Research as a Global Challenge
International Research Collaborations at the University of Vienna
Cover: Scientists from the Austrian Polar Research Institute (APRI) measuring the thickness of the ice in East Greenland near the Zackenberg Research Station. Photo: Gernot Weyss, ZAMG

Back cover: Researchers from the Department of Botany and Biodiversity Research of the University of Vienna at the field camp in Quebrada Gamba, La Gamba Tropical Field Station, Costa Rica. Photo: Christian Schulze
I am delighted to be able to present to you this year’s edition of univie global, the international magazine of the University of Vienna. I have been the Vice-Rector for Research and International Affairs of the University of Vienna since February 2018, following the appointment of my predecessor in this role to the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research.

Driving forward internationalisation at the University of Vienna is a priority for me, as internationalisation is both an opportunity and a prerequisite for maintaining our competitiveness as a research university in the highly competitive international field. The University of Vienna is taking steps to make itself more attractive to outstanding international students in the coming years, including extending the range of courses taught in English, and also to international staff: new services are designed to reduce the hurdles encountered by international academics.

Naturally, universities have always been internationally-orientated, initially recruiting both students and scholars from Europe, nowadays drawing them from all around the world. I am particularly delighted that Christoph Gnant, historian and Secretary of the University Board has highlighted the international traditions of the University of Vienna over the course of time.

The article “Research as a global challenge” sets out the characteristic features of international research collaborations at the University of Vienna in the 21st century. The University of Vienna is involved in a wide range of international research collaborations, from informal collaboration through personal contacts via international third-party funded projects right through to institutionalised research collaborations and so-called strategic partnerships.

I would like to thank all of our partner universities around the world, which, through their willingness to collaborate with the University of Vienna, help to strengthen our international profile.

I hope that you will find this new edition of univie global a stimulating read!
Cooperations

The University of Vienna wants to make its presence felt worldwide

Partner Universities at university-wide level (outside Europe)

Partner Universities for Erasmus Student Mobility

International research collaborations at the University of Vienna

Facts and Figures in brief

Key figures for internationalisation activities at the University of Vienna

The University of Vienna and its international students over the course of time

One hears all languages and tongues

Vienna University Philharmonic

Diversity in music, language and culture

univie: summer / winter schools

One Stop Shop International Services
Jean-Robert Tyran has been the Vice-Rector for Research and International Affairs of the University of Vienna since February 2018. He is a professor of economics and director of Vienna Center for Experimental Economics at the University of Vienna. In his research, he addresses issues in behavioural economics, public economics and political economy. The interview was conducted by Michaela Fiska, International Office.

Photos: Hans Schubert

Michaela Fiska: Vice-Rector Tyran, you have been the Vice-Rector for Research and International Affairs for five months now, and you yourself have international experience gained at the universities of St Gallen and Copenhagen, among others. What makes International Affairs such an important area for a university, and for the University of Vienna in particular?

Jean-Robert Tyran: Research is international in spirit; it cannot prosper if it is constrained to be purely national or even local. For science to flourish, we must be open to the world and to new ideas. Openness is also important for students.

Going abroad raises self-awareness and fosters personal development. Experiencing a different culture makes one reflect what is great or perhaps problematic about life in one’s home country. International experience is personally enriching and shapes one’s personality. But international experience is also valuable because the labour market rewards it. Modern careers are becoming ever more international. It is therefore important for the locals to get out and see the world.

But we are also eager to welcome the world here in Vienna. Researchers and students from abroad bring us new ideas and impulses.
As you pointed out, I have an international background, both at a personal and professional level. For example, my wife is Italian, my children were born in Sweden and they now attend the French school in Vienna. I have taught courses at about a dozen universities in seven countries. This experience has enabled me to learn about a broad range of educational systems and to meet students and scholars with a background and views different from my own (I was born and educated in Switzerland). I think this experience has also helped me to think out of the box.

What is your most important goal in the field of International Affairs?

