

Destination:
University of Vienna
Tips for International
Students

univie
global

*The International
Magazine of the
University of Vienna*
2019



**universität
wien**

International Office

Cover

Lydia Bolton from the United States and Guatemalan Alejandro de León exchange their experience as international students on the stairs of the University of Vienna's historic building.

Photo: Der Knopfdrecker



Photo:
Hans Schubert

Foreword

Internationalisation at the University of Vienna has many facets and many faces.

Alejandro de León from Guatemala, **Lydia Bolton** from the United States, and **Daniela Martínez Alfaro** from Mexico are foreign students who talk in this issue of *univie global* about their experiences at our university.

I hope that they serve as an inspiration for others to follow their lead.

Roland Steinacher, Head of Teaching Affairs and Student Services, explains that we have much to offer to foreign students, and he provides useful information on how to make a stay with us a success and turn it into a life-changing experience.

Student mobility is big at the University of Vienna. We have more than 1,000 outgoing and incoming students every year. Unfortunately, not all of our local students have the opportunity to visit a foreign university. However, these students can still be part of an increasingly globalised world, as **Johanna Lehner** explains with reference to the concept of internationalisation@home.

Our university is a hot spot for research. We are among the leading houses for research in Europe, and many join the University of Vienna to be part of the vibrant research atmosphere we provide. To make researchers joining us from outside the EU feel comfortable and at home from the start, and to help them navigate the immigration procedures in Austria, we have created a network of “liaison officers” at all faculties and centers. **Gerlinde Aschauer** from the Center for Molecular Biology is one of the friendly and competent colleagues who help incoming staff, especially our junior researchers, to get started.

Melani Dumancic explains that our Faculty of Law is not only the leading institution in Austria, but it provides many fascinating international perspectives for legal research. **Rüdiger Frank** is an eminent professor of East Asian Studies who provides a teaser that will whet your appetite to learn more about our programme on East Asian Economy and Society, and our outstanding Japanese and Chinese studies, among others.

Lottelis Moser who retired in May 2019 was head of the International Office at the University of Vienna for many years. She was relentless in encouraging our students, researchers and administrators to reach out to the world and to turn our visitors into life-long friends of the University of Vienna. I thank her for the great service she provided to us to *live* internationalisation. I bid a very warm welcome to **Barbara Good** as her successor. We have chosen her because she is a top expert in international affairs, a dedicated colleague, and a natural leader for the office. She is full of fresh ideas to take internationalisation at the University of Vienna to the next level. I am very much looking forward to implementing these ideas with her.

Many thanks to all who have contributed to this issue of *univie global*. I hope you enjoy reading it.

Jean-Robert Tyran, Vice-Rector for Research and International Affairs

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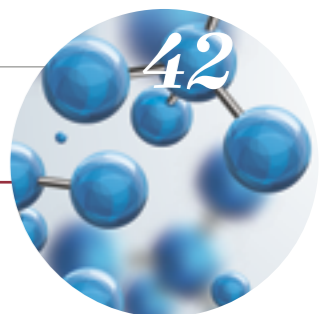
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Destination: University of Vienna

Tips for Prospective International Students

Photo: Shutterstock/TasfotoNL

For many international students considering studying abroad, the University of Vienna is an attractive option offering high quality degree programmes with internationally recognised degrees and relatively low tuition fees. Roland Steinacher, head of Teaching Affairs and Student Services outlines the conditions for studying here as an international and points out key issues to consider in making that decision.

In the winter semester 2018/19, around 8,600 non-Austrian students started a degree programme at the University of Vienna (31.6% of all new students). 2,815 non-Austrian students completed their studies in the academic year 2017/18 (28% of all graduates).

Active degree programmes by students' country of origin and field of studies: academic year 2018/19 (bachelor's, diploma or master's programmes)	Austria	Germany	Other EU countries	Non-EU
Law, Business and Economics, and the Social Sciences	10,998	1,889	1,726	1,668
Life Sciences	6,660	1,629	680	502
Humanities	13,705	1,322	2,014	1,404
Formal and Natural Sciences	4,549	398	453	545
All students	35,912	5,237	4,872	4,119

As of October 2019; final figures will be published in the university's performance report. A bachelor's, diploma or master's programme is considered active if the student has acquired at least 16 ECTS points in the respective academic year. A student may be enrolled in more than one active programme during the applicable academic year.

Due to a fundamental change in funding in the last year, the staff-student ratio will constantly improve as the University recruits more academic staff from both Austria and abroad. Thus, in November 2018, 73 professorships and tenure track professorships were advertised. Together with the existing faculty, they bring outstanding expertise and international experience into the degree programmes. Along with the students, they create a place where diversity and creativity thrive. Vienna is known as a great place to live (see city rankings such as the Mercer Report) as a result of the good public infrastructure, the high level of security and the broad cultural spectrum, among other things.



Photos: Der Knopfdrecker

Choosing to study in another country means leaving behind familiar surroundings. It tests the strength of existing social relationships. Making the decision to study far from home is difficult and should be considered carefully and based on proper information. It requires adaptability, flexibility, courage and confidence. You should also make sure you have a realistic plan B, just in case things don't work out.

Deciding on a University: Matching Interests and Courses on Offer

The range of courses on offer is vast. The central starting point is your individual interests and skills as well as your personal expectations: What subject do I want to dedicate at least three years of my life, and possibly more, to? What do I expect to gain from my qualification in this subject in the future? What universities offer that subject? Why that university in particular? Do my expectations actually match what is on offer? Do I prefer a high level of independence and self-organisation or permanent supervision and preset schedules? Does that university suit me in terms of the size, the staff-student ratio and the level of interaction between students and teachers?

► The University of Vienna provides English-language profiles for all of the courses it offers.

They give an overview of the course content and insights into the range of courses available. More detailed information on course content can be found on the websites of the respective Studies Service Centers.

studying.univie.ac.at/degree-programmes

Mastering the Language of Instruction

The profiles for the courses offered by the University of Vienna indicate the language of instruction (see above). Although the majority of degree programmes are taught in German, there are a range of programmes taught in English on offer.

Mastery of the language of instruction is a critical factor in grasping the course content and passing written and oral examinations. Am I confident that I will be able to read and discuss and write academic texts in the programme's language within a short time? Will I be able to give presentations and defend my academic papers in this language? Am I prepared to use German as my everyday language outside of the university?

► Programmes taught in English:

studying.univie.ac.at/foreign-language-programmes

► Language skills required for programmes taught in German: At present, knowledge of German to level C1 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages is a formal requirement for admission to programmes taught in German. Students must have already reached at least level A2 in German at the time they apply. Before actually being admitted to their desired course of study, new students are offered the opportunity to bring their knowledge of German up to the standard of level C1. During this time (a maximum of four semesters) they will be non-degree programme students on the preparation programme offered jointly by the universities in Vienna (VWU).

vorstudienlehrgang.at/en/vienna/

Checking Financial Matters

In order to be able to concentrate on your course and on graduating, you need to be socially and financially secure. Can I afford to study in Vienna? Where will I live? Am I allowed to work? How much time will that take up and how is this going to affect my studies? Have I worked out an informed financial plan which includes tuition fees, course materials, living costs, food, health costs, sport and leisure costs etc.? Have I got adequate reserves or who is going to step in to help me if something unexpected happens?

► Tuition fees at the University of Vienna:

studying.univie.ac.at/tuition-fee

► Information on studying in Austria is available from the Austrian agency for international mobility and cooperation in education, science and research (OeAD). It also offers a comprehensive database on grants and funding.

oead.at/en/to-austria/grants.at/en/

Admission, Entrance Examinations and Residence Permits

If you have answered these questions and the answers yield a consistent overall picture, then it is also sensible to take a reality check: what do people I trust think about my plan? And as if dealing with the personal issues and the preparatory planning was not already difficult enough, there are a whole host of bureaucratic steps that have to be completed before you can start your studies. The more effort you invest into your application, the more likely it is that you will receive a quick and positive response. However, bear in mind that it takes time to check applications for admission to a course and to issue a residence permit. Documents must meet certain formal requirements and the prerequisites for entering Austria vary significantly depending upon the country of origin. For Non-EU/EEA-citizens the admission letter is the first step to obtaining a residence permit.

