Ersamus report

Why did I choose Vienna?

After getting accepted to the Erasmus scholarship program, a lot of people asked me why did I choose Vienna? Why did I want to go to Austria, not somewhere further away?

Ever since I was in high school, and heard about the Erasmus program, I knew that I definitely wanted to spend at least one semester abroad. However, when I had the chance to apply, I was only in my first semester at Corvinus, and I have never lived abroad and alone for more than two weeks. Plus, I did not have a TOEFL or an IELTS language exam, so the place I could apply for were limited. I knew that I wanted to practice my German language skills, and I always found Vienna a beautiful city full of culture and history, so the Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien was my first choice.

Looking back at my experience in Austria, I would recommend Vienna for people who want to experience studying abroad, but do not wish to go too far away from home. You can comfortably visit your family and friends at least once a month, if you want to do so, and they can see you in Austria more often as well. Or if you are in the same shoes as me, and want to go to live on another continent for your next semester abroad, but need a practice step before that, Vienna is perfect for that too. It is a great opportunity to learn how these programs work, experience living abroad, develop your language skills and confidence, while still being able to ask for help from home if you need it.
Before traveling to Vienna

Even before starting the exchange semester and traveling to Austria, the Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien is extremely helpful, supportive and student-friendly. Almost every necessary piece of information for exchange students is available on the website https://www.wu.ac.at/ in English and German as well. Furthermore, the university sends several e-mails, helping in registering into their system, and with detailed descriptions of to-do tasks, and expectations from their side. The university only asks for the prepared Learning Agreement at the date of arrival, but I would recommend for everyone to start preparing it in time, because after May it is almost impossible to reach the professors from our home university.

From my experience, at this time, another very influential decision is whether you apply for the offered German Course and Cultural and Orientation Program in September. I did apply for both of them, and it affected my social life a lot, as I got to know the majority of my friends during the cultural programs. This is a great way to get to know the other Erasmus students from all countries around the world, and to get familiar with the city and visit several exciting and significant places. It is an amazing way to spend a month before starting the actual semester and your studies.

As for the German Course, I found it very helpful, it helped me to get used to using German again and it was taught by a great professor, which made it quite enjoyable.

So to sum up the period before going to Vienna, I browsed the extremely helpful WU website a lot and applied for the German Course and the Cultural and Orientation Program, which I would definitely recommend for everyone.

Accommodation
Exchange students arriving in Vienna have several options to choose from when booking housing for their stay. These options include for example:

- residence halls run by OeAD, the main housing provider for students in Austria,
- or a private flat that can be found for example through the housing platform Housing Anywhere,
- or through another third-party provider.

However, regardless of whether you are staying at an OeAD residence hall, or private accommodation, you are have to and secure your own housing on your own.

Personally, I chose one of the student dorms called STUWO Seestadt, which is a brand-new student house opened in September of 2018. It is located in Seestadt, which is the last station of the metro line number 2, an outer part of Vienna. Even though the dorm was around 25 minutes from the center and the university, I was very satisfied with my experience there. The rooms look great, there is a very good community and even a sauna and a small gym at the dorm house. However, if you want to get everywhere in 10 minutes, this is not the student house for you.

### Transportation

Vienna has an outstanding public transportation network. Buses, trains, streetcars, and subway lines will take you almost anywhere in the city in no time at all. Therefore, we strongly recommend purchasing a student semester ticket.

The student semester ticket is valid for a whole academic semester and, with Vienna registered as your primary residence, costs € 75 for students under age 26. For students under age 26 who do not have Vienna registered as their primary residence, the semester ticket costs € 150. Unfortunately, semester tickets are not available to students over the age of 26.
To buy a semester ticket at the reduced price, you need to bring the following documents when purchasing the ticket: application form, valid student ID card, and enrollment confirmation from WU*, confirmation of residence registration.

**Course application and Studies**

As for the course application at the WU, lot of information is provided by the university, but I would definitely advise everyone to prepare a plan B and plan C for every course you want to take, as the course registration is extremely fast, and it is almost impossible to get in to every class you planned to get in. However, there is a waiting list for those, who could not register well for their class is, which is very helpful. Also, do not hesitate to connect the advisors, since they are very friendly and answer almost immediately.

In case you applied for the German Course or the Orientational and Cultural Program (or both), your exchange semester starts one month before the actual school semester with a two day orientation at the university, and the three weeks of the other program you chose.

After registering for your courses in August, you will see that at the WU there are several intensive courses, which makes the daily load pretty light. There is a lot of time left for traveling, exploring the city with your friends, or getting a half-time job.

As for the courses themselves, there are a big variety of interesting topics and classes, and the professors I met were all very professional and had interesting lectures. I especially liked the Specialization Class I took in International Macroeconomics and International Trade.

At WU, there is no real „exam period”, since every course has a final exam on the day of last class, which can be at very different times.
I would recommend to plan your schedule ahead, because the possibilities for WU courses can make your semester very flexible.

I hope my report was useful, and I wish you a great exchange semester!