At a general level, I would like to foster awareness of how important it is to be internationally competitive. As a university, we need to be competitive to be able to attract the best researchers and students and to win research grants, such as ERC grants (N.B. ERC grants are prestigious grants for innovative basic research from the European Research Council).

Competitiveness is not a goal in itself. Our students and especially our junior researchers benefit if we manage to be a University that has a voice in the international discourse and participates in the world of innovation and knowledge creation. I think we owe it to them (and to the taxpayers, of course). Being competitive is also an obligation for us to prevent a brain drain. Competitiveness is important for our capacity to retain our best students and young academics. If we are just mediocre, our best and brightest will migrate to better universities. But, of course, we cannot keep all of our students with us. We also want to “export” or “place” many of our students in the best universities and companies in Austria and abroad. Our students and young academics will be in high demand and they will get great jobs anywhere in the world if our education and research is internationally appreciated.
How do you specifically plan to promote internationalisation?

We have a broad range of instruments. One of my priorities is to establish strategic partnerships with selected universities. We want to make our presence felt worldwide and to build strong ties with a small number of select universities worldwide. So far, we have established two strategic partnerships – one with the University of Chicago and one with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem – and I am very optimistic concerning an agreement for a research partnership with the University of Kyoto. Our schedule for expansion includes three more universities in Australia, Asia and Great Britain.

To create strong ties with our strategic partners, we have recently devised “Mobility Fellowships – Chicago, Jerusalem, Kyoto”. These fellowships offer researchers at all levels the opportunity to spend between 3 weeks and 3 months to work and do research at these outstanding universities. We think this programme is a promising way of opening a door to some of the leading universities in the world. And to ensure the exchange of ideas is maintained after a research stay abroad, we fund so-called “joint seminars” with our strategic partners. Such seminars bring colleagues from our partner institutions to Vienna or take place at our partner institutions with our researchers as visitors. The seminars serve to develop joint research projects and to prepare applications for third-party funding.

Another initiative targets incoming researchers from non-EU countries. These colleagues often face considerable administrative barriers to immigration and do not speak German very well, which makes interaction with the authorities difficult. We are currently implementing a welcome strategy to provide concrete advice and support for staff from non-EU countries in settling here.

On top of that, we also aim to increase the number of visits abroad by our students across the board in all disciplines. This will primarily be achieved through an increase in Erasmus+ study visits abroad, but also through programmes with a duration of less than a semester, such as the short-term grants abroad.

The focus topic of this year’s univie global is research collaborations. What are your thoughts on this topic?

In many fields of research, we need access to research infrastructure abroad to realise our ambitions in research. In turn, we also share our own research infrastructure with our foreign partners in some cases. For example, the University of Vienna has entered into a collaboration in the field of behavioural biology with the University of Kyoto to enable teams from both universities to study Japanese macaques in a unique open-air enclosure at Affenberg in Landskron, Carinthia. In the field of microbial oceanography we have a research team investigating the ocean depths on international research vessels. At the Department of Astrophysics they study the stars, but in order to do that effectively you need access to special equipment like the European Southern Observa-
tory in Chile. We send satellites up into space, which is possible only because we collaborate with the European Space Agency. These are just a few examples to illustrate that international collaboration is often essential for research to prosper.

At a more general level, international collaboration is necessary to reach the frontier of knowledge creation. International collaboration enables specialisation, provides access to the latest techniques, allows sharing insights at a very early stage, and sometimes also sparks new ideas. Ultimately, becoming a successful academic requires a process of socialisation: to become part of a worldwide community of people who are carrying out research in a particular area, to be part of what we call the “invisible college”. And nowadays, this socialisation occurs on an international level.