In recent years, access to courses in Austria has changed as a result of special entrance examinations and aptitude assessments. Acceptance in this case depends not only on formal requirements being met (certificates and final records, language proficiency) but also on results in entrance examinations and aptitude tests. In some cases, competition for places is extremely fierce, as in the case of Psychology, for example, where around 3,700 applicants from around the world compete for one of the 480 places available.

► The Admission Office is the portal for prospective students at the University of Vienna. The university provides applicants with a checklist of application documents. The application procedure for each course is described step by step.

studying.univie.ac.at/applicants

uspace.univie.ac.at/en/web/gast/checkliste

► OeAD has assumed an important role in providing information with regard to entry into Austria and residency here. A database on entry into the country

Alejandro de León

Guatemala, Master in International
Business Administration



I was born and raised in Guatemala. I had the privilege to graduate from the Austrian-Guatemalan School; hence it seemed proper for me to take on the challenge of the Viennese student life experience. And what

better way to obtain an overwhelmingly authentic university feeling than from one of the oldest and most distinguished academic institutions in Europe?

Although the start of the semester went less smoothly than expected (i.e. dealing with course planning, a foreign language and a different

culture, not to mention the wicked headache caused by the student visa application process), these very obstacles seemed to have no significant impact on the fast-growing progress I was making as a person, mostly in terms of maturity, resilience, and determination. Moreover, I was very grateful for the easy-going attitudes shown by both colleagues and teachers towards my multicultural background, which greatly relieved the learning burden while promoting the very essence of our alma mater.

Today holding a master's degree as the result of completing a high-quality study programme, whose standards it wouldn't have been possible to achieve back home, I look back at those academic years and I can't help but remain confident in the bright future awaiting me in my beloved city of Vienna.

and residency asks for concrete information on the applicant's attributes and then provides information tailored to their particular situation.

oead.at/en/to-austria/entry-and-residence/

Establishing Networks

Those who make it as far as being admitted to the university, entering the country, moving into their accommodation and actually sitting for the first time in a lecture hall with their future colleagues will experience a range of cultural, organisational and legal idiosyncrasies that are perfectly normal for locals and “typically Austrian” for those already familiar with Austria, but often strange and sometimes irritating for new arrivals in the country. This is the time to establish networks with colleagues who will help you through your day-to-day studies.

Recognising Obstacles for International Students: A Challenge for Teachers

The start of a bachelor's programme is shaped by the introductory and orientation period. Students need to pass these courses in order to continue their studies. This is a major challenge for students who have learned German as a foreign language. They have to prove themselves in exams, both in terms of subject knowledge and in linguistic terms and, at the same time, find themselves under pressure to demonstrate regular progress in their studies in order to extend their residence permit.

It is particularly important that teachers and those with teaching responsibilities are aware of and fully understand this situation. They need to ensure that their teaching recognises and caters for diversity in order to give students a fair chance, whilst at the same time maintaining the required high standards.

- **At the University of Vienna** there are a range of initiatives to make the start of studying easier. Tutoring and mentoring programmes are designed to be interactive and there is no differentiation by country of origin.

ctl.univie.ac.at/services-zur-qualitaet-von-studien/steop-mentoring/ (in German)

- **For teachers**, many suggestions on topics relating to diversity have been collated in a manual and in an infopool: ctl.univie.ac.at/services-zur-qualitaet-von-studien/diversitaetsgerechte-lehre/ (in German)

Staying in Austria after Graduation

While some set off from home with the intention of returning once they have completed their studies, for others this step is linked to the dream of starting a new life in Austria or another European country. The European Higher Education Area and citizenship of the European Union ensure that this is possible for many graduates. As a business location, Austria is interested in

highly qualified university graduates, irrespective of their country of origin, and must make itself attractive compared to its international competitors. What is more, many companies see the diversity of their staff as a decisive factor in their economic success.

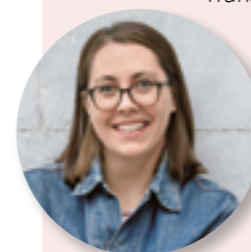
In Austria, non-EU/EEA citizens who have completed their studies in Austria are entitled to a one-off extension of their (student) residency permit by a further 12 months in order to seek work. If they are able to show that they have received an offer of work appropriate to their level of education within this period, they will, upon application, be awarded a graduate “red-white-red” card without any review of the labour market being necessary.

- **Information** on the precise conditions required, such as a minimum gross monthly salary of 2,349 Euro (2019) plus bonuses, and other requirements has been collated by the OeAD:

oead.at/en/to-austria/entry-and-residence/researcher-without-hosting-agreement/red-white-red-card/

Lydia Bolton

USA, Master Cultural Differences and
Transnational Processes (CREOLE)



I first came to Vienna in 2012 as part of an American study-abroad program. I liked Austria so much that in 2014 I came back! In 2018 I decided that I wanted to study again and staying here was a major benefit of starting the CREOLE Master at the University of Vienna. My first semester was definitely a period of

adjustment to the differences in teaching style and university system between here and the USA. I have really enjoyed studying; it is great to be in classes with people who have similar interests but different backgrounds. I have been lucky to mainly have professors who are engaging and enthusiastic about their courses. The low tuition cost is another plus of studying in Vienna. International students at the University of Vienna are an important resource for bringing different viewpoints and challenging the status quo. I would love to stay in Austria after finishing my studies, since it has really begun to feel like my home over the last few years.

Further reading for professionals

- ▶ Student fees at a glance: “Tuition fee reforms and international mobility”, Education Indicators in Focus, No. 51, OECD Publishing, Paris 2017:
doi.org/10.1787/2dbe470a-en
- ▶ Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, Council of Europe:
coe.int/en/web/common-european-framework-reference-languages/level-descriptions



Photo: Daniela Martínez Alfaro

Daniela Martínez Alfaro

Mexico, Bachelor in International Business
Administration, Bachelor in Sociology

After working as an au pair on the outskirts of Vienna, I fell in love with the city and realised it was a fantastic place to study and live in. So, after attending German courses for 8 months

I decided to apply to the University of Vienna. The first semester was pretty challenging as I had been learning German for only 1 year and I needed to adapt to a whole new study system. However, I felt very privileged to have the opportunity to study in such a fantastic university, so I spent many hours preparing for the first semester. After that period it became easier and easier. Concerning the application for the University of Vienna, the staff were always willing to help me with any situation and acquiring my residence permit was also not a problem, just a bit stressful to get all the documents needed.

There is a huge difference between the universities of my home country (Mexico) and that in Vienna. Firstly, the tuition fees, which are much cheaper in Vienna, especially considering the quality of the courses offered. In addition, the system is also very different: the advantage in Vienna is having the freedom to choose whether or not to participate in most of the classes. This gave me the flexibility around my studies to work as a gymnastic teacher part time, allowing me to be financially independent while studying. In Vienna, the university expects you to be more independent, in contrast to my experience in Mexico, where the teachers were much more hands on. This can be challenging for some who need more motivation from educators, but it allowed me to grow as a student on my own terms and learn independently. After finishing my bachelor's degree I would love to remain abroad, as I have really grown and developed through getting to know new languages and cultures. And if I have the chance to continue my studies with a master's programme at the University of Vienna I would absolutely do it!



About the author:

Roland Steinacher, law expert, has been head of the service unit Teaching Affairs and Student Services since 2015. The service unit Teaching Affairs and Student Services supports students and staff of the University of Vienna in the organisation, administration and implementation of studying and teaching.

