

A) Your program of study. Add the exact number of class hours per course.

WU – the Vienna University of Economics and Business

Courses:

At WU all classes have variable schedules (see appendix for my schedule, for example). The best thing to do is to take block classes that only last 4-5 weeks (or even less, in some cases) so you open additional weeks where you can travel. At the time of writing this paper – halfway through the semester – I haven't actually even started one of my courses, while another one is almost finished. Most classes are 3 – 4 hours per session and only once to maximum twice a week. Taking 5 classes, you should have about 15 hours or less of class a week and *plenty* of free time. To put this into perspective, during the whole semester, I only have 22 days of class – I think this is less than any other exchange student I've talked to (who is not at WU, some have less believe it or not).

Essentially, classes in Vienna are much easier than at Telfer because the grading is heavily reliant on class participation and presentations in groups. You have a distinct advantage being a native English speaker vs. your German and Austrian counterparts, whom usually have English as their second or even third language.

4896 - Sustainability and Strategy in International Business

Introduction to the Role of Business in Society. Topics include: Sustainability and Strategy in International Business, Sustainability in Practice, Managing Sustainability, Sustainability and Stakeholder Management, Social Entrepreneurship, International Business and Climate Change, International Business and International Development, Sustainability and Innovation.

This class has a lot of debate and is mostly based on participation. If you are passionate about sustainability and enjoy contributing to class discussions and debates, then it is a good class to take. You have 3 hours of class a week usually but two weeks have 6 hours of class. Grading is as follows: 15% individual assignment, 35% group assignments, 40% participation in class, and 10% peer rating; hence, you can see the importance of participation. Assignments are done in group work or individually and usually involve analyzing a company's CSR strategy and presenting your findings to the class.

5721 - International Energy Strategies

Energy project business cases along the entire value chain (e.g. analysis & evaluation of investment projects, investment decision analysis, make-or-buy-decisions). Assessing and evaluating strategies of international energy companies. Market entry & exit strategies (e.g. measurement of exposure, setting-up & monitoring of an asset portfolio, measurement of risk & return).

This is a great class if you are interested in learned about oil & gas investments (or are a finance guy / girl in general, which I personally am). You have four hours of class a week and the class lasts about 7 weeks. The professor is an director at an international energy company (OMV group, Austria's largest company), and is extremely knowledgeable in the subject. He has a world of "real life experience" that he brings to class and this makes it very interesting. The course is made up of two 20% cases where you analyze fictional (but very realistic) energy investment opportunities and present your findings to the class. There is also a negotiation simulation that takes place throughout the course that is very interesting. At the end of the course, there is an oral exam with the professor worth the remaining 60%. If you have taken equity valuation or worked in valuation / company analysis, this course will be very interesting but quite easy for you – a perfect combination.

5141- International Mergers & Acquisitions

This course gives students an overview of the basic economic, public policy and legal issues in M&A. Students will learn the principal mechanics of such transactions, from the early stages of preliminary screening, due diligence, contract negotiation, regulatory clearances to closing of the deal. Types of transactions covered will include private M&A transactions, public takeovers and private equity transactions.

This is my favourite course I have ever taken in university – period. The professors are two corporate lawyers – trained at Harvard – who work for the best corporate law firm in Austria, called Schonherr. This is in fact where the class takes place – instead of on campus, class is held in a corporate board room at the Schonherr offices in downtown Vienna. There is coffee, water and juices provided in class and all slides and materials are printed out beforehand for your convenience, which is awesome. There are readings you are supposed to do before every class but if you have worked in finance or are interested in it, these don't need to be done. The grading is 30% participation, 30% group assignment and a 40% final paper – all based on analyzing real life mergers that have taken place from a legal and economic perspective. You have four hours of class per week on Friday evenings, unfortunately, but the class only lasts 5 weeks. *If you are even remotely interested in finance, you should absolutely take this class.*

4121- Negotiation Strategies and Techniques. A Case Study Approach Based on the Harvard Program on Negotiation

Students will learn to prepare themselves efficiently for and deal with business negotiations, based on the principles of the 'Harvard Program on Negotiation'. Participants will practice to perform better in negotiations and long-lasting business relationships.

I haven't started this class yet at the time of writing this (see schedule), so I can't comment on the specifics. Be aware that this class is only worth 4 ECTS credits vs. 6 ECTS usually offered (and equivalent to one course at Telfer). Therefore, if you decide to take this class, I recommend taking the Tandem Program (below) to make up for the additional 2 ECTS credits required by Telfer.