Our students and young academics will be in high demand and they will get great jobs anywhere in the world if our education and research is internationally appreciated.
Partner Universities
at university-wide level (outside Europe)

Reporting Date: 27.7.2018

Washington & Jefferson College, Pennsylvania
University of Chicago
University of Alberta
University of California at Berkeley
Stanford University

University of Washington, Seattle
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of California at Berkeley
Stanford University

CIESAS (Center for Research and Advanced Studies in Social Anthropology)
Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México

Universities in countries with Partner Universities of the University of Vienna

- Strategic Partnerships
- Partner Universities at university-wide level
- Erasmus International Mobility

univieglobal 2018
Research as a global challenge
International research collaborations at the University of Vienna

The “Moby Dick” marine expedition: In the field of microbial oceanography, a research team from the University of Vienna investigates the ocean depths on international research vessels. Photo: Chie Amano
Every day at the University of Vienna, around 6,700 academics in 15 faculties and 4 centres devote their time to research. This makes the University of Vienna Austria’s biggest research and teaching institution. However, research has long since ceased to be confined to the university’s historic main building, the University of Vienna Campus or the around 70 other university sites within Austria’s capital city: nowadays academics at the University of Vienna experience research not as a local phenomenon but rather as a global challenge.

Researchers from all disciplines are now networking with others around the world in order to successfully conduct and publish their research. They enter into a regular exchange with colleagues abroad and thus establish international collaborations. At the same time, as per its internationalisation strategy, the University of Vienna is actively promoting worldwide networking in the field of research at an institutional level. The University of Vienna has set itself the target of being counted among the leading research universities in Europe. But excellence in research cannot be achieved solely through a global exchange between academics. So what exactly do these international research collaborations look like? What characteristic features of internationally-oriented research collaboration are used by researchers at the University of Vienna?

In the following, an initial classification of such research collaborations is attempted, starting from a low level and moving towards a higher level of institutionalisation.
Personal contacts

The starting point for just about every international research collaboration is personal contacts. Academics at the University of Vienna collaborate informally with their colleagues at universities abroad. One possible indicator of the international activities of researchers that can be considered is the number of joint publications with international co-authors. In 2017 over sixty per cent of the articles published for the first time in SCI, SSCI and A&HCI specialist journals were publications with international co-authorship. This shows that academics at the University of Vienna often conduct and publish their research in collaboration with colleagues outside of Austria. This indicator demonstrates in particular the international activities of academics in the natural sciences. However, even in the humanities, for which the number of joint publications with international participation is not an adequate indicator as collaborative publications have, to date, not been considered particularly important, there is a strong culture of collaboration. Nowadays, in almost every case, the research activities being engaged in by academics transcend national borders and have a primarily international focus.

A particular form of international networking at the personal level is created by dual professorships, i.e., lecturers who hold a professorial chair at two different universities.

In some cases the research collaborations based on informal contacts and personal networks entered into by researchers at the University of Vienna stabilise over time. This stabilisation can result in a formalisation of what was initially an informal research collaboration. In some cases this even takes the form of a contract. Often bilateral cooperation agreements come into being thanks to long-standing personal research relationships.

Third-party funded collaborations

The University of Vienna enjoys close links to universities, business partners and social stakeholders at home and abroad through third-party funded projects. At present, the University of Vienna is involved in 176 ongoing collaborative projects with partners at home and/or abroad; this figure does not take account of new projects that were secured in 2018.

Of these 176 projects, more than 80% are research projects (total number: 144). The remainder are projects which fall into the category educational projects, some of them strongly orientated towards the so-called third mission. Of these third-party funded research collaboration projects, more than 50% involve international partners. For the most part these are European universities. This reflects the strong network which the University of Vienna enjoys within the European research and innovation system.

The EU is the most significant source of funding for international research projects. Overall almost 80% of the international research projects are financed from EU funds. When it comes to EU funding programmes and other financial resources, the EU research framework programme Horizon2020 is

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1 The proportion of publications in SCI, SSCI and A&HCI journals which are international co-publications is an indicator for the knowledge balance key performance indicator “number of academic publications by the staff” of the University of Vienna.
the most significant source of funding for the University of Vienna by a long way, funding almost 80% of all EU-funded and over 60% of all international research projects.

National funding bodies are primarily key sources of finance for collaborative projects with national partners, but also contribute about 15% of the funding for international research projects. Funding for the remaining international research projects comes from companies or foundations and from funding bodies outside of Europe.