Photo: Der Knopfdruecker

AT A GLANCE: information on admission to and studying at the University of Vienna

- ▶ General information about studying at the University of Vienna, an overview of the university's whole range of degree programmes and information about the admission procedure:

studying.univie.ac.at

- ▶ The Admission Office is the portal for prospective students at the University of Vienna:

studying.univie.ac.at

- ▶ StudiesServiceCenters and StudiesServiceUnits offer detailed information about the contents of a degree programme and information for completing a degree programme:

ssc.univie.ac.at



Photo: Der Knopfdruecker

Facts and Figures in Brief

Internationalisation Activities at the University of Vienna

Reporting period: 2018/19, unless stated otherwise

A detailed compilation of key figures regarding international affairs and internationalisation activities of the University of Vienna is provided in the university's International Report, which can be downloaded on the following website:
international.univie.ac.at

Austria's largest University

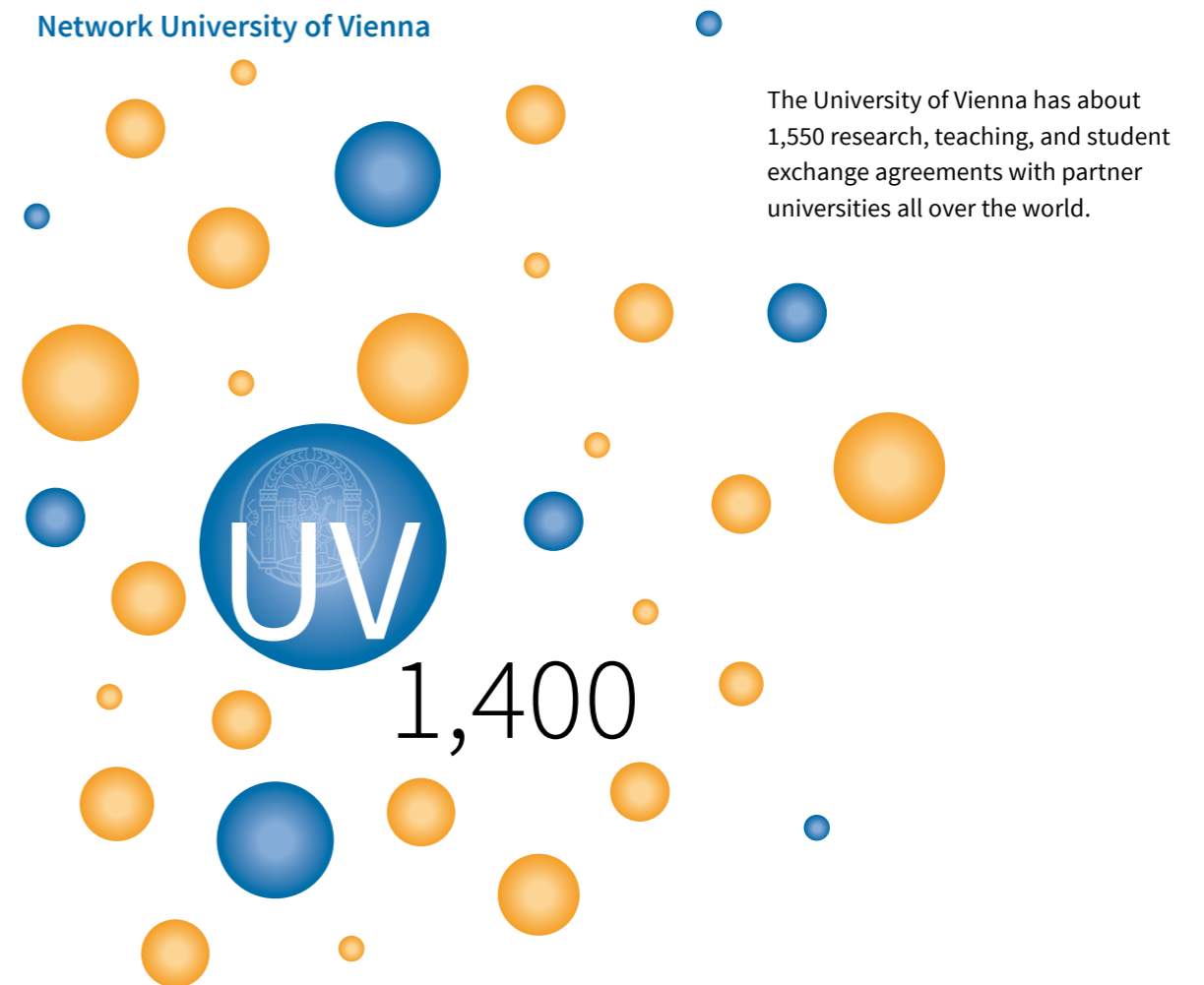
48,337 active students*

Top University

The University of Vienna is the best ranked university in Austria and numbers among the world's best 150 universities according to the THE World University Ranking 2020.

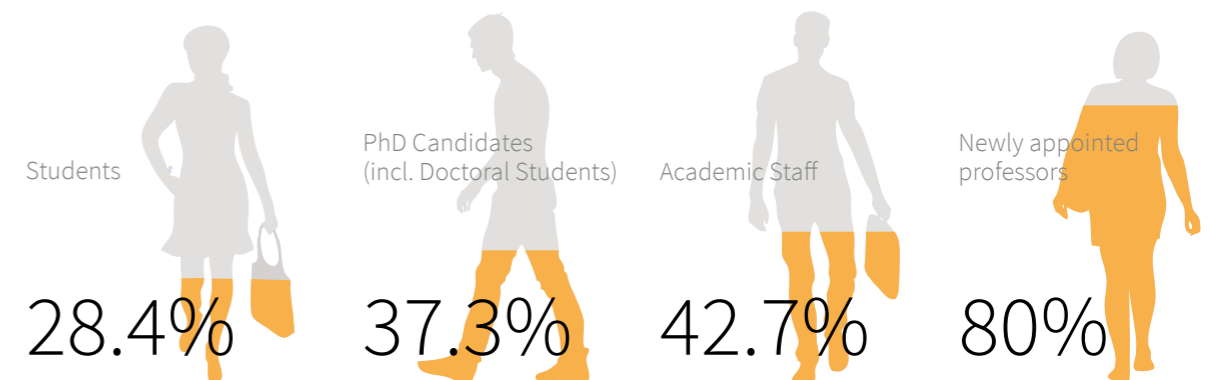


Network University of Vienna



International Students and Staff

Percentages of students and staff from abroad

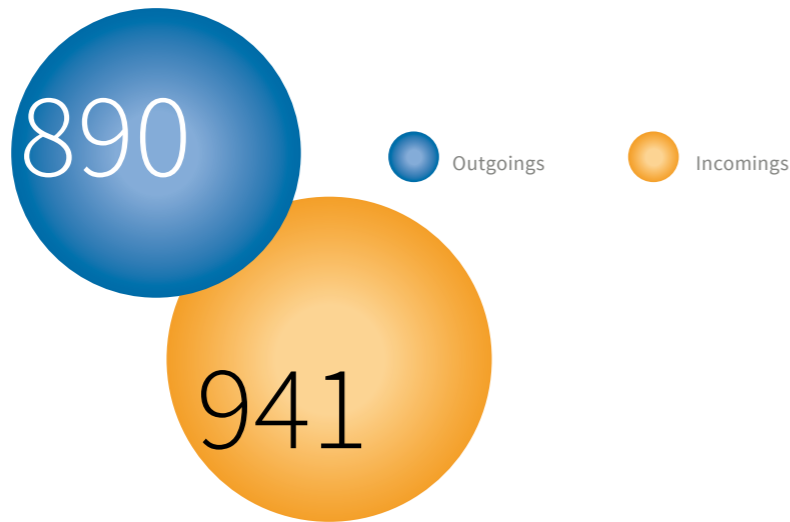


Student Mobility

Graduates with stay abroad¹



Erasmus+ Programme



Erasmus+ Internships



¹ Reporting period: 2016/17

Non-EU Student Exchange Programme

This programme supports student exchange primarily with renowned partner universities outside the EU.



Teaching Mobility

Erasmus+ Teaching Mobility





Photo: Hans Schubert

Internationalisation @ Home

International Experience Outside of Classic Student Mobility Programmes



Nowadays, internationalisation of universities in general is considered a key factor for qualitative higher education, not least in order to enable the university and academic community to keep up with globalisation in science, business and society. Johanna Lehner from the International Office sheds light on the „Internationalisation at home“ initiatives being undertaken at the University of Vienna.

Photo: Hans Schubert

“Internationalisation abroad” covers all aspects of cross-border university education (student and teacher exchange, international research projects, etc.). It is complemented by “internationalisation at home”, the main aim of which is to enable non-mobile students to acquire international experience within their home university or homeland.

Internationalisation at Home as a Concept

Since the founding of a special interest group for internationalisation at home 20 years ago and its first meeting at the European Association for International Education (EAIE) conference in Maastricht in 1999, the core issue has remained the same. As Hanneke Teekens, expert on international education, says,

What do we do with the vast majority of students who are not exposed to intercultural learning and an international experience?

Internationalisation at home is meant to be the answer.

Jos Beelen and Elsbeth Jones, two academic experts on the internationalisation of higher education, describe internationalisation at home as, among other things, “... the purposeful inte-

gration of international and intercultural dimensions into the formal and informal curriculum for all students within domestic learning environments.” Emphasis is placed on the target group, namely “all” students. They should gain international perspectives and intercultural skills in the course of their studies, whether or not they spend time abroad.

