



Universität Wien

2022-2023

PREPARATION
exchange application process
I applied for my study abroad during the second registration (beginning of 2022). Just before the deadline of March 1 st I applied via Osiris. Writing a motivational letter was not too complicated. I divided it into two parts, first why I was interested at Uni Wien; then, why I chose Vienna. On March 1 st I received an email telling that I got accepted.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
In December 2021 there was a presentation about applying for a study abroad and a Q&A session. This was very helpful. Furthermore, next to signing your documents, they won't help you/remind you with anything. As well as for the Erasmus+ Grant, expect to receive this at least 3 months after your study abroad starts and make sure you saved enough money. Because the organization was a mess. Expect short undetailed answers and make sure you are able to arrange everything yourself.
academic preparation
I would advise you to learn basic Austrian (A2 or higher) and follow a German course. However, a lot of people speak English and lots of courses are in English as well, although it differs each year do not worry too much about this. Also, make sure to plan how you will finish your bachelor (regarding courses you still have to complete at UU and writing your thesis).
language preparation
As I mentioned before, speaking German is not the most important thing but make sure you know basic words. If possible take (online) German courses. Once you're there you can follow a German course at the Sprachencentrum. This is a language institution connected to Uni Wien and has student discounts.
finances
Don't count too much on the Erasmus Grant, you will receive this almost once your exchange is over :) Austria is in general -in my opinion- a little more expensive than the Netherlands when it comes to groceries. If you go to Vienna in the Winter Semester there are lots of amazing Christmas markets where you gonna want to spend money :) so save and then you should be fine. I hope I help some people with sharing how much I needed monthly. Rent: 560,- Groceries: 80,- (Billa and Spar are the most expensive places, rather go to Hofer) Fun activities: 100,- (ESN trips or Erasbus trips etc.) A tip, I lived at a dorm offered by: Oead housing

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
Law
academic quality of education activities
The ECTS (credits) are much lower than in the Utrecht. In Utrecht for law your courses on average have 7.5 ECTS per course, at Uni Wien it is around 3/4 ECTS.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
They send frequent emails with information and the employees at the student desk are very helpful. However, take into account that the emailing 'culture' differs compared to the Netherlands.
transfer of credits
I have not experienced this yet.



STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
There is an orientation in the beginning where you will receive your attendance form. Furthermore, the university does not offer introduction activities etc. The best thing to do is attend as many as possible ESN events and sign up for a 'buddy'. This is a student at Uni Wien who can help you with your first days in Vienna.
accommodation
https://www.oadstudenthousing.at/en/accommodation/vienna/ is a good place. If you go in September make sure to sign up in March. Lots of people I met also stayed here: https://www.stuwo.at/studentenheime/wien/
leisure & culture
Vienna itself is a beautiful city with amazing architecture. Definitely go to the Christmas markets and museums.
suggestions/tips
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make sure to search on time for housing - Go to ESN events - Keep up with all the deadlines (use an agenda, email people to double-check) - Regarding picking your courses, it can be a mess. So register for a lot of courses attend the class and see if you like it. if not, deregister. If you want to check it already go to u:find https://ufind.univie.ac.at/de/search.html?x_c=c%3A24&filter=all&query=Law and check which courses there are - Attend a language course at: https://www.sprachenzentrum.at/ - Go a little before the semester starts to explore Vienna. Once university starts you won't have as much time for this.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes, I would. It is quite different than in Utrecht. And they have lots of very interesting courses. I would recommend especially taking courses that UU does not offer.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
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2021-2022

PREPARATION
exchange application process
The exchange application process is a lot of work, but if you follow all the deadlines of both universities, you should be fine. The UU website explains the process clearly.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The International Office in Utrecht is very helpful. If you have any questions they will respond quickly and help you with any issues or questions you have.
academic preparation
I personally did not do any academic preparation and I do not think it is necessary looking back on it. In my personal opinion, studying at the Universität Wien does not require as much work as Utrecht University so there is nothing to worry about.



language preparation

The semester at the Universität Wien starts a month later than in does in Utrecht, in March. Because the semester in Utrecht ends in February I had a whole month worth of extra time. I decided to follow a language course at the Sprachenzentrum at the Universität Wien. You have to do a zoom-meeting beforehand to measure your level in German and you then follow a three-week intensive course in February. I definitely recommend doing this. It gives you structure in your day (I took the morning course), you can meet a lot of people there and it is nice to freshen up your German skills.

finances

Studying abroad is definitely very expensive, but totally worth it. It is smart to save up money before going so you can do all the fun stuff you want to when you actually move to Vienna.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The Universität Wien offers way more courses than Utrecht University. This means that the content of the courses is way more specialized. This can be good and bad: it is nice to study some subjects you have never studied before, but some courses were too specific for me because I did not have the pre-knowledge I needed. Personally I took a lot of European law courses and some random courses such as 'Global Middle East: Legacy of WWI Treaties'.