Due to the highly interactive nature of the course, which requires students to negotiate regularly with each other, the class is limited to 24 students. A significant amount of time is spent both in and out of class preparing for the negotiations, actually negotiating, and giving and receiving feedback. The cases used are mostly Harvard cases.

Tandem Program

Tandem language learning is a form of autonomous learning in which you are paired with a native speaker of your target language in order to learn more about each other's language and culture. A tandem partner is different from a buddy in the sense that with tandem the focus is on language learning. Your tandem partner is interested in learning your language and is ready to devote time to help you learn his/her language. There are no financial costs involved. You can get 2 ECTS credits for your participation in the program so long as you meet with your partner for a total of 20 hours and complete logs documenting your meetings, as well as a final reflection paper.

Tandem learning is a great way to learn German (or another language) while meeting a local Austrian / German (or other exchange student, perhaps). In my case, my partner Elli helps me with my German and I help her with English. This is a great way to learn the language and the culture. The program is very cool because you and your partner and practice however and wherever you like – in a café, a pub, or relaxing on one of the beaches by the river, for example. I think most students who did not participate in the tandem program were sad they did not, even if they didn't need the credits. If you don't need the two ECTS credits, you can also participate in the program but not keep logs of your sessions and not write a term paper – so, I would recommend doing the tandem program whether you need the credits or not.

B) The timetable (academic calendar, registration dates, orientation, beginning and end of classes, exams, holidays, number of semesters, etc.)

I recommend coming to Vienna during the summer semester, from March to July, however there are two semesters. Exams take place on your last day of class, but if you select specific classes, you may have no final exams (as is the case for me).

Note that *the summer semester starts much later than most other universities in Europe (March)*, but often ends at a similar time depending on your class schedule (late May to early June). Exchange students at other universities will be jealous of how much free time you have to travel while they are in school – this is one of the best things about studying at WU.

Orientation & Cultural Program and pre-semester German language course: February 13 – March 2, 2017

These are both extra-curricular, non-mandatory three-week programs that take place prior to the official semester start. Basically, it is up to you if you would like to participate in this program. I did not participate so I can't speak personally about it, but everyone who I know that participated enjoyed the program and met many friends during this time. If you don't participate, it will take you a little longer to get to know everyone in your dorm, and it can be slightly harder to meet a broad group of friends. If feeling like you got 100% of the exchange experience is important to you, I would recommend doing the program. That being said, I chose not to participate (and instead went backpacking) and have absolutely no regrets.

Semester dates: March 6, 2017 - July 9, 2017

Easter break: April 10, 2017 - April 30, 2017

See additional details below

Academic Calendar and Application Deadlines

ACADEMIC CALENDAR AND APPLICATION DEADLINES	
SUMMER SEMESTER 2017: March 6, 2017 – July 8, 2017	
November 15, 2016	Application deadline for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Orientation and Cultural Program• Pre-semester German language courses• Housing
January 16, 2017	Courses for incoming students of the winter semester are published
January 24 – February 12, 2017	Online registration period for semester courses; registration starts on at 2 p.m. / 14:00 (CEST, Vienna, Austria time)
February 8, 2017	1 st information session at 9:30 a.m. in building LC, Ceremonial Hall I
February 8 – March 3, 2017	Orientation and Cultural Program
February 13 – March 2, 2017	Pre-semester German language course
February 28, 2017	Last possible date of arrival for all students
March 1, 2017	2 nd information session at 9:30 a.m. in building LC, Ceremonial Hall I
March 6, 2017	Start of semester
For details of the academic calendar and other important dates and deadlines for incoming students, please see: https://www.wu.ac.at/en/programs/incoming-students/dates-and-deadlines/	

C) Procedures to follow upon arrival. List and description of services offered by the International Exchange Office of the host institution. Registration and course selection. Social activities.

Upon arrival, you will attend an orientation session where all the “arrival” administrative issues will be explained to you. This includes how to pick up your keys for your residence, how to get your semester pass for the bus / tram / underground line, how to register your primary address etc. Really, you don't need to worry about any of this stuff until you get to Vienna.

I describe registration in greater detail below but this happens in early January online through a platform called LPIS – there are lots of fantastic classes available but you need to be prepared in order to get into all the classes you want.