For years the focus has been on increasing student mobility. Since the turn of the millennium, however, the parties responsible for the internationalisation of higher education in the European Higher Education Area – namely the EU and universities – have gradually begun to pay more attention to the non-mobile majority of students. Educating so-called “global citizens” who are able to face global challenges is also anchored in the UN’s sustainable development goals.

Internationalisation at Home at the University of Vienna

In practice, universities ensure internationalisation at home by employing a wide range of tools. The internationalisation of curricula is especially important.

The Curriculum Committee of the University of Vienna creates the framework which enables

internationalisation activities to be implemented. The greater the attention given to internationalisation at the structural level, the wider the range of opportunities to embed international elements into teaching (e.g. integration of international topics into the curricula, installing English as a medium of instruction) and the more efficient it is to implement them.

When you look for internationalisation in teaching at the University of Vienna, you find various examples of internationalisation at home, some of them embedded in programmes of study. They are initiated either by the academic staff members themselves or by units such as the International Office.

International and Intercultural Elements in Programmes of Study

In many courses, analysing and comparing phenomena at regional, supraregional and global level is an integral part of the course. As a result,

students automatically acquire international perspectives. Students of comparative literature, for example, learn to consider and interpret literary texts in various languages and from different cultural and historical contexts in relation to one another. In so-called Area Studies, which deal with the society, culture, language and history of various regions of the world (Sinology, Japanology, African Studies, Scandinavian Studies, etc.), intercultural skills are taught in relation to the particular region.

The Importance of Foreign-Language Elements in Programmes of Study

Contrary to what one might expect, merely translating the course into a foreign language, mostly English, is not an adequate measure for internationalisation if the content lacks the required international dimension. Also, from a didactic point of view, using English as a medium of instruction for non-natives requires appropri-

ate didactic elements. However, the ability to discuss your subject area with those who speak another language is regarded as a key factor for successful internationalisation. English is the lingua franca in business, science and politics. It is important that graduates have the English skills they need in their jobs.

While the majority of programmes of study the University of Vienna offers are taught in German, around 20% of courses are taught in English. There are also several English-language master's programmes as well as a variety of programmes where some of the courses are taught in German and some in a second language.

- Master programmes in various academic disciplines are offered in English:
studying.univie.ac.at/foreign-language-programmes
- The Language Center of the University of Vienna offers a range of options enabling students to improve their foreign language skills:
sprachenzentrum.univie.ac.at

International Faculty and Student Body

Approximately 40% of our academic staff are international. Additionally, international academics teach at various faculties as guest lecturers and guest professors. 25% of our students come from 38 European countries, and 1,700 students come from non-European countries.

Advocates of internationalisation at home believe that the interaction between local students and international faculty members and students should play an important part in promoting intercultural exchange and developing international perspectives.

International students – both degree-seeking and exchange students – bring cultural features and experience of other educational traditions to their host university, thereby enriching the day-to-day study experience of local students. They may very well be the first impulse that motivates others to

seek international experience. This does not only happen in lectures, but also outside the classroom, for example, through buddy programmes like that offered by the European Student Network or departmental buddy programmes. Local students help new arrivals from abroad to find their feet in an unfamiliar university and a foreign city.

- The “language swap”-initiative offered by the university's Language Center does not trade in money but in language skills. Local and foreign students explore cultural differences through learning a language.
sprachenzentrum.univie.ac.at/en/language-swap/

Special initiatives offered at the University of Vienna are the “univie: summer/winter schools”, academic short programmes for students who study at the University of Vienna or at a university abroad. Summer/winter schools give students the opportunity to discuss their research field with international colleagues and experts and to experience day-to-day life in international research as a young researcher.

- univie: summer/winter schools are held in a wide range of disciplines:
international.univie.ac.at/summer-and-winter-schools/

Internationalisation at Home and Digitalisation

Collaborative Online International Learning, virtual classrooms and virtual mobility, Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) and cyber universities – these are all formats which have been introduced into higher education as a result of digitalisation.

Digital media add to the range of tools available for internationalisation at home.

The “flying faculty” approach, for example, shows that online lecture series, video lectures and online podium discussions make it possible for faculty members to teach a course to an international audience without having to travel abroad and for students to acquire international and

Teaching Mobility for Incomings and Outgoings

Erasmus+ Teaching Mobility
destination: European partner universities
2 days – 4 weeks

Erasmus+ International Teaching Mobility
destination: selected universities outside of Europe
5 days – 30 days

Non-EU Teaching Mobility
destination: University of Vienna, for invited faculty members
3 weeks – 90 days

Mehr Infos unter:
international.univie.ac.at
staffmobility@univie.ac.at

Best Practice: A Joint Classroom on International Criminal Law



At the Faculty of Law, a seminar is offered in collaboration with the University of Queensland and the University of Zurich in which students from the 3 universities tackle various aspects of international criminal law. In 2019 the topic was “wildlife trafficking”. The organisers, Susanne Reindl-Krauskopf and Andreas Schloenhardt, employ a so-called “blended learning” approach in arranging the seminar, a combination of online learning and attendance at lectures. In the preparation stage the students enter into an intensive online exchange and prepare themselves for the one-week seminar, which is held annually, so far alternating between Brisbane and Vienna. Students become familiar with the other country's legal system and schools of thought. Part of the programme includes visits to international organisations and embassies, during which students can talk to expert practitioners. Furthermore, for the Austrian and Swiss students, the academic exchange is held in a foreign language. Reindl-Krauskopf and Schloenhardt also see the seminar as a spring-board to the dissertation. For example, past participants in the joint classroom from Australia have decided to continue to develop the topic of their seminar further during their doctoral studies and to research it during an extended visit to the Faculty of Law in Vienna.

collaborative experience without any need for physical mobility. What is more, these courses can be made permanently available to students as videos.

“Joint Classrooms” at the University of Vienna

The International Office’s “joint classroom”-programme offers funding for courses that are held in collaboration with one of the University of Vienna's partner universities. In other words, teaching staff at the participating universities design a course and teach it together virtually, using a “blended learning” approach. “Blended learning” is used to describe a form of learning combining traditional face-to-face teaching and modern forms of e-learning. In the “joint classroom”-programme, international networking among students at the participating universities occurs through online tools, but also through short periods of travel.

The University of Vienna is funding activities for a “joint classroom” as part of its “internationalisation at home” strategy, in order to make international experiences and networks accessible to those students for whom a longer visit abroad is not possible for either financial, professional or family reasons. The “joint classroom” is also intended to strengthen ties with partner universities.

- “Joint classrooms” are courses that are held in collaboration with a partner university, combining digital tools and short periods of travel to enable international networking.

international.univie.ac.at/en/internationalunivie/joint-classroom/

Beyond the University

Students at the University of Vienna benefit from being in the Austrian capital city of Vienna, which is also home to many international organisations such as the UNO or the OSCE. To give an example, in 2018/19 the two Geography graduates Judith Schmelzer and Markus Springer were able to take part in the Regional Academy on the United Nations (RAUN) on “Innovations for Development:

Towards Sustainable, Inclusive, and Peaceful Societies”. It is a multi-disciplinary education programme that enables its participants to gain international academic experience and trains young scholars in issues related to the agenda of the United Nations. “Offering in particular an opportunity to gain research experience in a setting and with actors other than the university and academia, the programme gave insights into this more applied and policy-oriented research. Bringing together participants from all over the world, the programme proved to be valuable for learning cross-cultural communication, becoming more sensitive to cultural, educational and, sometimes, language differences“.

- The Regional Academy on the United Nations

international.univie.ac.at/internationalunivie/raun/

For further information see

The European Higher Education Area, 2015

(Beelen and Jones 2015)

Journal of Studies in International Education,
Vol. 7 No. 1, 2003 (Wächter 2003)

Hochschulforum Digitalisierung (2016).

The Digital Turn – Hochschulbildung im digitalen Zeitalter.