The organisation however is super chaotic. First of all the process to sign up for courses. The way it works is that you sign yourself up for a course, and the placement is then based on a drawing of lots system. This means that if there is too many people wanting to attend a course, there is a chance you will not get in. This is stressful since you need to have a certain amount of study points for the Erasmus+. I signed up for almost double of the amount of study point I needed and just barely got into courses worth the amount needed for Erasmus+. Secondly, the courses itself are not as organised as you are used to. The classes can be super small and low key (I have multiple classes with around 8 people). In Vienna you will spend more time actually in class then you do in Utrecht, but this means that there is barely anything to do when you get home. I found that this is perfect for the exchange experience: it gives you a lot of free time to do fun stuff and enjoy the city with friends! So even though it is all a bit different for the Utrecht University system, it works if you are an exchange student.

academic quality of education activities

I personally found that the courses are a lot easier than in Utrecht. There is not a lot of work to do as there is no homework, you just have to show up for class. Most of my mid- and end-terms were online and relatively easy. The level of difficulty really depends on the course though.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I only emailed the exchange office here when I needed signatures for documents and they responded very quickly.

transfer of credits

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STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There is a presentation for Erasmus+ incomings you can attend (online) with general knowledge about the university and living in Vienna.

What I 100% recommend doing is checking out the ESN Student Network! They have so many activities during the welcome week and keep organising fun things to do during the semester. This is the best way to make friends. I found my friend group in the first few days I moved to Vienna because I went to the activities they



organised. They do pub crawls, culture walks through the city, karaoke, dinners etc.

accommodation

It is important to start looking for accomodation as soon as you can. If you start soon enough, it is definitely possible to find affordable accommodation in Vienna. I personally live in the Albert Schweitzer House right in the city centre and pay the same price as I do back home in Utrecht. A lot of my friends however live further out of the city and pay more. So it really pays off if you do your research in time! There is a lot of student dorms in Vienna which are all perfectly fine: nothing special but good for a half-year stay. I also have friends that live in an apartment of someone who is currently abroad, so this is also a good option.

Vienna is divided in districts (Bezirke). If you are looking for a place to stay, I would recommed the 9th district, which is near 'Schottentor', or some place around the Maria Hilfer Straße. If you are unable to find something close to the city centre, it is not all bad because the public transport in Vienna is great.

leisure & culture

I am so happy I chose Vienna for my exchange. Vienna is such a beautiful, clean and lively city. There is so much to do here, that even at the end of my exchange I feel like I need to stay longer to be able to do and see everything. The museums are among the most beautiful I have ever seen (especially the Naturhistorisches Museum and Kunsthistorisches Museum) and there are many castles and palaces (like Schönbrunn) you can visit. You will never get tired of just taking a walk through the city or sitting in one of the many parks Vienna has (my favourites are the Sigmund Freud Park and Stadtpark).

It is also very good to know that Vienna is close to many other European destinations. During my exchange I took a two week trip to northern Italy (there is spring break at the Universität Wien) and city trips to Zagreb, Ljubljana, Prague, Salzburg, Krems an der Donau and Bratislava. All destinations are easily accesible by train or bus.

suggestions/tips

Vienna is a very well organised city and offers many free events. There is almost always something going on at Rathauspark (music festival, ice skate park etc.). I would recommend going to the Donaukanal to have a drink and sit by the water, go to Donauinsel to swim or cycle around. I got a swap fiets in Vienna which was really nice for exploring the city. There are many outdoor swimming pools such as the Schönbrunner Bad and Schafbergbad which are great in summer (the temperature in Vienna is better than in the Netherlands). Do not forget to enjoy the wine gardens right outside of the city: Vienna is surrounded by mountains/hills so you can also go for hikes there. There are many more suggestions because there is so much to do in the city, so feel free to contact me if you have any questions!

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

I would without a doubt recommend Vienna as your exchange destination. I have had the best time here seeing everything the city has to offer, meeting so many other exchange students and going on trips. The university obligations are not as time consuming as back home, giving you a lot of free time. Start looking for accomodation early and try to find something near the city centre (around Schottentor would be best in my opinion). Save up money so you can do all the things Vienna has to offer.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

If you are doubting if you want to go on exchange or not, my advice would be: just do it. You will have the time of your life studying abroad.

2018-2019

PREPARATION



exchange application process
The process is very structured and if you follow up on all the deadlines within the given period of time you should be fine. As for particular things like the motivation letter those are really up to you. In my opinion, if you can clearly state why you chose the particular university in that particular city it will be unlikely that you will not get selected. I recommend attending the information evening about going abroad.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
Utrecht University is very supportive regarding any questions/problems you might have. E-mail are clear and they answer back within a very short period of time. Therefore I would say that the counselling and support is more than adequate.
academic preparation
The courses I followed at the University of Vienna were comparable to the courses back home. I would say that the academic preparation was good, I could easily keep up with the level abroad.
language preparation
I did not take any language preparations as I am already fluent in German and my knowledge of English is more than sufficient.
finances
The fact that there is the option of obtaining an Erasmus+ Grant does really make a difference. However, you must remember that life abroad is much more expensive than back home. My expenses practically doubled, and this is what I did already anticipate. I would recommend making a clear financial overview for yourself before leaving.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
The organisation at the University of Vienna is very poor. You don't know whether you will get into certain courses until the very first and sometimes second week of the course. There are too many students (both international and local) that apply for the 'Wahlfachmodulen' which Erasmus students are suggested to pick. You end up with uncertainty. The fact that I already gathered all my credits at the University of Utrecht before going abroad made the stress of not getting the subjects I wanted a bit less, but if you MUST follow certain subjects then you will find yourself panicking upon arrival. You should consider this when choosing the University of Vienna.
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality is good. Some courses are more advanced than others. In Austria they do not work with a bachelor and master level, as a result of this you might end up taking courses that are actually the equivalent of a master course in Utrecht without even knowing. The levels are not indicated on the website but you could e-mail the contact person regarding this issue.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Communication is not as good either. There were several instances in which I needed a signature for a particular piece of paper and both the international office and my support coordinator could not figure out who should sign the papers. The people are very friendly but I sometimes got the feeling that the support system was a bit 'chaotic'.
transfer of credits
The University uses an ECTS system so this was not an issue. However, remember to very clearly look at the course description and decide whether there is no overlap with courses in Utrecht. This is especially an issue in Vienna as you might have to switch your courses on the very last moment because you did not get into the ones you wanted.



STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The University organized one orientation moment and that is it. In Vienna you really need to get out there yourself because there is no real 'orientation week' or whatsoever. I would recommend liking all the ESN Vienna Facebook page's as they do organize several events for international students.
accommodation
Finding an accomodation is not very hard in Vienna. I would however not recommend choosing a 'WG' Wohngemeinschaft as the rooms are most of the time very very small. I personally got fooled by the pictures they advertised online.
leisure & culture
The culture and the possibilities in Vienna is what made me fall in love with the city. The options are endless and the city is incredible. I never knew it was so pretty but I would definitely recommend it to anybody.
suggestions/tips
Start out very early with your room-hunt. There is a website called 'WG Gesucht' which you can check out. Look up the Districts in Vienna as they will give you a good idea of the location of your accomodation and your University. Regarding the courses: at one point you should just let go of the stress and try to make the best of it. Usually everything turns out fine and people do get the chance to follow enough courses to gather their ECTS crecdits. Be prepared however and you must realize that the chance of following all the courses you set out to follow is not as big.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
The organization at the University of Vienna is poor and you should be prepared for that. However, the city and all its buildings are incredible. The city and its culture made my stay abroad memorable and I would not trade it for any other destination. Therefore, I would recommend the destination.
do you have any additional advice or comments?

PREPARATION
exchange application process
Everything was very clear and well explained by the university.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
Very good, the International Office responds very fast and is very helpful.
academic preparation
language preparation
I didn't take any language preparation, cause I already had German in High School, but a couple of friends of mine did and they really liked it. The language preparation also means that you arrive in Vienna a month earlier, so it's definitely a great tip.
finances



Vienna is very expensive, so make sure you have enough on your savings or that your parents are able to support you.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The university of Vienna is quite chaotic. You have to register for courses, but for a lot of courses you get waitlisted: so make sure you sign up for more courses than needed. Also, go to every first class, a lot of times they still make room for you: that way you can do the courses you like most anyway.

academic quality of education activities

It is definitely lower than in Utrecht, but it depends on which course you're taking. Some courses are harder than others and also have better teachers.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The international office of the University of Vienna doesn't respond that fast.

transfer of credits

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

ESN and EBN organize a lot of activities and I highly recommend going here! It is a great way to make friends and meet people very fast. They also have a facebook group where you can become a member of, and everyone is very open so that is also a great way to meet people.

accommodation

this is quite hard in Vienna, but through housinganywhere or Base19 there are a lot of nice places. The nice districts to live in are 7,8,9,19 and 2, this is where all the students live and they're also closest to the university.

leisure & culture

Vienna is the most beautiful city in the world, so even just going for a walk here is like walking through a museum. The nightlife is amazing too, you can go out every night if you like and a lot of clubs organize different parties every week.

suggestions/tips

Go to the welcome week of the ESN, you meet a lot of people there.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

yes, it's a beautiful city that's often forgotten by everyone, but it's really amazing. There isn't a single bad thing to say about Vienna.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

2017-2018

PREPARATION

exchange application process



The application process was quite straight-forward. I had to hand in all the required documents at the UU and after some time I got the message that I was accepted. In June, I received an e-mail by the University of Vienna with all the necessary information and deadlines I needed in preparation of my stay.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The International Office at the UU was very helpful and answered all my questions very quickly.

academic preparation

I didn't do any academic preparation.

language preparation

I took most of my courses in German, which was possible because I got my Goethe B2-certificate in high school. I was planning on taking a language course once I arrived in Vienna, but when I got there, the specific course I wanted to take was cancelled. I was arrived too late to do a preparatory course in February, but I would recommend others to take this course.

I chose not to do a language course at all, which worked out in the end, but made the first month of my studies quite difficult to follow. I did try to read Austrian news and watch German TV to get familiar with the language again.

finances

I received the Erasmus+ grant, which you can get by handing in some documents before, during and after your stay. I also got around 90 euro's per month for public transportation (instead of the "Studenten-OV" in the Netherlands). Public transportation in Vienna is really cheap: you can get a semester card for 78 euro's. The groceries are slightly more expensive and you can count on it that you will spend more money on eating out and having drinks with people (especially during the first month).

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The registration for courses was quite difficult for me, because I chose a lot of courses that turned out not to be for Erasmus students. Once the University of Vienna told me which courses I could take, it was quite a puzzle to make a study programme in which I could obtain 30 ECTS in the field I'm interested in and not have overlapping courses. In the end I took 12 courses, because they were all 2 or 3 ECTS. 9 of my courses were in German and 3 of them in English. Most of my courses were in the area of Business and Private Law. I also took the course The Austrian legal system for Erasmus students, which was not very difficult, but gave a nice overview of the political and judicial system in Austria.

