

Mobility Scholarship Questionnaire

Please describe your experiences and comment on the following:

1. My Program of Study is Bachelor of Commerce in International Business at the University of Vienna (UniVie), comparable to the program at the University of Ottawa (uOttawa). Courses range from 1.5 to 3 hours per week over 11-12 weeks each semester, covering topics such as Market Entry Strategy, European Union Studies, and business-oriented language courses. I am enrolled in six classes this semester. The course format closely mirrors that of uOttawa, fostering an interactive environment that encourages dialogue between professors and students. Through meeting and connecting with some exchange students from South Korea and Japan, I found that this contrasts with the lecture-centric, professor-led approach typical in some Asian universities, where study tends to be more reactive than proactive.
2. The fall semester at UniVie runs from October 1 to January 31, with several holidays, mainly Catholic statutory holidays observed in Austria. Course registration begins in early September, one month before classes start, which differs significantly from the earlier registration timelines I am accustomed to. Exams are scheduled immediately following the last session of each class. Orientation sessions, offered in both German and English, include general orientations as well as faculty-specific sessions. As I am completing only one semester, I will not experience the full academic year at UniVie.
3. I love the support system for incoming students at uniVie. Three months before the semester started, I received detailed instructions on how to create my student account. Upon arrival, I attended the mandatory orientation organized by the International Office, bringing essential documents like passport or ID card. The session covers key aspects of living and studying in Vienna, including course registration and transport. After the nomination from my home university was validated, I registered online via the u:space portal, uploaded a passport photo and ID, and paid the Austrian Students' Union fee (€24.70 for 2024/25) to complete enrollment. I received a u:card (student ID) at orientation, granting access to university services. Erasmus+ mobility coordinators assist with course selection, Learning Agreements, exams, and English-taught course information. Course registration opens in early September on u:space, with required first-session attendance to maintain enrollment. Language support includes discounted preparatory courses in German and other languages. Social activities, cultural events, and networking opportunities, organized by the International Office and the Austrian Students' Union, also happen during the start of the semester.
4. **Budget outlining the cost of studying abroad:**
Airplane Ticket:
 - i. Roundtrip Flight:
 - ii. Estimated cost: \$550 - \$750

Note: Prices depend on departure city and booking timing.

Housing Costs:

Accommodation:

- Monthly student apartment rent averages €300 - €600
- Total for 5 months (September to January): €1,500 - €3,000

Note: University dorms or shared apartments may reduce costs.

Daily Travel Costs:

- Public Transportation: Semester pass: €75
- Total for 5 months: €250 - €350 (for independent travels)

Note: Student discounts may apply.

Meals:

Food Costs:

- Monthly grocery budget: €200 - €300
- Total for 5 months: €1,000 - €1,500

Note: Cooking at home is more economical than eating out.

Textbooks and Supplies:

- Books and Materials:
- Estimated total: €200 - €400 for the semester

Note: Check if course materials are provided or can be borrowed.

Vacation Costs:

- Travel within Europe:
- Estimated budget for weekend trips: €300 - €600

Note: Budget airlines and trains offer affordable travel options.

Miscellaneous Expenses:

- Personal Expenses:
- Estimated budget for entertainment, clothing, etc.: €200 - €400

Note: This varies based on lifestyle choices.

Total Estimated Budget:

Airplane Tickets: \$750

Housing: €3,000 (~\$3,200)

Daily Travel: €350 (~\$380)

Meals: €1,500 (~\$1,620)

Textbooks: €400 (~\$430)

Vacation: €600 (~\$645)

Miscellaneous: €400 (~\$430)

****Total: ~\$8,155**

5. Application procedures before arrival:**1. Visa Application Procedures**

I applied for a Visa D for my stay in Austria, as it covered stays between 91 days and 6 months. I began the application process 3 to 6 months before my planned arrival and gathered the required documents: a valid passport, a completed visa application form, proof of sufficient financial means, health insurance coverage, my admission letter from the university, a rental contract as proof of accommodation, and a legalized birth certificate.

2. Admission Requirements

For admission, I completed the university's application form and provided my ID, proof of health insurance, and the Certificate of Arrival as confirmation of admission. I also submitted proof of financial means, which required around €673 per month for students under 24 and €1,218 per month for students older than 24. Additionally, I paid the administrative fee of about €29.

3. Course Registration

After receiving my admission letter, I registered for courses at the university. I brought my student ID and necessary documents to the registration office, ensuring that I understood the course selection process and relevant deadlines.

4. Housing Deposit and Accommodation

Since the University of Vienna does not provide student housing, I secured my own accommodation in a shared apartment. I paid a deposit equal to one month's rent, which was required by my landlord, and made sure my rental contract covered at least three months.

5. Residence Registration (Meldezettel)

Upon arrival in Austria, I registered my residence within three working days at the Municipal District Office (Magistratisches Bezirksamt). I filled out the Meldezettel form, submitted it along with my ID and rental agreement, and received a confirmation of registration (Meldebestätigung), which was essential for further administrative purposes.

6. Additional Preparations

To cover health insurance, I confirmed that my insurance policy was valid in Austria and considered applying for a student self-insurance policy after arrival. I prepared a financial plan that covered tuition, living expenses, and other associated costs, setting aside an emergency fund for any unexpected expenses.

6. Vienna's housing is relatively affordable compared to other major European cities. The average rent for an 80m² apartment generally falls between €500 and €600, while long-term residents may find options as low as €250. Rental costs vary widely by neighborhood. Central districts like Innere Stadt are typically more expensive, whereas outer districts offer more budget-friendly options. Average monthly rents for a single-bedroom apartment range from €900 - €1,200 in the city center and €600 - €800 outside it. Utilities, including electricity, heating, cooling, water, and waste, usually add €150 - €250 per month based on consumption and apartment size, with gas prices recently impacting heating costs. Housing deposits typically require one to three months' rent upon signing a rental agreement. I currently reside in an apartment with three roommates in District 15, Vienna, with an all-inclusive monthly rent of €649. The location is highly convenient, offering excellent access to public transportation, nearby grocery stores, and a local castle, Schonbrunn Palace!

My experience in Vienna has been exceptional, both academically and personally. Austria's central location in Europe has allowed me to explore neighboring countries like Hungary, Croatia, the Netherlands, Denmark, and Belgium, enriching my time here with diverse cultures

and landscapes. The exchange program has provided me with valuable insights into international business while expanding my global perspective. Living in Vienna has not only improved my language skills but also my understanding of European history and lifestyle. For any uOttawa students considering this program, I highly recommend it as a way to enhance their undergraduate experience with both academic and cultural growth.