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European Association for International Education blog:

- Internationalisation at home: a sustainable alternative, by Anna Kowalska
- Internationalisation at Home: an epistemology of equity, by Joana Almeida
- Internationalisation at Home in practice, by Elsbeth Jones and Tanja Reiffenrath



Photo: Barbara Mair

Law Is Not Confined to National Borders

International Perspectives at the Faculty of Law



Photo: Arijana Jasarevic

Law is not confined to national borders. To have a successful career, students have to master the important supra-national and international aspects of law. **Melani Dumancic**, law student and coordinator of the Vienna Doctoral Academy, presents the numerous initiatives and opportunities offered by the Faculty. They give students the opportunity to acquire important international experience, be it in fictional international court rooms, through lectures in another language or through collaboration with international legal institutions.



univie global 2019

Photo: Barbara Mair



Contrary to what some may believe, law is not confined to national borders. Just like other subjects, it is affected by globalisation and is becoming more and more international. Therefore, European Community Law and Public International Law are obligatory subjects on the Law curriculum. With the additional optional “international” courses offered by the University of Vienna’s Faculty of Law, students can improve their Legal English skills, learn a lot about the many international aspects of law and lay the foundations for an international law career.

English and More: Education in a Foreign Language

University of Vienna law students are obliged to attend at least one course in a foreign language. The Faculty of Law provides a broad range of courses taught in a foreign language. Each semester, students can choose from a variety of over

80 courses in English. In addition to that, courses are also held in French, Italian, Spanish, and Slovenian and there is even one in Hebrew. Students wanting to pursue an international specialisation can choose the elective “basket of courses” called “International Legal Practice and Language” or the elective basket “Culture juridique francophone européenne et internationale”, if they are more interested in French legal culture. The lectures range from courses on International Investment Law, Criminal Law, seminars on European Union Law and Arbitration to various moot courts. Seminars are organised in cooperation with universities all over Europe, for example the University of Freiburg, the Bucerius Law School in Hamburg, the University of Uppsala in Sweden, the University of Ljubljana, and the Universities of Zurich and Basel. Students also have the opportunity to participate in excursions to different cities and important institutions in Europe. Hosted by Professor Gabriele Kucsko-Stadlmayer, the Austrian judge



Photo: Klaus Ranger

at the European Court of Human Rights, students can visit Strasbourg and the Council of Europe, the ECHR and the European Parliament. Moreover, field trips are organised to The Hague, Peking, Shanghai, and Israel.

Impressive Erasmus Mobility

This wide selection of lectures in various languages makes the Viennese Faculty of Law a popular destination for incoming Erasmus students. In the academic year 2018/19, 181 foreign students came to study in Vienna. Most students come from France, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, Switzerland, and Germany. We also regularly welcome students from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. International students are a valuable asset in courses in foreign languages and encourage professors and Austrian students to use and advance their foreign language skills.

Furthermore, Viennese law students have numerous opportunities to study abroad within the Erasmus+ programme. In the academic year of 2018/19, 174 students from the Faculty of Law decided to broaden their horizons and meet new colleagues at universities in foreign countries. The most popular destination is the United Kingdom, followed by France and the Netherlands. Students also like to go to Spain, Italy, Sweden, Belgium, and Norway. However, there are places at universities all over Europe, even in Cyprus, Turkey, and Iceland. As an additional motivation for students, the Faculty offers them the opportunity to have the courses they have taken abroad accredited as end-of-module examinations in European Law and International Law.

International Moot Courts

The Faculty of Law has a long tradition of participating in various international moot courts. These are competitions that require students to solve a fictional or real case as part of fictional

court or arbitration proceedings, mostly by drafting memoranda or memorials and by participating in oral arguments. Moot courts are an excellent opportunity for students to practise legal thinking, to work in teams, and to get a glimpse of the “real world” of lawyers.

The Faculty of Law participates in nine different international moot courts.

- The Willem C. Vis Moot on International Commercial Arbitration: In 2019, the University of Vienna participated for the 23rd time and again performed excellently. It took third place for the best memorandum for Claimant (Pieter Sanders Award). An even bigger success was achieved with the memorandum for Respondent. The team won the Werner Melis Award for the best memorandum for Respondent. It prevailed over 375 other memoranda submitted by some of the most prestigious universities in the world, such as Cambridge, Harvard, or Yale.
- The University of Vienna also successfully participates at the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court. This is the oldest and largest international moot competition, in which over 650 teams from around 90 countries compete each year. In the final round in Washington D.C., students plead a fictional case between two countries in front of the International Court of Justice. The Viennese team has got through to the round for the best 32 in several years, most recently in 2019.
- In addition, teams from the University of Vienna won second places in the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court, the Frankfurt Investment Arbitration Moot Court, and the international Roman Law Moot Court.
- They also actively participated in the ICC International Commercial Mediation Competition, the Historical Jewish Law, and the Ius Commune Moot Court.



Participants of the
VIS Moot Court 2019

Every year in October, the excitement is high in seminar room 32 at Juridicum. “The Problem” is released. Yes, it is time for the annual Willem C. Vis competition to start again. It is the world’s largest and most renowned moot court in international commercial arbitration and attracts thousands of students to Vienna. The incredible number of 376 universities from 87 countries participated in 2019 and the number is still rising.

Students are required to write two memoranda, for claimant and respondent, based on a fictional case dealing with the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG), which is debated in front of an arbitral tribunal, consisting of leading personalities in the fields of international commercial arbitration and CISG.

A few months later, in the week before Easter, Vienna becomes the hotspot for arbitration. The oral hearings take place at the Faculty of Law and at various law firms all over Vienna. Lifetime friendships are formed, and potential future arbitrators and lawyers are discovered.

Paul Oberhammer, Dean of the Faculty of Law, who is in charge of the Viennese Moot Court team, is a leading expert in international commercial arbitration, director of the Austrian Arbitration Academy, and has acted as arbitrator in numerous arbitral proceedings.

Photo: Leonie Liebenwein

LL.M. International Legal Studies

The University of Vienna offers a very prestigious high-level programme in International Legal Studies leading to an LL.M. This program aims at deepening students’ knowledge of international law and provides them with the relevant skills to work in internationally operating law firms, international organisations, foreign institutions and other government agencies. Since 2007, students can choose between a one year full-time or a two year part-time programme and are required to obtain 60 ECTS (including a master thesis). The curriculum consists of courses held in English and dealing with fundamental issues of international law, international economic law,

international organisations and international dispute settlement. During the twelve years of the programme’s existence, various study trips were organised, for example to the OSCE in Vienna, the WTO in Geneva, or the ICJ in The Hague. The course is coordinated by the Department for European, International and Comparative Law. With Professor August Reinisch, the programme has a prominent expert in international law and international relations as its programme director. In 2017 August Reinisch was selected as a member of the International Law Commission of the UN.

70 years of Sommerhochschule

If students get tired of the hot summer in the city and wish to relax on the shore of a lake while nonetheless furthering their academic knowledge and international relationships, the univie: summer school on International and European Studies is the perfect place for them. Every year, around one hundred students from all over the world spend four weeks in the small village of Strobl on the shores of the beautiful Lake Wolfgang in Salzburg. The summer school was established in 1949 as a place for restoring and promoting mutual understanding between Austrians and Americans, which World War II had done its best to destroy. Since 2007, Franz-Stefan Meissel, Professor of Roman Law and Vice Dean at the Faculty of Law, is director of the school. Nowadays, students from more than 20 different countries come together to study, exchange experiences, and become friends for life. The summer school offers courses on political, economic, legal, historical, and cultural aspects of Europe and the European Union. Renowned

expert practitioners and professors teach the courses and organise evening seminars in which current legal and political topics are discussed. To make it even more appealing for Austrian students, European Studies courses are recognised for their exam on European Union Law. Foreign students also have the opportunity to take German language courses. Furthermore, students can participate in the Austrian Arbitration Academy. This is an intensive two-week programme on international commercial arbitration in which students are taught by first class international arbitration practitioners. In addition to this academic programme, the summer school offers an extensive list of extracurricular activities.

Apart from spending time at the summer school’s private boathouse, students can engage in various sports courses, go mountain hiking, or take part in excursions to Salzburg, St. Wolfgang, or Ebensee. To make this programme affordable for everyone, scholarships are awarded to students on the basis of academic excellence and financial need. 🍷

The Faculty of Law at the University of Vienna works very hard to provide students with the best opportunities for a successful international law career. It offers a wide range of programmes, some of which are mentioned in this article. However, there are many more; for further information visit the faculty’s website: juridicum.at/recht/internationales

Students from more than 20 different countries take part in the annual univie: summer school International and European Studies
Photos: Sommerhochschule der Universität Wien



The “Cappuccino Strategy”

International Focus on Research and Teaching at the Heart of East Asian Studies



Photo: Wolfram Manzenreiter

The focus of modern area studies is less on one particular discipline and more on a multidisciplinary, holistic understanding of a great variety of processes in actual societies. The inherent international dimension of this field of research is reflected in its topics. In the following, [Rüdiger Frank](#), Head of the Department of East Asian Studies, illustrates the challenges and also the opportunities of area studies and gives an insight into the individual subject areas offered by the Department.