**Cooperation agreements secured by contracts**

**Bilateral cooperation agreements**

International research collaborations are often based on bilateral cooperation agreements. They create the institutional basis for regulated academic collaboration. The University of Vienna is a respected research partner in the international arena, and has entered into many bilateral agreements with outstanding partner universities abroad. At the University of Vienna we differentiate between three types of agreement: contracts creating a strategic partnership (of which there are currently two), university-wide agreements (around 90) and faculty agreements (around 100). Strategic partnerships are the most intensive form of international collaboration entered into with outstanding partner universities. The aim of this special type of collaboration is to promote top-class international research. Additional financial resources are provided for this by the strategic partner universities and the University of Vienna. As part of its strategic partnerships with the University of Chicago and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the University of Vienna funds joint seminars/workshops with academics from the strategic partner universities in selected disciplines, in which joint research projects can be developed (further) and applications for third-party funding prepared. Grants to undertake research visits to the strategic partnership universities aim to strengthen international research collaborations with the latter.

Classic university-wide and faculty cooperation agreements also serve as the basis for international research...
collaborations. Contractual agreements often make collaboration with the participating partner institutions much easier, for example in the case of joint field work, the use of infrastructure (including laboratories, facilities and equipment) and of guest lecturers. So, for example, a faculty agreement between the Faculty of Life Sciences and both the Parc Botanique et Zoologique de Tsimbazaza and the Missouri Botanical Garden provides the basis for collaboration by the Core Facility Botanical Garden of the University of Vienna in the field of research into orchids in Madagascar. And in the Faculty of Earth Sciences, Geography and Astronomy, to cite yet another example, an agreement with the University of Tunis El Manar provides the contractual basis for joint research activities such as undertaking joint field work, with the Department of Geodynamics and Sedimentology collaborating with the Faculty of Sciences of Tunis in the fields of geology, palaeontology and climate research.

Multilateral networks
Collaborative relationships with universities around the world are further strengthened by the University of Vienna’s membership of important multilateral university networks: the purpose of membership of advocacy groups such as The Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities or the European University Association (EUA) is to take an active part in shaping European research and funding policies through the network. Thus, within The Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities network the University of Vienna is involved in the areas research management and European research policy. In addition to members of the rectorate who represent the University
of Vienna at Rectors/Vice-Rectors meetings and general assemblies, a number of academics and administrators are members of various working/policy groups and are actively involved in shaping the forthcoming EU research framework programme “Horizon Europe”, among other things. The University of Vienna is also involved in discussions on issues relating to research policy with other European universities through the trilateral network “Berlin-Wien-Zürich” and in the Research Policy working group of the European University Association (EUA).

The aim of support networks, on the other hand, is to intensify the exchange between researchers or the collaboration between universities in a specific region. So, for example, within the ASEAN-European Academic University Network (ASEA UNINET) bilateral and multilateral collaborative projects with member universities in Europe and Southeast Asia are initiated and supported. The University of Vienna was one of the founding members of this network in 1994. Since that time, a significant number of the research collaborations with universities in Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia and other Southeast Asian countries have grown out of the relationships established via this network.

Institutionalised collaborations

Another type of international research collaboration is institutionalised collaboration. There are many types of institutionalised research collaborations in a range of disciplines at the University of Vienna. This type generally manifests
as research institutions and platforms with international participants or an international focus in the research.

An example of one such research platform with international participants is the “Erwin Schrödinger Institute for Mathematical Physics” (ESI) (Faculty of Physics). Among other things, the ESI organises seminars for foreign academics and funds short visits to the University of Vienna.

Another example of a research collaboration with international participation is the collaboration by researchers at the University of Vienna with the European Southern Observatory ESO. The ESO is a European research institution which operates telescopes in multiple observatories in northern Chile. At present the ESO has 15 member states, including Austria. The ESO’s new MATISSE instrument was developed with participation by a number of European institutions, including the Faculty of Earth Sciences, Geography and Astronomy of the University of Vienna.