Socially, studying at WU is awesome. You will get to know many friends and go out several times a week if that is what you're into. There are lots of great student bars and clubs where you can meet friends early on in the semester. Also, the Exchange Buddy Network (EBN) organizes trips to several places through the semester – the most notable of which are probably Budapest and Zell am See (ski trip). I did Budapest and it was a lot of fun and worth the money. Zell am See is meant to be the “highlight” of the semester as it is a four-day trip with skiing included for 300 euro. I didn't do this trip and I regretted it, not going to lie. I recommend at least doing one, if not several, of the EBN trips as they really are worth the money and you will get to meet a lot of new friends. It is easy to look at the tagline price of the trips and think they are overpriced; but I think it would be basically impossible to plan the same quality of trip for a lower or equivalent price on your own. If you go to Vienna, you will love the social side of the city (cafes, clubs, bars) and meet a ton of people – it really is something special.

D) Budget outlining the cost of studying abroad (i.e. airplane tickets, housing, vacation and daily travel costs, textbooks, meals, etc.).

Airplane tickets: 600 – 800 CAD with WOW air (and two bags). You can fly into Berlin or another busy airport to lower the costs vs. flying directly to Vienna.

Housing: 430 – 530 euro a month (depending on your selection)

Textbooks: Should be under 50 euro – I personally didn't buy a single textbook

Meals: Cheap food such as Kaserkraimer or Kebap costs about 3 – 4 euro – this is the equivalent of getting a shawarma in Ottawa, basically. A decent Austrian meal such as Schnitzel or Goulash will cost about 10 euro but maybe a less if you know where to look. Eating out at a restaurant downtown can be very expensive at 15 – 30 euro, but basically nobody I know does that. Groceries are reasonable at 6 euro for a kilo of chicken and veggies costing about 20 euro a week or less if you are careful.

Vacation – Well, vacation spending all depends on where you go. One important thing is that RyanAir does not fly through Vienna, so taking weekend flights can be more expensive than some other cities (such as Dublin or London, for example). However, RyanAir does fly into Bratislava which is one hour from Vienna, and Eurowings and some other cheap airlines also fly through it. There are many cheap cities close to Vienna which are some of best in Europe, including Budapest, Prague, Bratislava, Ljubljana, Zagreb, Munich etc. Accordingly, you really don't need to fly and will probably instead be using Flixbus or Eurorail.

In summary, I believe you will need 12,000 to 15,000 CAD for a comfortable 5-month stay in Vienna. At this amount, you will still need to watch your expenses because of the exchange rate (1 EUR = 1.45 CAD roughly), but you will be able to eat out often enough, enjoy your social life, and travel neighbouring countries with limited financial burden. It is difficult to tell the accuracy of this number now because we still have another 3 months in Vienna before leaving to Canada.

E) Application procedures before your arrival (visa deadlines, documents required for visa, course registration, housing deposit, etc.).

Before leaving Ottawa, I highly recommend you get your Austrian student visa (D visa) at the embassy which is located downtown close to uOttawa. This makes things a lot easier as you will have to get your visa here otherwise, and that can be complicated. Leave yourself at least 1 month for the visa to process before leaving but preferably 2 months in case it doesn't go through for whatever reason. You can find what is required for your visa in the appendix (but please check the website to be sure).

Course registration takes place January 4, 2017 @2:00 pm Vienna time. Classes fill up ***extremely*** quickly – I cannot stress this enough. You should be 100% ready at 2:00 pm sharp to sign up for classes with a fast computer and strong internet connection. If you are even 5 minutes late, you may not get into a single class you wanted (initially, but with the help of a program coordinator you probably will eventually). There are literally classes which will be full at 2:31 pm, so pick wisely which courses are most important to you and try to get into them first, also have backup classes to try if your initial selection doesn't work out.

There was a 950 euro housing deposit due in early January for my residence at Gasgasse. You get most of this back at the end of the semester, net of some processing fees and other things of that nature.

F) Address and description of housing. Cost of housing.