East Asian Studies are part of what is commonly known as area or regional studies. Traditionally, the disciplinary focus of East Asian Studies has been mainly historical and cultural, often with a Eurocentric and colonialist bias. This changed somewhat during World War II, when the US discovered that especially in the Asia-Pacific Theater it lacked staff that knew the societies and politics of the region and spoke the local languages. The Cold War confirmed this need and led governments all over the world to allocate substantial resources to universities to study adversaries as well as actual and potential partners. Later in the 20th century, it

was what we call globalisation with its expansion of international trade, transnational supply chains, greater connectivity, and increased temporary or permanent migration that led to the need to produce a larger number of country and regional specialists. This demand-driven background of modern area studies explains some of the peculiarities of this field. The social sciences, and gradually even the humanities, increasingly focus on quantitative research based on rigorous theoretical foundations and analytical frameworks. This has a transformative effect on our field, which is multidisciplinary and strongly empirically oriented.

Left side:
Students taking part in an excursion in Kumamoto (Japan) joining villagers in preparing for the shrine festival.

East Asian Economy and Society

The MA and PhD programmes in East Asian Economy and Society have been designed according to what we call our „Cappuccino Strategy“

... like that popular beverage, a successful graduate needs to combine the broadly understood and appreciated utility of black coffee with the attractiveness of whipped cream and chocolate powder. In other words, we help graduates with a degree in one of the established disciplines such as economics, political science, engineering, law, or physics to distinguish themselves from the large number of their peers by acquiring specific knowledge on East Asia including basic language training, an understanding of the economic and political systems in the region, economic development and international relations, and a wide range of elective subjects. In our teaching and research, we focus on comparative and cross-country topics related to the East Asian region. In more than 120 MA theses so far, our students embarked on research projects on a wide range of topics including national climate policies, the welfare state, intercultural communication, migration policies, corporate governance, social media marketing, human resource management, and so forth. PhD students have been doing research on corporate social responsibility, cultural diplomacy, drug policy, North Korea-China relations, and capacity building, to name only a few. Our international cooperation includes an annual winter school in cooperation with Seoul National University, where 20 Korean and 10 University of Vienna students explore a wide range of international organisations in Vienna and their relevance for East Asia, such as the UN, UNIDO, OPEC, OSCE, and many more.

[Alejandra Cervantes Nieto](#),
University Assistant in East Asian Economy and Society



Austrian and Korean Students attending the “SNU in Vienna”-winter school 2018

Photo: Alejandra Cervantes Nieto

Furthermore, in addition to the demanding task of learning one or more unfamiliar languages, East Asia scholars also face a growing need to master advanced methodological skills.

At the same time, high-quality empirical knowledge is still in demand. Our societies ask for practical and applicable insights into regional affairs. The abstract analysis of isolated phenomena in a laboratory-like environment is appreciated by scholars but often dismissed as ivory-tower escapism by non-academics. The ability of area specialists to contextualise, to apply multiple methodologies, and to take a holistic approach facilitates understanding of a great variety of complex

issues. This makes us highly valued partners of the media, governments, and globally active enterprises.

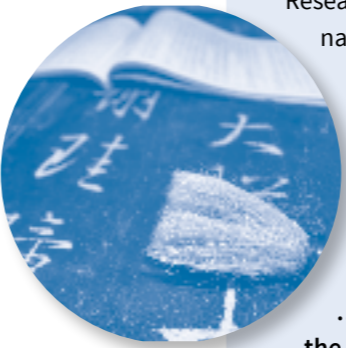
In light of the above, at the Department of East Asian Studies in Vienna our work rests on three pillars: **1.** full appreciation of the European tradition of area studies with its strong foundation in knowledge of the languages and cultures of China, Japan, and Korea; **2.** a focus on East Asian societies in the 20th and 21st centuries; and **3.** understanding that this multidisciplinary and holistic approach benefits greatly from following the standards of established disciplines with their well-developed and scientifically rigorous methodologies and analytical tools.

Japanese Studies

In the 80 years since its founding, Japanese Studies research at the University of Vienna has focused on various socio-anthropological topics

... such as leisure and play, gender, ageing, sports and visual culture (e.g. ukiyoe caricatures). At present, our research team deals with aspects especially concerning the margins of Japanese society: in Cultural Studies, representations of the (gendered, national, ethnic or cultural) “other” in contemporary literature, film, television drama, video games and other media are discussed. In Social Sciences, subjective well-being, social networks and the prominent problem of rural depopulation are all questions taken up in recent research, focused on the Aso region in Southern Japan, where Viennese Japanese Studies scholars already conducted fieldwork half a century ago. Many students embarking upon Japanese Studies are already familiar with aspects of Japanese culture, often through their interest in popular culture, from anime and manga to J-pop, or the diverse images of Japan present in everyday life, such as its cuisine, arts and sports. Despite its technophile, “cool” reputation, Japan also carries the label of a hyper-aged society with almost 30% of its population aged 65 and above. Our research, as well as our teaching, is rooted in an understanding of Japanese Studies as interdisciplinary area studies. Our students gain a high level of competence in the written and spoken use of the language, and an academic education based on social and cultural theories, which provides them with the methods, intercultural competencies and a reflective attitude to engage in professional Japan-related contexts.

Wolfram Manzenreiter,
Professor of Japanese Studies



Chinese Studies

Research on China at the Department of East Asian Studies at the University of Vienna covers various subject areas related to modern China. With a strong focus on history and social science, our department is mainly concerned with politics, law, history and society in the Greater China area (Mainland China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan). Topics such as political participation, digitalisation, local governance, rural development or Chinese historiography in the reform era shape our daily teaching and research. In dealing with a region that is undergoing rapid economic, social and political transformation, ...

... our team of researchers currently applies a wide range of methods from the social and historical sciences, including fieldwork, interviews, archival research, quantitative social research and machine learning techniques.

Timna Michlmayr,
University Assistant in Chinese Studies

East Asian Studies at the University of Vienna

The Department of East Asian Studies is currently home to 94 scholars at various levels, and to 1855 students from all over the world. We offer three-year BA programmes in Chinese, Japanese, and Korean Studies respectively. In addition, students can enroll in two-year master’s programmes and four-year PhD programmes in Chinese, Japanese and Korean Studies as well as in East Asian Economy and Society. The latter is offered in English. The other programmes are taught mainly in German, but partly also in English and in the respective local languages.

The percentage of international students in our department shows the attractiveness and good reputation of our programmes. Our international students make a crucial and highly appreciated contribution to a diverse and inspiring cosmopolitan atmosphere in the classroom. Getting to know various local perspectives enhances students’ understanding of the challenges and the validity of area studies and helps them to avoid cultural stereotypes. At a personal level and on an institutional basis, our department has established numerous cooperative relations with the leading universities in East Asia.