What was quite different from the UU, was that I was on the waiting list for a lot of the courses I registered for, but when I went to the first class (always do this, even when you're on the waiting list!!), I could attend every class I registered for.

academic quality of education activities

In my opinion, the quality of the courses was really good. That was mostly because the professors were all very qualified. Some of them were partners at big law firms, which resulted in them having a huge deal of knowledge about their topic and being able to give a lot of examples from their everyday practice. Also the professors who were not working in law firms had very good knowledge about their fields.

The classes were a bit different than in Utrecht, because there were no working groups, but more lectures in smaller groups. I had the feeling that I was learning a lot, because there was a lot more class than in Utrecht, and lectures could easily last 3 hours.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The International Office of the University of Vienna was really friendly and helpful. Their response by e-mail can take some time, so I would advise to go their Erasmus consultation hour, which they have every week.



transfer of credits

At this moment, I haven't received all my notes, so I don't know yet how the transfer of credits will go.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Right after you arrive in Vienna, you have an orientation session at the university, in which they explain a bit about course registration and getting your student card and the registration in Vienna. This was helpful, but can also all be found on the website.

There wasn't a general welcome week organised by the university, so I would advice to look for activities yourself. I really enjoyed the activities of the Erasmus Buddy Network (which is situated at the WU, but you can join their activities if you don't study there). ESN also organised some activities, but those were full quickly, so you have to check this early on.

accommodation

The website of the University of Vienna has an overview of organisations that offer rooms, but you can also look for a WG (shared living) online. I didn't want to spend too much time looking and wanted to be sure that I had a room, so I registered at Oead. This organisation is quite good and they make everything really easy, but you pay a prize for that: rooms are quite expensive. In exchange for that, I lived in practically the best spot there is (the 8th District).

leisure & culture

Vienna is an amazing city with a huge amount of cultural and less cultural activities and places to visit. You can go to the opera or a classical (open air) concert. There is also a wide variety of places to eat, bars and clubs. Very Viennese are the coffee houses, with good coffee and cakes.

In the summer, along the Donaukanal are a lot of beach bars, where you can sit in a lounge chair and drink a nice beer.

suggestions/tips

I would definitely go to an opera, in both the Staatsoper and the Volksoper you can get really cheap tickets, and the performances are usually really good. I would also suggest to take some trips outside Vienna, for example to Upper Austria, Budapest and Bratislava.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

I would definitely recommend this university and this city. The university offers a lot of really good courses. The city is very nice to live in and has a lot of nice places to see and things to do.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I did most of my courses in German, and would really recommend this. It is not easy, so if you want an easy semester you shouldn't do it, but I learned a lot and also got to experience the courses like the Austrians do. In any case I would advice to learn some German before you go (or when you arrive), because the people of Vienna speak English, but really prefer to speak German. They will be much more friendly and helpful that way.

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The University of Vienna was not among my top 3 choices as I wanted to do my exchange on another continent. I had to choose from the list of left-over places and quickly decided on Vienna. The process itself was easy and



quick.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The international office in Utrecht is great. They respond quickly and are very helpful.
academic preparation
Not applicable.
language preparation
The language requirement was B2 however it was not necessary to have a certificate. I was already B2 before I left but wanted to improve my German skills nonetheless. Therefore I spend a total of 5 weeks improving my German by attending two different courses. One was organised by a private company and the other was organised by the University of Vienna. I improved a lot in just 5 weeks, mostly improving my active language skills (speaking/writing). The University of Vienna had the best course quality wise and I would recommend doing it. You also get a discount as an Erasmus-student and finish the course with an exam and if you pass you receive an officially recognized certificate. If you need another reason for attending a language course at Uni Wien it would be making friends as almost everyone attending is on exchange. It can be quite hard making friends when you arrive in a new city not knowing anyone but the people I met during the course became my closest friends during the exchange.
finances
The living costs in Vienna are quite similar to Utrecht. My room in Vienna was actually cheaper than in Utrecht and it was more spacious. Groceries are also similarly priced, restaurants and museums are a bit more expensive. I had a DUO student loan from home, the Erasmus grant and an OV-compensatie so I didn't have any financial issues.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
The list of law courses was super long, making it quite hard to organise. My learning agreement changed a lot, only a couple of subjects remained unchanged. The university of Vienna has a different system than Utrecht, courses in Vienna are usually between 2-5 ECTS and can last from a week up to the whole semester. So making sure you get enough ECTS and have a schedule that works is a challenge. Furthermore you are not guaranteed a spot if you register before the deadline. For a lot of courses there are more students registered than places available and selection is random. So you can end up not getting into the courses you planned and having to change your schedule again. It was also stressful because Universiteit Utrecht set the revised learning agreement's deadline for 2 weeks after arrival which was impossible for me. Don't worry though you can just e-mail the international office.
academic quality of education activities
I mostly took courses in English, which a lot of international students attended. Therefore the level was a bit lower than the courses taught in German which were similar to Utrecht's courses.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The staff at the international office was great! Unfortunately I can't say the same about the law coordinator. I needed to take a course in June to make sure I had enough ECTS meaning that I had my revised learning agreement ready at the end of June. But after this I waited for over a month to receive a signature. Before the exchange it also took weeks before my original learning agreement was signed and even responses to my e-mails asking when I could expect signatures took a long time.
transfer of credits
Not completed yet.



STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
There was a welcome meeting for which you can sign up, I would definitely do so! It's informative and they answer all of your questions. Unfortunately the other activities were organised by ESN, on a voluntary basis and with limited availability. That meant that most students did not or could not participate and you'll have to find your way around the university on your own.
accommodation
I chose private accomendation for my stay in Vienna. The university does not offer help with student housing and I preferred to live in a non-dorimitory style flat with locals. The best way to find shared housing in Vienna is the website: https://www.wg-gesucht.de . It is used by local students and has a huge amount of flats, it is also very easy to use. Most reactions were positive even though I was an international student (unlike in Utrecht;)) and only meeting through Skype is not a problem for most Austrians. The prices were also similar or cheaper than Utrecht and I had found a suitable room within a week (I started searching about 2 months before the start of the semester).
leisure & culture
Vienna is a city with a rich history and in summer the city really comes to life. I would recommend visiting the world famous Staatsoper at least once, they have left-over tickets (show your student ID) that they sell just before the show starts, the entrance and ticket are sold at side entrance(Operngasse). You'll pay around 2 euros for a standing place on the balconies. If you don't feel like going inside they also have a live-stream outside the oper during summer. Also make sure to go to the Sommernachtskonzert at Schönbrunn palace, it is a huge concert in the gardens of the palace with over 100.000 people attending! It is free of charge but you do need to come early to get a good spot.
suggestions/tips
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CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes! Vienna is a city with a great quality of life, the university is good and the city offers lots of great museums etc..
do you have any additional advice or comments?
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PREPARATION
exchange application process
The application went quite well. All the documents where signed in time.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The international office of Utrecht University answered all e-mails clear and quick. The university sends e-mails with the dates of the deadlines.



academic preparation

I didn't do any academic preparation.

language preparation

I followed a German language course before the start of the semester. I thought I needed it for the courses, but in the end I only followed courses in English. Although I recommend you to follow a language course. It's great for making friends and getting to know the city and culture.

finances

I financed my time in Vienna with my Erasmus+ Grant, money I saved and some financial support of my parents.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The Austrian study programme organisation is quite chaotic. It is hard to find out which courses you can follow and then it also has to fit all together. If you registered for a course this doesn't mean that you get the course. A lot of courses have less places than registrations. In that case there is a change you can't follow the course.

academic quality of education activities

Some courses were very clear and quite easy. But most of the courses were not that great. It wasn't clear what we had to do and the content of the course wasn't clear.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

They always responded clear and quickly on questions.

transfer of credits

I am still waiting for some grades. Besides this the grade system in Austria is different from the Netherlands. The grades go from 1 till 5. I don't know yet how this will be transferred.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

I recommend to follow the orientation programme of the university as soon as possible. They give information and documents you need for registration and public transport. To get to know people and get to know the city it is nice to attend the welcome week of ESN (Erasmus Student Network) and also the EBN (Erasmus Buddy Network) organises some nice parties and activities.

accommodation

I stayed in an apartment with two Austrian students. It was clean and big and close to the U-bahn. I found the apartment at [housinganywhere.com](https://www.housinganywhere.com).

leisure & culture

Vienna offers a lot of options. Museums and sight seeing is great, but nightlife offers a lot of options as well.

suggestions/tips

Join the ESN and/or EBN.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Yes, I do recommend you to go to Vienna. The atmosphere is amazing, the city is beautiful, the food is good,



people are nice. I had one of the best times in my life there.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process was kind of a hassle. You have to send various documents to various institutions, but in the end it all worked out.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The support from the international office was good. I always received proper answers on my questions.

academic preparation

I did not prepare anything.

language preparation

I did not prepare anything.

finances

I expected to spend a little bit more in Vienna than in Utrecht, so with combined help of my Erasmus scholarship and financial support from my parents I was able to finish my exchange without any financial problems.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Law

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality was mixed. I think half of the courses that around 75% of the courses that I followed were of a decent quality. 1 course was really easy and with 2 other courses I was not really satisfied with the teaching qualities of the teacher.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The Erasmus coordinator in Vienna was a really friendly guy. Always had good answers on my questions sent by email.

transfer of credits

23

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Pretty non-existent. Apparently there was one, but I did not receive any email about this and other students that I spoke to had the same problem.

accommodation



I was living in a dorm. You pay quite much compared to what you get, but I would always recommend it. After all, it is a good way to meet other international students.

leisure & culture

You never get bored of Vienna. There is always something to do.

suggestions/tips

Sign up at the EBN office (competitor of ESN) at the WU. They have amazing trips.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Yes, I would definitely recommend Vienna to others. It is a great city to live in. There are a lot of other international students living in Vienna and there is always something to do.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

-

2016-2017

PREPARATION

exchange application process

I had to apply a long time before, before the 1st of December 2015 (while my exchange started february 2017). There was a lot of information given by the UU and the International Office will answer all your questions. I think the site from the UU is clear about all the steps you have to take in the application process.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The UU and especially the international office was really helpful! They email you back quite quickly and they also have speaking hours.

academic preparation

I did no specific academic preparation, other than that I had passed all my 1st and 2nd year courses

language preparation

I did a course in German (B1+) to freshen up my high school German and I also did a B2 German course in Vienna in the month before my semester started. This helped me a lot, but it's not totally necessary because almost everybody can speak english, but one of the reasons for me exchange was to learn better German. The course in Vienna I really recommend, it is cheap, you get to know people and the city before university starts and you will feel more included if you can speak their language.

finances

I applied for the Erasmus+ grant (start on time and look at deadlines!), saved some money and lent some money from DUO to cover my expenses.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

