www.bravenewtraveler.com/2007/11/20/the-4-stages-of-culture-shock-and-how-to-beat-them/>
- Be sure to visit the OIP website for additional information about Health and Safety: <http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/travel-health-safety.html>
- BC emergency contact information:  
OIP: (617) 552-3827 (Monday to Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.)  
BCPD: (617) 552-4444 (outside of normal business hours)
- Alcohol and Drugs  
In many cultures, alcohol consumption is an acceptable part of the culture and people are taught at home to drink in moderation. Many countries have a lower drinking age than the U.S. while other countries have drinking and drug abuse laws that may be more severe. You are subject to the laws of your host country, so if you choose to drink alcohol abroad, always drink responsibly and be knowledgeable about your host country's laws by visiting: [http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/tips\\_1232.html#drug\\_offenses](http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/tips_1232.html#drug_offenses)

## Finances

- The OIP website provides information about estimated expenses for study abroad:  
[http://www.bc.edu/content/dam/files/offices/international/pdf/2012-2013\\_estimated\\_student\\_budget\\_w\\_housing\\_June\\_2012.pdf](http://www.bc.edu/content/dam/files/offices/international/pdf/2012-2013_estimated_student_budget_w_housing_June_2012.pdf)
- The following website provides some information about the cost of living in Vienna:  
[http://www.wu.ac.at/prospective/international/living\\_vienna/cost](http://www.wu.ac.at/prospective/international/living_vienna/cost)
- Scholarships and Financial Aid information can be found at:  
[http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/Scholarship\\_Opportunities.html](http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/Scholarship_Opportunities.html)

## Returning to BC

- Complete a Program Evaluation. Upon completion of your program OIP will e-mail the link to the evaluation
- Mentor an exchange student from your host university by contacting [oipexchange@bc.edu](mailto:oipexchange@bc.edu)
- Volunteer for Discovery Night, Pre-departure Orientation, Re-entry seminar by contacting your International Study Advisor, Esther Messing at: [messines@bc.edu](mailto:messines@bc.edu)
- It is not uncommon when you return from studying abroad to experience "reverse" culture shock. The following may help you transition back to home: <http://www.cie.uci.edu/prepare/shock.shtml>  
<http://www.studyabroad.com/guides/handbook/handbook5.html#shock>

## References

- Suggested readings:
- Geiler, Peter. Austria- culture smart: a quick guide to customs & etiquette, Kuperard: London 2007
- Rickett, Richard. A Brief Survey of Austrian History, IBD Limited: 1985
- Travel Guides for Austria:<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/austria>  
<http://www.roughguides.com/travel/europe/austria.aspx>  
<http://www.ricksteves.com/>
- Useful websites:  
Local information about Vienna: <http://www.dublin.ie/>  
[http://www.aboutvienna.org/living\\_in\\_vienna/vienna\\_travel.php](http://www.aboutvienna.org/living_in_vienna/vienna_travel.php)
- Student and parent guides for study abroad:  
<http://www.studyabroad.com/guides/handbook/handbook5.html#shock>

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