I live in a student residence called Gasgasse – it houses about 200 students from all over Vienna. The address is 2 Gasgasse, 1150 Wien and the building is located right next to the Westbahnhof underground station, which is very close to Stephansplatz (downtown). The building is also located right beside the biggest shopping street in Vienna – Mariahilfer Straße – and has tons of food around as well as shopping and grocery stores. The downside of living at Gasgasse is that the university is 25 minutes away but this personally has never bothered me. Classes are much more condensed at Vienna so you meet less frequently and for longer (3 – 5 hours in most cases, once a week), so being on the tube for 25 minutes to get to class is really no big deal. Plus, the location and atmosphere of Gasgasse is so amazing that the commute is absolutely worth it. The cost of Gasgasse is 530 euro for a shared 4-person room (you have your own bathroom but share a kitchen) or 590 euro and above for a bachelor flat. A cleaning lady comes every week (included in the price) so you basically just clean up your dishes and that is all for the semester. Gasgasse is close Volkstheatre, which has the two best clubs in Vienna, and right beside Travelshack, which is probably the most infamous student pub in Vienna (which you will likely go to every Tuesday).

Another good residence is Moltkestraße which is located right beside the university and is also slightly cheaper. I won't go into details but basically this res is the second best behind Gasgasse and if you want to live close to the university (which I don't think is important), then pick Moltkestraße. If you are not in Gasgasse or Moltkestraße, you will probably wish you were because these are without a doubt the two best residences. So in conclusion, I recommend you select Gasgasse as your first choice and Moltkestraße as your second choice, after that, it really doesn't matter.

G) Work term (if applicable).

I did not work during my exchange.

H) Other comments or recommendations.

A short summary of why I really believe WU is the best place to study in Europe:

- Vienna is *without a doubt* one of the most beautiful cities in Europe (if not the most beautiful)
- ***I will spend a total of 186 days in Europe – I had class 22 days*** during that time and not a single written exam
- The WU campus is literally mindblowing – it is a brand new campus that looks more like the inside of a spaceship than a university. You will love it.

- All this free time gives you an amazing opportunity to backpack the rest of Europe; I went to the following cities before university even started: Berlin, Rome, Florence, Venice, Paris, Amsterdam, Brussels, London, Dublin, Edenborough, Oban, Barcelona, Madrid, Porto, Lisbon, and 3 Moroccan cities. I now still have 3 months left before I leave including a 3-week break, where I will travel to another 18 cities – you won't get this much free time at any other university.
- The classes really are very interesting and taught by some fantastic professors. If you are even remotely interested in finance, this is a great university to come to and I highly recommend the classes I selected (M&A and Energy Strategies), which are among the best the school offers according to my Austrian friends I have met in class
- You will meet tons of exchange students from around the world and get know many local students in your classes, whom you will also party with – these people will be friends for life!
- You will have the opportunity to learn German but it won't be necessary for your everyday life. I recommend you try, however

I) Add a description of about five to seven sentences summarizing your experience.

In short – Vienna is the best place to study in Europe! It is not the cheapest, but has the best value of any city in my opinion. This has been one of the greatest experiences of my life and I have made many friends that I'm sure I will stay in touch with forever. You should come to Vienna to experience the beauty of the city, the quality of the university, and the freedom that comes along with being a student here. I really can't recommend the school enough and am very happy I selected WU as my top place in my application. Even if I wasn't studying at WU, I would still want to study in Vienna because I've truly fallen in love with the city!

On that note, I'm happy to answer any questions you have in planning for your exchange and sincerely hope you consider WU as one of your top options. Whatever you chose, it will be an experience of a lifetime.

K) Appendix

Required Documents (D Visa):

Students applying for visa are required to submit the same documents under all options, regardless of where they file their application:

- Fully completed and signed application form for Visa D (https://www.bmeia.gv.at/fileadmin/user_upload/bmeia/media/Vertretungsbehoerden/Pr_essburg/Form_D_1_-_Antragsformular_nationales_Visum.pdf)
 - Two recent color passport pictures, sized 3.5 x 4.5 cm (<http://www.passbildkriterien.at>)
 - Valid passport (must be valid for at least three months beyond date of leaving Austria. First passport issuance date must not be longer than 10 years ago) + photocopy of data page of passport + photocopies of pages that contain entries and stamps
 - If applicable: original "Green Card" or US visa with I-94 affixed to passport + copy of green card and copy of US visa
 - Proof of accommodation in Austria: e.g. tenancy contract, confirmation of the reservation of accommodation by the OeAD Housing Office,...
 - Proof of health insurance - letter issued by insurance company confirming complete coverage for the entire duration of your stay in Austria, minimum coverage in case of accident must cover health costs of at least USD 50,000 / € 30,000 (copy of your insurance I.D. is not sufficient – the confirmation of the insurance must clearly show the name of the insured person, countries of validity (Europe!), the period of validity and minimum coverage sum). Emergency coverage only is also not sufficient
 - Proof of financial means (bank statement with full transactions of last three months including name and address, pay stubs, scholarship, letter of grants, tax returns, proof of pension, other proof of income)
 - Letter of admission issued by Austrian school/university/organization and by your university in the US in case of an exchange program
 - If available: return flight reservation
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My class schedule (each box is a new day)

Note – 22 classes in the entire semester. No exams. Two 3 weeks breaks, one of which everyone has (Easter Break), one of which I just have due to careful course selection. No classes on Mondays or Tuesdays, ever.