You have to follow a lot of courses at the same time in Vienna, because most courses are only 3 or 4 ects. In the



end I did 8 courses and the german language course. It was quite hard for me to figure everything out, but the site of the university of Vienna is quite clear. Notice that the courses still change, so that you probably have to change your learning agreement and this takes some time and effort, but in the end 8 courses was really doable and it gives you the opportunity to explore! I could also take courses from other faculties, although this takes some more organising, it was nice to explore some other courses. The university has a large offer of different courses, but notice that if you only want to do courses in english it could be a bit hard, although I managed to do this in the end.

academic quality of education activities

I think the academic quality really differs between courses, but overall the level is lower than at the University of Utrecht. I did not have to study so hard, the exams are less in dept, the teacher doesn't expect so much from you (as an exchange student) and that's why I quite easily managed to do 8 courses and still have a lot of time to do fun things and make trips. Only in the last 2 weeks, when you have all your exams it can be a bit busy.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The international office helped with an introduction meeting, where they told you how to register for courses and how to get around the university and the city. You also get a departmental coordinator who can help you with courses. The international office was really helpful and had speaking hours twice a week, the contact with my departmental coordinator was sometimes a bit hard, but they emailed me back quite quickly.

transfer of credits

My credits haven't been transferred yet.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There was an orientation meeting from the university that you have to register for before the semester starts and this gives you an overview of what to do and how to do it. There were no other orientation or welcome activities organised by the university, but there are a lot of activities organised by ESN Vienna, like welcome dinners or parties. I really recommend going there, since you will probably make all your new friends there!

accommodation

I started quite late with finding accommodation, and ended up with a bit overpriced room in not the best district, so I suggest you to start as soon as possible and contact the OEAD/OJAB/STUWO for dorm rooms, which are quite expensive, but easy as an exchange student. Even better is to look for a private 'WG' room (on facebook pages or internet; WG gesucht for example), this is usually a lot cheaper and better! I recommend living in the 7th/8th district, since it's close to Uni and it's a really nice neighbourhood. Also nice is the 2nd/3rd district, which is close to the Donau Kanal!

leisure & culture

Vienna is a really big city with a lot, a lot of activities, opportunities and culture! There is so much to see and do, for everybody's taste!

suggestions/tips

Although it seems weird in the beginning, go to all the ESN activities (alone), you will make so much new friends in such a short time! Also make the time to travel in the area, it's beautiful! (Romania, Slovenia, Hungary, Croatia...)

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Yes definitely! Vienna is such a beautiful, clean city with a lot of opportunities. I would recommend going in the



summer semester, while spring and (early) summer in Vienna is the best!! The university is really big and organizing things or reaching people can be quite hard sometimes, but it has beautiful buildings and this will learn you a lot too :).

do you have any additional advice or comments?

In the end it doesn't really matter where you go on Erasmus, but IF you go on Erasmus! It was the best decision of my life to go; so please do! If you have any questions about Vienna specifically you can always email me :).

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process was not that hard, the Univeristy Utrecht was a great guidance.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Good support from the Univeristy Utrecht, no complains! Whatever I needed to know, I could always aks someone during office hours at the international office.

academic preparation

Really well, the level of courses at the UU is excellent. The bachelor Law at the UU is very well organised and the education level is good, sometimes even a bit too hard.

language preparation

I only had a few English courses and no German, but that was no problem since I have English knowledge myself and have a 'feeling' for the German speech.

finances

Fine, good guidance. You haveto make a rough picture of your costs during your semester abroad. That helps you to really get into the living costs in Vienna, or wherever you are gonna study.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The study programme entailed different kind of courses, which were fine. I did some courses in different study programmms. For example history of Austria (in German), global history, Cultural studies, History of English (phonetic course), the protection of Human rights etc. The organisation of courses and study programmms in Vienna was not that good, you had to figure a lot out on your own. I did not get any help. Even when I asked my law department office about it. The courses were only hearing lectures, no working groups. This entailed 4 months of colleges and in the end after half a year all your exams in one or more weeks.

academic quality of education activities

Depended on the course. Some courses were pretty bad. Not only the professor could not teach properly, but also the content and supporting material like powerpoints failed in adademic level. But other courses were quit okay and interesting. For example I did a cultural course, the teacher was from Ireland and he was one of the most enthousiastic, well-informed and best teachers I ever had. So, depending on the course, it was really good or really bad. To help you figure out which are the good, Facebook groups of that study programm (for example Anglistik or Jura (Law)) are helpful to ask your questions about teachers/courses etc.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Like I said, the University of Vienna does very little guidance in figuring out how to subscribe for courses, what the online learning platform is, where you can find these things etc. For me, and a lot of students with me, this was difficult. In the end, once you figured everything out, it is not that hard to subsribe for courses, know how



the system works, see your grades, apply for exams etc. But as an international student, you don't know how to figure it out at the beginning. So, a little guidance from students or student offices would be nice.

transfer of credits

I haven't experienced this so far. But the University of Vienna has a grading system as in every Austrian city, from 1 to 5, 1 being the highest and 5 is a failure.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The welcome programme entailed one or two hours where they explained practical things. I did not really participate in the introduction programme, but I did go to all the welcome party's and stuff like that. This was not that much but once you find people you like, you get to know a lot of people on your own. The student life is not enormous, so you can easily find friends.