Students at the Department of East Asian Studies in the year 2018/19

Type of programme	Students	Non-Austrian students
BA	1448	23%
MA	360	33%
PhD	47	53%

The wide range of topics that is covered at the Department of East Asia Studies is best illustrated by a closer look at some of our programmes. \\\

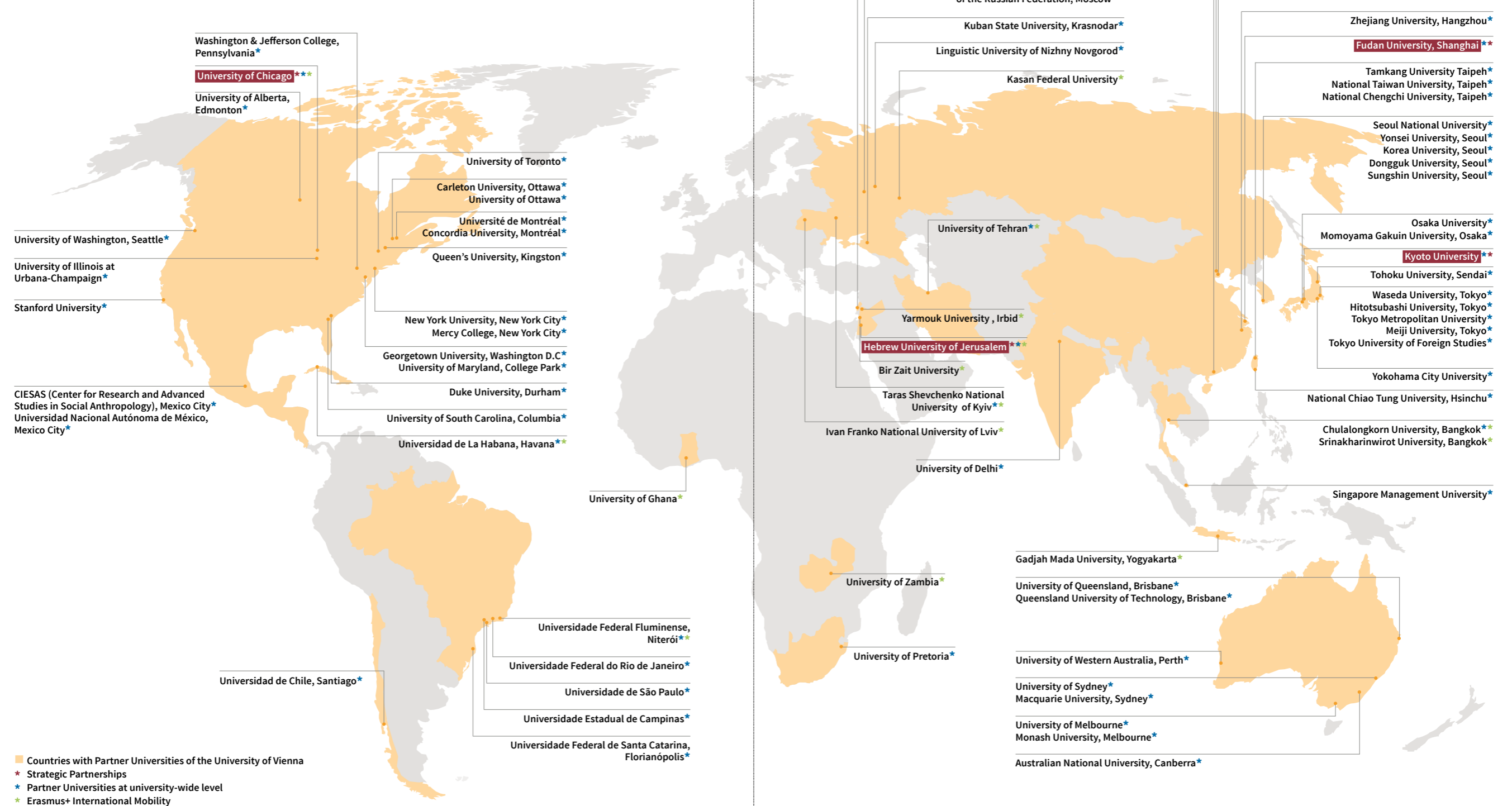


About the author:
Univ.Prof. Mag. Dr. Rüdiger Frank
Professor of East Asian Economy and Society, Head of the Department of East Asian Studies; research into socialist transformation (with a focus on North Korea), state-business relations and regional integration in East Asia.

Photo: Rüdiger Frank

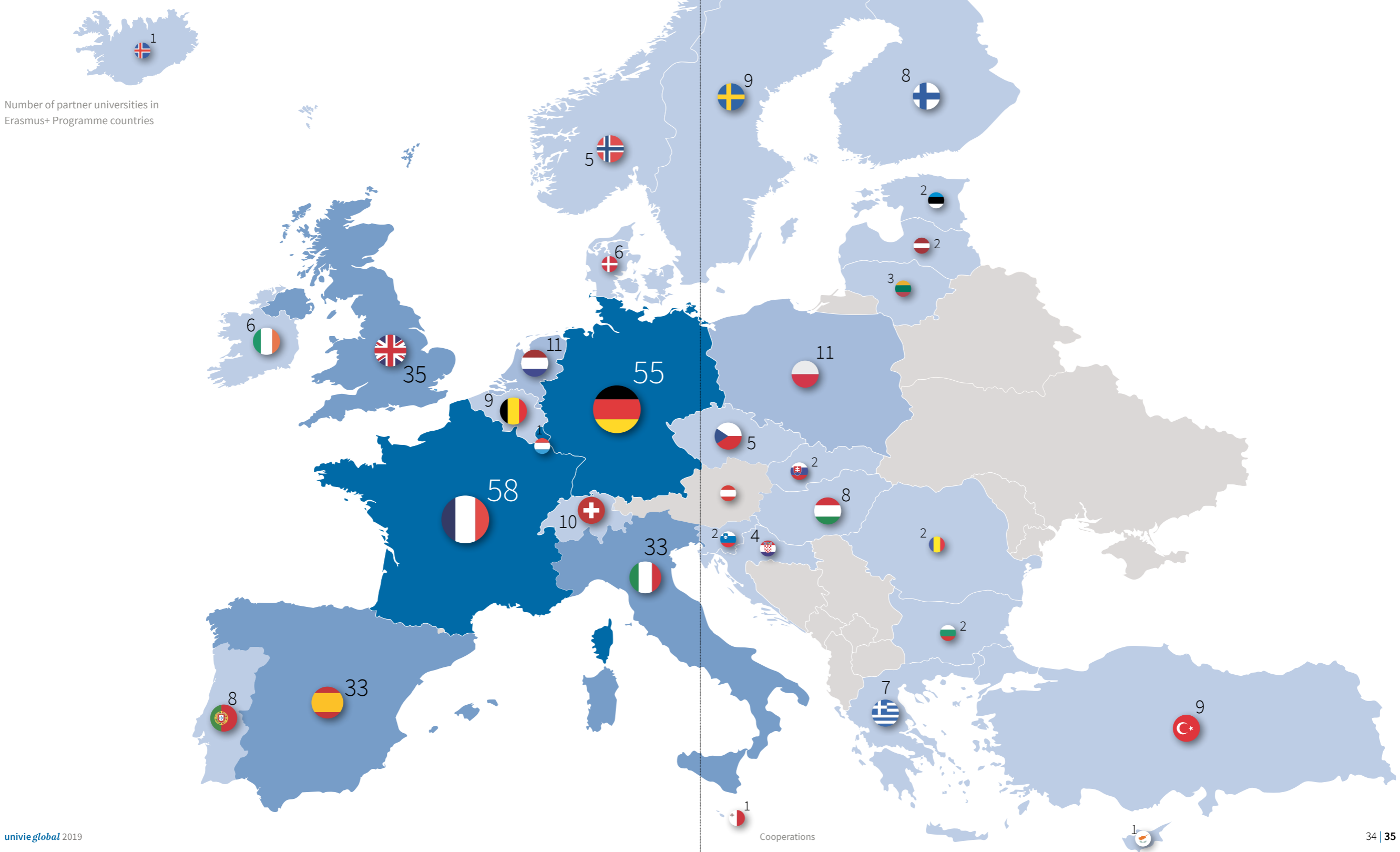
Partner Universities at University-wide Level (outside Europe)¹

Reporting Date: 8.10.2019



Partner Universities

for Erasmus+ Student Mobility



Staff Training Week 2018 at the University of Vienna

University Employees Go International



Vice Rector Jean Robert Tyran welcomes the international guests.

From 4–6 June 2018, the International Office of the University of Vienna organised a university-wide staff training week for the first time. 43 employees from 34 partner universities from Europe, Israel and China visited different university locations and exchanged know-how with colleagues from the University of Vienna.

Rosa Steinacher

The international guests were welcomed by Vice Rector Jean-Robert Tyran at an opening event. Presentations on the university's governance and quality management provided a first introduction to the university's organisational structure. The first day ended with a get-together for all international guests and their hosts from the University of Vienna.

In the following days, the international guests spread out across the university to meet their Viennese colleagues at the respective service units. Several units opened their doors to the international guests, including the International Office, the Finance Unit, Research Services, Human Resources, Corporate Communication, Facility and Resources Management and Quality Assurance. The visits comprised workshops, discussions, plenary sessions and site visits.

Photo: der Knopfdrucker



Job shadowing at the International Office
Photo: International Office



The Astronomical Observatory of the University of Vienna
Photo: Franz Kerschbaum

“Job shadowing” provided the opportunity to evaluate processes and work on improvements in cooperation. Staff members from the International Office had the opportunity to compare notes on administrative processes with their international counterparts and find possibilities for improvement in daily collaboration.