Kalender

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
06.03.2017	2017-03-07	2017-03-08 Patock: Sustainability and Strategy in International Business 14:00-17:00 Ort: TC.4.02	2017-03-09 Schwarzbichler: International Energy Strategies 17:00-21:00 Ort: TC.3.11	2017-03-10	2017-03-11	2017-03-12
2017-03-13	2017-03-14	2017-03-15 Patock: Sustainability and Strategy in International Business 14:00-17:00 Ort: TC.4.02	2017-03-16 Schwarzbichler: International Energy Strategies 17:00-21:00 Ort: TC.3.08	2017-03-17 Herbst (+1): International Mergers & Acquisitions 15:00-19:30 Ort: Extern	2017-03-18	2017-03-19
2017-03-20	2017-03-21	2017-03-22 Patock: Sustainability and Strategy in International Business 14:00-17:00 Ort: TC.4.02	2017-03-23 Schwarzbichler: International Energy Strategies 17:00-21:00 Ort: TC.3.08	2017-03-24 Herbst (+1): International Mergers & Acquisitions 15:00-19:30 Ort: Extern	2017-03-25	2017-03-26
2017-03-27	2017-03-28	2017-03-29 Patock: Sustainability and Strategy in International Business 14:00-17:00 Ort: TC.4.02	2017-03-30 Schwarzbichler: International Energy Strategies 17:00-21:00 Ort: TC.3.08	2017-03-31 Patock: Sustainability and Strategy in International Business 12:00-15:00 Ort: TC.4.17 Herbst (+1): International Mergers & Acquisitions 15:00-19:30 Ort: Extern	2017-04-01	2017-04-02
2017-04-03	2017-04-04	2017-04-05 Patock: Sustainability and Strategy in International Business 14:00-17:00 Ort: TC.4.02	2017-04-06	2017-04-07 Patock: Sustainability and Strategy in International Business 12:00-15:00 Ort: TC.4.17 Herbst (+1): International Mergers & Acquisitions 15:00-19:30 Ort: Extern	2017-04-08	2017-04-09
2017-04-10	2017-04-11	2017-04-12	2017-04-13	2017-04-14	2017-04-15	2017-04-16
2017-04-17	2017-04-18	Easter Break		2017-04-21	2017-04-22	2017-04-23
2017-04-24	2017-04-25	2017-04-26	2017-04-27	2017-04-28	2017-04-29	2017-04-30
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2017-05-15	2017-05-16 Hückel: Negotiation Strategies and Techniques. A Case Study Approach Based on the Harvard Program on Negotiation 12:00-17:30 Ort: TC.5.12	2017-05-17 Hückel: Negotiation Strategies and Techniques. A Case Study Approach Based on the Harvard Program on Negotiation 09:00-14:30 Ort: TC.5.03	2017-05-18 Schwarzbichler: International Energy Strategies 17:00-21:00 Ort: TC.3.08	2017-05-19	2017-05-20	2017-05-21	
2017-05-22	2017-05-23	2017-05-24	2017-05-25	2017-05-26	2017-05-27	2017-05-28	
2017-05-29	2017-05-30	2017-06-01	Happen to not have class...		2017-06-02	2017-06-03	2017-06-04
2017-06-05	2017-06-06	2017-06-07	2017-06-08	2017-06-09	2017-06-10	2017-06-11	
2017-06-12	2017-06-13 Hückel: Negotiation Strategies and Techniques. A Case Study Approach Based on the Harvard Program on Negotiation 12:00-17:30 Ort: D2.0.392	2017-06-14 Hückel: Negotiation Strategies and Techniques. A Case Study Approach Based on the Harvard Program on Negotiation 09:00-15:00 Ort: Extern	2017-06-15	2017-06-16	2017-06-17	2017-06-18	