accommodation

There are not that many student housing areas, at least not if you apply for them one month before the semester starts (like I did ;)). But once you are there, if you look for an apartment a couple of days, you will probably find something! I found a really nice place, a bit in the centre as well. I just asked a girl on Erasmus Facebook from the Netherlands if she already found something to live, and in the end we found a really beautiful apartment together. So just go there and look for it there. It will come around!

leisure & culture

I like the culture. Because I was there during winter semester it was really cold, snowy, with a lot of Christmas markets, ice-skating etc. The buildings are beautiful! The centre is so amazing. I really fell in love with the city and the culture from day one. Lots of nice streets, restaurant (mostly 'schnitzel'), museums, opera house, shopping streets etc. The city is beautiful and the people are friendly (but a bit to themselves). I would definitely recommend going there in winter semester! Christmas is a whole new experience in Vienna.

suggestions/tips

I would ask someone who has already been to Vienna to help figuring out to subscribe to the courses and find a room! This makes everything whole lot easier. You can always ask me for example! I would be happy to guide you a little in the whole process. And go in winter semester! Around the holidays, snowy Vienna and Christmas markets for three months is a great experience.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Yes! The city is amazing, absolutely one of the most beautiful city's I have ever been. The University is okay, the library and head University are absolutely beautiful, really Harry Potter-ish. But the guidance from the University is not good I am afraid.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

2015-2016

PREPARATION

exchange application process

I had to send in a motivation letter and my resume to the international office of the UU. After this I heard that I



was accepted.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
If I had questions I could call the International office. They always answer really quick and provided me with helpful information
academic preparation
I did not have to prepare anything special
language preparation
I took all my courses in English so no preparation needed.
finances
I applied for an erasmus grant and got extra money from the free public transportation. This was enough.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I had a really busy schedule and a couple overlapping classes. The registration period was a little bit stressful because I was on the waiting list for almost all the courses I wanted but I got in all of them.
academic quality of education activities
The level was comparable to Utrecht, only the exams were a little bit easier. The subjects were really interesting.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I was received personally by the erasmus coordinator if I had questions. So nothing to complain about.
transfer of credits
I get the same amount of credits there as here.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
There was not really an orientation program so that was a pity. But at the first meeting they explained everything really clear so I had something to go on.
accommodation
I had arranged it myself but it was 10 minutes with public transport to the centre. The city is really save and not that more expensive than the Netherlands.
leisure & culture
No lack of culture in Vienna. The whole city is a museum. There were also a lot of activities and trips.
suggestions/tips
Take long walks through the city, go the opera and see the lipizaners. I would recommend the 7th, 8th or 9 th district to live in. Most students live here and the districts are really fun and close to the centre.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain



I definitely would. The city is one of the most beautiful cities in the world and has a lot to offer. Not only culture but also exciting nightlife every day of the week. The university is huge but really nice and they have a lot of interesting courses.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Register for more courses than you are planning to take, because there is a chance you will not get in. This way you do not end up without enough ECTS.

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application process at Utrecht University overall was very swift and easy. I choose from the list of destinations that were still left after the deadline of application in January. Following the process of application, I wrote a letter of motivation, filled in my Learning Agreement and Grant Agreement. I uploaded these documents in Osiris and the UU nominated me for the University of Vienna. Within two days I received a reply from the International Office in Vienna that I was accepted. Next to that the International office send me a handbook filled with useful information about where to stay in Vienna and finding my way around the city.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

When getting signatures for both the Learning Agreement and Grant Agreement, the UU International office proved to be very helpful in pointing me to the right people at the University of Vienna. Overall, the support the UU offered me was very good as I was able to call them and ask them questions at all times concerning my exchange. One final remark in this case would be that the UU could have send me a list with students of the UU who were going to study at the University of Vienna too. When I arrived in Vienna, I found out that four UU students were doing the same exchange as me during the same semester. Letting me get in contact with them would have helped a great deal in finding a suitable shared room in Vienna with students from the same university. In that case I would have been able to room with this student without going to my dormitory and rooming with a complete stranger, which in most cases is not as good as it sounds.

academic preparation

I took my European Treaties handbook from Utrecht with me before going to Vienna. All the classes I took were about International Law in Vienna, so it seemed a good idea to take this handbook with me. It proved very useful as almost all courses were linked to European legislation.

language preparation

All the courses I took in Vienna were taught in English and as I already reached level C1 in English with my CAE qualification, I didn't have to prepare to take courses in this language. German, however, is another story. It is possible at the University of Vienna to take German language courses but they already start in February. These courses are quite expensive but definitely worth it, because you will have classes 5 days a week going on for the whole semester. I didn't take the German language course but judging experiences from people who took it, I can testify to the fact that this course significantly improves your German speaking skill.

finances

During my exchange I received an Erasmus grant of 270 euros each month and on top of that 100 euros from the Dutch government for not using my public transportation chipcard(OV chipkaart). Next to those grants, I received my Dutch student loan to finance my exchange expenses. Austria in general is more expensive than the Netherlands. Expect to pay about 20 euros each day for daily groceries whereas in the Netherlands this number would be around 10 euros. Exchanges are almost always more expensive than anticipated before. The reason for this is when you settled in and found a group of friends in the city you will start going out more often and travelling to other cities. As Vienna is located in Central Europe, travelling to cities such as Bratislava and Budapest suddenly becomes more accesible as they are only two hours away by train. The budget expenses