Furthermore, tours of the Astronomical Observatory, the University Library and the Bio Center (Max F. Perutz Laboratories) were offered to the guests in the afternoon.

On the last day of the staff training week, all international participants and their hosts gathered for final discussions and presentations about new valuable experiences and ideas for future collaboration. III



The group at the final “wrap up” session in the small ceremonial chamber
Photo: International Office

“The staff week was a complete success. I spent three wonderful, interesting days full of variety and gained so many insights. Thank you to the whole team for this experience!”

Jamaine Wetzel, Event Management,
Westfälische Wilhelms Universität Münster, Germany

“It was a very interesting staff training session at the University of Vienna! I visited the department of Corporate Communications and exchanged a lot of information with their friendly staff. When I arrive home I can’t wait to tell my colleagues about all the new ideas I have picked up!”

Myrthe Bronsdijk, Faculty of Law – External and Internal Affairs, Radboud University, Nijmegen, Netherlands



Georgia Astraka, National University of Athens, and Rosa Steinacher, International Office/ University of Vienna
Photo: Georgia Astraka

“A rich exchange of working methods! Glad to find out that no one is perfect :). There is always room for improvement and many ways to achieve it. The University of Vienna was beautiful and Austrians are surprisingly warm, polite and funny people! Excellent level of participants. Congratulations to the organisers for the selection and the whole organisation.”

Georgia Astraka, Public Administration, National University of Athens, Athens, Greece

Staff Training Week 2020

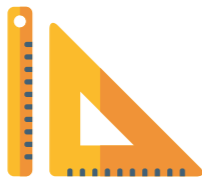
The University of Vienna hosts a staff training week every 2 years. Participants at our staff training week come from Europe and beyond and visit different service units and university locations at one of Europe’s biggest and oldest universities. This format offers employees from partner universities an opportunity for networking and gaining new skills and knowledge in their area of work.

The next staff week will take place in the summer of 2020. Employees in administration and management from our partner universities are welcome to take part. This event will be organised by the International Office of the University of Vienna.

international.univie.ac.at/staff-training-week/

One Stop Shop

Internationalisation @ University of Vienna



The University of Vienna operates several service facilities to assist international students and staff. This overview shows the most important services and offers of the University of Vienna regarding international issues.



Department	Task
Vice Rectorate for Research and International Affairs	Strategic planning of international relations and cooperation
International Office	International cooperation and agreements
	Erasmus Student Mobility
	Non-EU Student Exchange
	Short-term grants abroad (KWA)
	Ombuds office for international exchange students
	univie: summer/winter schools
	Staff mobility for teachers, researchers and administrative staff
	Higher education projects
Admission Office	Information about the admission procedure for non-exchange students and the tuition fee
Coordination Study Services	Master Access Guide
	Information for students with disabilities
StudiesServiceCenters	Specific information on respective degree programmes
Center for Doctoral Studies	Services and admission for international PhD candidates
Liaison Officers	support for academic staff (prae and postdocs) from third countries
Postgraduate Center	Continuing education at the University of Vienna
Language Center	German courses at all levels
Professors' Appointment Consulting Service	New professorships at the University of Vienna
Alumni Association	Virtual meeting point for graduates of the University of Vienna around the world

For further information on the university's internationalisation services, please see international.univie.ac.at.



Website	Contact
rektorat.univie.ac.at/en/rectorate	internationales.rektorat@univie.ac.at
international.univie.ac.at/en	international.office@univie.ac.at
	erasmus.incoming@univie.ac.at
	non-eu-exchange@univie.ac.at
	kwa@univie.ac.at
	international.office@univie.ac.at
	summer-winter-schools@univie.ac.at
	international.office@univie.ac.at
	international.office@univie.ac.at
studying.univie.ac.at	Please use the online contact form.
mag.univie.ac.at/	Please use the online contact form.
barrierefrei.univie.ac.at/en/home/	barrierefrei@univie.ac.at
ssc.univie.ac.at	Please use the contact addresses of the respective StudiesServiceCenters.
doktorat.univie.ac.at/en/prospective-doctoral-candidates/ international-doctoral-candidates/	info.doktorat@univie.ac.at
international.univie.ac.at/en/liaison-officers/	Please contact the Liaison officer of your faculty
postgraduatecenter.at/en	info@postgraduatecenter.at
sprachenzentrum.univie.ac.at/en	sprachenzentrum@univie.ac.at
neue-professuren.univie.ac.at/en	berufungsservice@univie.ac.at
alumnimap.univie.ac.at	office.alumni@univie.ac.at

How We Welcome New International Staff

An Example from the Center for Molecular Biology

In order to improve the way we welcome new international staff to the University of Vienna, liaison officers were introduced at all faculties in 2018. Liaison officers are the first port of call for international pre- and post-doctoral staff members from third countries before they get started in Vienna.

Gerlinde Aschauer took on the task of liaison officer for the Center for Molecular Biology long before the post was officially created. She tells us about her working day and the challenges that international staff face when they first arrive.

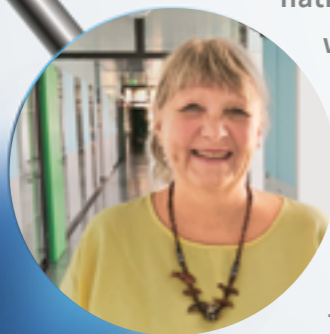


Photo: Gerlinde Aschauer

I have been organising the international PhD selections for the Max Perutz Labs since 2009. It soon became evident that a service/help desk for all PhD students at the Center for Molecular Biology would be a useful institution, and I gladly accepted the task.

In order to convey relevant information for incoming international students in an efficient manner, I began to compile a written welcome guide with comprehensive info on all topics relating to getting settled in Vienna and starting a scientific career at the Max Perutz Labs. This guide has grown over the years and is constantly being updated. I am proud to say that we are now able to provide structured support and give the best possible guidance to our new PhD students. Of course, the information is also made available to all newly recruited staff, who face the same problems when it comes to applying for their visas and getting started in Vienna.

For many newly recruited young researchers, a PhD in Vienna is their first international experience, and very often they feel insecure when it comes to moving to a new country, the language

“In times of intense international exchange among scientists, I think it is important that universities and research institutions provide support in administrative matters while establishing a foothold in Vienna.”

of which they mostly do not speak. They are confronted with an extensive amount of paperwork and legal regulations that do not exist in their home countries. Forms and documents from Austrian authorities are often only available in German. Even with the information compiled in the welcome guide, our PhD students and post-docs are grateful to find that there is a go-to person for all kinds of issues that may arise in the professional or private sphere (especially for non-German-speaking expats), who can guide them through all the necessary formalities, from visa application and legalisation of documents to opening a bank account, possible pitfalls when looking for a flat in Vienna, or enrolment with the University.

Currently, the Max Perutz Labs host more than 120 PhD students and about 100 postdocs from 40 countries, about 50% of which are non-EU countries.

Young researchers are relieved from a lot of stress, manage their start in Vienna in a more efficient

and less time-consuming way, and can start their scientific projects without having to worry about how to handle bureaucracy in a new environment. The most common questions from new students and postdocs concern visa applications and extensions, as well as help in translating their work and rental contracts, and queries about the Austrian health care system. For those who bring their family, child care and schools may be an issue.

I am happy to say that so far, we have never been confronted with a problem that could not be sorted out. Of course, a liaison officer is only as good as his/her connections are, and I am grateful for the invaluable support from colleagues in HR and the department offices at the Max Perutz Labs, to mention just a few.

I am happy to have the opportunity to act as a liaison officer, and I like this part of my job a lot. I constantly get to know young researchers from all over the world, and become acquainted with the many different backgrounds they have. ∞

Liaison officers support academic staff (prae and postdocs) from third countries while establishing a foothold in Vienna. They provide initial information about visas and residence permits (also with regard to family members) as well as faculty-specific information and general information on other issues (how to find accommodation, moving, kindergarten, the school system, etc.) For more information, please visit

international.univie.ac.at/en/liaison-officers/.

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 Economy, Society & Law
 Education, Philosophy & Religion
 History
 Languages
 Mathematics, Informatics & Technology
 Natural Sciences
 Psychology, Health & Sport
 Society & Politics

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