The University of Vienna also has research platforms and centres where the object of study is international. An example of this is the Asian Law research platform (Faculty of Law), which was set up as a result of numerous research relationships spanning decades between members of the Faculty of Law and their colleagues in Asia. By establishing this platform, personal contacts and collaborations were raised to an institutionalised level.

A strong international focus is also a core element of the “Religion and Transformation in Contemporary European Society” research platform, the CIRDIS “Center for Interdisciplinary Research and Documentation of Inner and South Asian Cultural History” research centre and the “Global African Diaspora Studies Platform”. Another example of a research institute with an international object of study is the Austrian Polar Research Institute (APRI), which has, among other things, set itself the target of initiating, developing and supporting research in the field of polar studies not just at a national level but at the European level. The Institute for European Integration Research (EIF) also sees itself as a cross-faculty research and teaching platform which enjoys close academic collaboration with international partners.

In addition to this, the University of Vienna also undertakes research at sites located at a considerable distance from Vienna. One example of this type of institutionalised collaboration is the tropical field station La Gamba. This is a research and teaching facility of the University of Vienna in the “Regenwald der Österreicher” (Rainforest of the Austrians) in southern Costa Rica.

International research collaborations are also undertaken at the University of Vienna as part of its European networks. An example of this is the involvement by academics from the University of Vienna in the ESFRI (European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures) and ERIC (European Research Infrastructure Consortium) infrastructures, including DARIAH (Digital Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities), a European network for developing collaborative infrastructures for researching and exploiting language resources and technologies and the European research consortium CLARIN...
(Common Language Resources and Technology Infrastructure) (Centre for Translation Studies). Academics from the University of Vienna are also involved in AUSSDA (Austrian Social Science Data Archive). As the designated Austrian representative in CESSDA (Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives), AUSSDA is fully integrated into large-scale European data infrastructure initiatives, bringing together social science data archives across Europe, with the aim of promoting the results of social science research and supporting national and international research and cooperation.

International research is also undertaken in the field of atomic and molecular simulation methods at the University of Vienna within the European CECAM network: CECAM is a European network for the promotion and dissemination of advanced atomic and molecular simulation methods. With the founding of the Danube Center for Atomistic Modelling (DaCAM) in 2012, in which the University of Vienna was joined by other institutions, a Viennese CECAM hub was created, the aim of which is to facilitate an international academic exchange among the Viennese research groups and targeted contact with other working groups, especially in the central and eastern European countries.

In closing it must be reiterated that this survey is only a first attempt at classifying the characteristic features of international collaboration at the University of Vienna. This article merely shines a spotlight onto individual aspects of the current situation and does not claim to be exhaustive. \|

The International Office of the University of Vienna is now on facebook:

facebook.com/international.univie/

Please come and join us!
Facts and Figures in brief
Internationalisation activities at the University of Vienna
Reporting period: 2017/18, 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

79,031 active students*

Top University
The University of Vienna is the best ranked university in Austria and numbers among the world’s best 200 universities according to the THE World University Ranking 2019.

*As defined in the university’s International Report 2018, p. 7.
The University of Vienna has about 1,550 research, teaching, and student exchange agreements with partner universities all over the world.

**International Students and Staff**

Percentages of students and staff from abroad

- Students: 30%
- PhD Candidates (incl. Doctoral Students): 10%
- Academic Staff: 43%
- Newly appointed professors: 66%
Student Mobility

Graduates with stay abroad

Erasmus+ Programme

Outgoings Incomings

21.6%

949

1,051

Erasmus+ Internships

Outgoings

328

1 Reporting period: 2015/16. Source: USTAT 2 survey; own calculations
Non-EU Student Exchange Programme

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

Facts and Figures in brief

Teaching Mobility

Erasmus+ Teaching Mobility
“One hears all languages and tongues”

The University of Vienna and its international students over the course of time

Christoph Gnant | Image Credits: Archive of the University of Vienna

“... to establish and found such order and teachings in our lands ... and then good, just laws, human sensibility and humility will take up .... with the influence of the holy spirit ... in such a way that any wise man will grow wiser and all unwise men will be brought to human sensibility in recognizing what is right with the teachings of god ...”