I anticipated before changed with regards to the leisure activities budget. Student expenses such as buying books were drastically cut down as I only needed to buy one treaty handbook worth 30 euros. Public transportation expenses are fixed and relatively cheap because a semester ticket for the U-bahn(metro), S-Bahn(train) and Strassenbahn(tram) only costs 75 euros. For this amount you will be able to board all transportation methods within the city of Vienna.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The University of Vienna works somewhat different than Utrecht University. At UU, courses consist of a lecture and a working group each week with a requirement of writing a paper sometimes. In Vienna, you'll get to choose whether you want to do a lecture, a paper, or attend a working group. I have had all three during my stay in Vienna. The lecture course(KU in the course manual), hence the name, only consists of weekly lectures. A seminar course(SE in the course manual) in Vienna usually gives Austrian students the opportunity to write their bachelor thesis, but as a Erasmus students you will only be required to hand in a paper of 4-5 pages. A presentation is also part of this course. A working group course(PF in the course manual) is the most similar to Utrecht with regards to the fact that it consists of a lecture and group discussion. The first hour will be spend going over the topics of that particular week and the second hour will be used to discuss the questions you prepared before participating in that week's lecture. For all courses about 30% of the grade consists of active participation. This means that if you ask a relevant question, start a discussion or elaborate on a topic discussed in class, the teacher will give you a mark for active participation. It varies for all courses but usually when you participate in class 6 times, you will be awarded the highest possible grade for participation and score a 10/10 for the 30% which is added up to your exam results(70%).

academic quality of education activities

The level of education quality is somewhat similar to Utrecht University. However, studying for exams is easier because the amount of workload is smaller than in Utrecht. In Utrecht it's necessary to study eight weeks of both lectures and working groups in order to prepare properly for the exam. In Vienna, most courses only consist of lectures in which the teacher tells you everything you need to know for that week in two hours. In order to pass the exam, you'll only be required to revise your notes made during the lectures. So to sum up, Utrecht supplies you with revising of approximately 4 hours of work whereas this number in Vienna is only two hours or less. Because most courses are especially taught for Erasmus students the level of difficulty is also lower than in Utrecht. Erasmus students come from different parts of Europe where different levels of difficulty exist. To ensure most Erasmus students will pass, the level of difficulty therefore is lowered.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The International Office in Vienna had flexible opening hours and helped me with everything I needed during my exchange. The staff was very friendly and helpful.

transfer of credits

As I am writing this report, I'm still in the process of transferring my credits, so I can't make a sensible remark about this process.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The Orientation programme for exchange students of the University of Vienna was very helpful for me. I already had accommodation in the city but the International Office in Vienna can also help you with finding a suitable dormitory. Next to the introduction to the university by the International officer, the Erasmus Student Network(ESN) was also present at this orientation programme. The ESN organizes a lot of parties and excursions in the introduction week of the semester which are great to meet new people who also study in Vienna. Almost everyday trips or excursions are planned. I recommend going on all of them to meet new friends. The downside of participating in all the ESN activities in the introduction week is that this is very costly.



Usually after a excursion to a museum for example, you sit down with a couple of students for a drink or a bite to eat. As prices are higher in Austria than in the Netherlands, eating out and having a drink will gradually amount to a huge sum of money. During my introduction week alone I spend about 300 euros on paying for dinner and going to excursions.

accommodation

I got my accomodation via Housing Vienna. The service of this housing agency is great, as they are friendly and willing to answer your questions. This behaviour is very different from Wihast, as this housing agency treats you as a cash cow(prices for dormitories are very high in Vienna) and are very rude and non-responsive when asking questions. Although Housing Vienna's service was good, the dormitory they supplied me with was located out of town at a very high monthly cost. My advice in this regard is to arrange your accomodation as soon as possible, preferably 4-6 months in advance. I arranged my accomodation 2 weeks before going to Vienna, so all good spots were already taken.

leisure & culture

Vienna has all sorts of activities to offer for all kinds of people. During my stay in Vienna I tried to visit as much places as I could in the limited time I had. As mentioned before, Vienna is centrally located in Europe which makes trips to Eastern European capitals much more accesible and easy. Train tickets vary between 10-40 euros at the train station. Vienna itself has to offer a lot as well with decent art collections in the national musea and an electrifying club scene. Moreover, the restaurant standard is very high so you'll have a hard time trying to get a truly terrible meal. For students there are a great number of discounts you can get with your student card, so I'll recommend making the most of that. I can name up every place I've been to in Vienna but that won't help for taking the step to come to Vienna. In conclusion, you'll definately won't get bored when staying here. As a Western capital of 1,8 million people the possibilities are endless.

suggestions/tips

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

I would definately recommed going to Vienna for an Erasmus Exchange. The city itself has so much to offer, varying from great bars to historic coffee houses and beautiful classical sights. It is almost impossible to get bored because there's so much to do and see. On an academic note, the city offers great language courses in German which makes your speaking skill improve significantly. Next to that, the univeristy has a lot of guest lecturers from mulitple countries which can give you a new perspective of already known areas of law. For example, I had an guest lecturer from the Uiveristy of Sydney who taught me about the commercial aspects of Space law which is slightly based on the law of the sea. I never came across this topic at Utrecht University but here in Vienna it was taught. Needless to say, when going on an exchange your English speaking skill will also improve as English is the main language of communication between Erasmus students. These possibilities together with the oppurtunity to travel around parts of Austria and Eastern Europe made Vienna a unique exchange destination for me and I am certain it will for other exchange students too.

do you have any additional advice or comments?