

**Exchange university**

TU Vienna

**Degree programme**

Faculty of Architecture and Planning

## Between history, culture and innovation - Insights into a young and vibrant city life

### Before departure

I applied to study abroad out of curiosity. Several factors played a role in my choice of location, such as the range of courses on offer, and the semester times my interest in the pioneering urban planning concept of “Red Vienna”. The city appealed to me because of its cultural history and the art and architecture scene I was excited to explore. I was also looking forward to making new friends and immersing myself in a new environment. Before I arrived, I chose my courses and found accommodation.

### Upon arrival

I arrived in sunny Vienna in late summer for the beginning of the introductory week. My studies in Vienna started very slowly, so I had enough time to settle in. In the courtyard of the architecture department (photo 1), I met many warm and open people, who showed me around and introduced me to the student life. As a passionate rower, I also started looking for a rowing club on the Old Donau. The surroundings of the Donau and the Prater are great places for outside activities and sports.



### **Financials**

I received the Erasmus+ scholarship. The cost of living in Vienna is comparable to that in Stockholm. However, there was a significant difference in public transport. I paid 75 euros for my semester ticket which covered my whole stay.

### **Accommodation**

I found my room in a shared flat via the portal WG-gesucht. You can also find an apartment in student dormitories, such as the non-profit student dormitory provider "OeAD student housing". I lived in a central location in the 3rd district of Vienna in the neighborhood of the Hundertwasser house.

### **University and studies**

The TU Vienna is the second-largest university in Austria. You can study the following degree programs: Construction & Energy, Education, Teaching & Pedagogy, Engineering, Technology & IT, Health, Psychology & Social Sciences, Media & Design, Natural Sciences, Business & Management

I took a total of nine courses in Architecture to achieve a total of 30 ECTS. The large amount of courses requires good planning in advance so that courses don't overlap. I can recommend limiting your selection to a few departments, as the individual departments function independently of each other and it might be easier to plan this way. I found everyday study life to be very free. It requires a high degree of personal responsibility and independent initiative. If you don't speak German, you still have a good selection of attractive courses that are held in English.

### **Courses**

I particularly enjoyed the lectures in the Housing department, to which many international guest lecturers were invited. The Department of Housing, headed by Prof. Michael Obrist, offered courses with various focuses and critical approaches towards housing in the context of urban justice. Besides that, I made use of the centrality of Vienna and went on two excursions. Organized by the department of "Drawing and Visual Languages" we went to the architectural Biennale in Venice and with the housing department I did a field trip on the trails of the architectural festival "AFTER" in Sicily. I also enjoyed taking part in a nude drawing course - sometimes we painted with live music.



### **City and country**

There are also a large number of international students at this university. I got to know Vienna as a very young, diverse, and welcoming city, where I was able to enter many interesting events like a talk with the star architect Peter Zumthor or a sports medicine lecture on competitive sport and heart health (in rowing).



### Leisure and social activities

Since I joined the wonderful rowing club LIA, I have been able to continue practicing my sport and also make new friends. Together we trained on water in the mornings and had breakfast in the cozy canteen. My highlight was the regatta “Head of Prague” where we competed in the eight. Besides that, I enjoyed going to the opera, and explored Viennas great variety of museums. I can highly recommend exploring the different districts of Vienna - many of them have their own dynamic and offer very different experiences. Through site visits to architecture and urban planning projects in several remote places in and outside of the city, I could develop a more holistic understanding of the location.