It was with these now rather dramatic sounding words that the Austrian Archduke Rudolph IV set out the task of the University of Vienna in the German-language version of the founding charter of the University of Vienna on 12th March 1365. The universities, which had grown out of the church Latin schools since the 12th century, were sites of both knowledge and education in certain disciplines such as jurisprudence and medicine. The students and teachers formed voluntary alliances which were designated universitates (Latin for “collaborations”). The university as a universitas magistrorum scholarum is thus a unit of teachers and students. Despite the ruptures and social developments which have taken place since the founding era through to our modern world, the requirement for units of teaching staff and students, research and teaching continue to be identifying characteristics of universities even today.

An international focus from the outset

From the very outset, the University of Vienna had an international focus and attracted students from the whole of Europe. However, there is limited common ground between the “attendees at the university” of those days and today’s students. Most were only around 15 years old when they started their studies and would today be considered school children. The majority of the students at that time also did not acquire an academic degree on completing their studies. So, for example, in the 15th century around 35,000 names were listed in the register of matriculation of the University of Vienna, of which, however, only around 30% had achieved at least a Bachelor of Arts, the lowest academic degree.

Duke Albrecht III gifts the Collegium Ducale, 1384/85. This miniature from the grandly illuminated handbook by canon Wilhelmus Durandus shows the oldest Viennese university building, which the university co-founder Duke Albrecht III gifted in the course of his university reform (1384). The entire complex was in use from 1385 onwards.
The international nature of the students and teachers at the University of Vienna was described by the schoolmaster of the Scottish Monastery Wolfgang Schmeltzl in his paean to the city of Vienna, written around 1550, as follows:

“... Where merchants walked here and there
Their dress from all the nations
One hears all languages and tongues
I thought I had come upon Babel
Where all languages were born
I heard a strange noise and clamour
Of quite some beautiful languages
Hebrew, Greek and Latin.
German, French, Turkish, Spanish,
Bohemian, Slovene, Italian,
Hungarian, good Dutch,
Of course Syrian, Croatian,
Serbian, Polish and Aramaeic, ...”

Latin as the lingua franca

The university was a privileged legal community with independent jurisdiction, which, in particular, offered foreign members of the university protection against the regional authorities. Students were enrolled by means of a formal act of entry into the register of matriculation and by swearing an oath of matriculation. In the global world of the Middle Ages, many students undertook their studies at a number of different universities. The universal language of instruction was Latin. Consequently, their time in Vienna was often only one station in their life as a student, perhaps as they made their way to the famous Italian faculties of law. Enriching one’s curriculum vitae in this way, by studying at a number of different institutions, can be compared to the modern day international student participating in the Erasmus Programme, for example. The same applies to the teaching staff, who came to Vienna from across Europe.

The religious schism dividing believers into Catholics and Protestants also led to a significant reduction in student numbers in Vienna during the 16th century, in particular in students coming from other parts of Europe. During the 17th century, under the control of the Jesuits, the educational aspect of the university became foremost. Philosophical studies were primarily seen as preparation for studying theology.

The concept of universities as national centres of education in the 18th century ...

The state reforms which took place under Maria Theresa and Joseph II during the 18th century were characterised by suppression of the primacy of the church in matters of education. The autonomous cooperation of the university was repealed; universities were declared national institutions and their assets incorporated into the national educational fund. The central aim of the university should be to train “civil servants” such as doctors, lawyers or the clergy. One of the masterminds of the national reforms under Joseph II, Gottfried van Swieten expressed this as follows in August 1782:

“The primary objective of the state is that its subjects be educated for a universally uniform ... education and according to specific principles to serve the state.”
Up until the end of the 19th century women were refused admission to the university as students and were unable to obtain an academic degree. Today more than fifty per cent of all students at the University of Vienna are female.

Expulsions and deportations during the National Socialist era

But the history of the University of Vienna also has its dark sides. A large portion of the students and professors at Vienna sympathised with National Socialism long before Austria became part of the “German Empire” in 1938.

After the annexation of Austria in 1938, there followed a period of expulsions and deportations. Almost half of the teaching staff was subjected to racial or political persecution and driven out of the University.

Today the University of Vienna is conscious of its complicity in and shared responsibility for the inhumane, unjust and ignoble treatment of others during the Nazi era. In recent years, a range of measures to ensure that this is remembered and borne in mind have been introduced. We will never forget!

This overemphasis on the educational role of the national universities, which was evident throughout Europe, resulted in a significant decline in the numbers of foreign students and shaped our perception of universities as national centres of education right through to the 20th century. In today's global academic landscape, the University of Vienna is increasingly distancing itself from this perception of universities. However, this perception remains prevalent among the Austrian public, just as it is in other European states.

In particular, as a result of the Humboldtian university reform, which started in Germany and only brought about major changes in Austria in 1850, the University of Vienna achieved major worldwide academic recognition as a result of its research-based teaching and learning. In the 19th and early 20th centuries, the “Viennese School” became world famous in a range of disciplines, from medicine through political economics to physics, philosophy and art history.
Today, following the enactment of the Universities Act 2002, Austrian universities are autonomous and have been granted full legal capacity and the right to autonomy in how they organise themselves. They are funded by means of three-year performance agreements with the state. Thus we see that the university is a place of constant change: Universitas semper reformanda

International research and the best students from around the world

The internationalisation strategy of the university of Vienna states: “Internationalisation of studying and teaching enhances the overall quality of education and takes place at home as well as abroad. Moreover, it broadens horizons, increases employability and prepares students and lecturers to become global professionals.”

In the global academic landscape of today, research is an international process which knows no national boundaries. For this reason, it is in the interests of the individual universities, which are competing on both national and international levels, to attract excellent students and teaching staff from around the world.

The University of Vienna has notably espoused this aim, and the high number of international students shows that this strategy has been successful. The famous German naturalist and philosopher Alexander von Humboldt said “the most dangerous of all worldviews is the observation of those who have never seen the world”.

This timeless warning will always be apt and should serve as a motto for students and for the university in the 21st century!

For further information see:

Marianne Klemun / Hubert Szemthy / Fritz Blakolmer / Marina Fuchs (eds.), 1365–2015–2065. “Once there was a Student”: Other Stories of the University of Vienna (Vienna 2015)

About the author: Dr. Christoph Gnant
Secretary of the University Board, historian; research into the history of the 18th century, contemporary history, history of law, history of the university | Photo: Deisenhammer
The Vienna University Philharmonic consists of two orchestras and eight choirs where about 900 musicians and singers of different musical levels and age groups perform regularly. It is thus one of the largest musical communities worldwide. The repertoire ranges from classical music to pop, world music, musicals and jazz. The members of the Vienna University Philharmonic are students and graduates from every faculty, staff of the University of Vienna and international students from just about every country in the world, and are aged between 18 and 85.

The two orchestras are the Philharmonic Orchestra, which mainly performs great symphonic music from the mid to late Romantic period with up to 120 musicians, and the Symphonic Orchestra, which plays easier works to facilitate musicians gaining their first orchestral experience or make it easier for those who are returning to playing in an orchestra after a break. The orchestras also perform oratorios and cantatas together with the choirs, in which case up to 600 musicians and singers come together to make music. The major works which were performed in recent years are: Carmina Burana by Orff, Symphony N° 8 by Mahler, Symphony N° 9 by Beethoven and the European premiere of Chang’An Men, Symphony N° 2 by Vijay Upadhyaya.

Each year the Vienna University Philharmonic puts on 40–50 concerts both at home and abroad and reaches an audience of around 20,000 listeners. Numerous concert tours to all the different continents are organised, with around 30 countries having been visited to date.
This symphony is based on ancient Chinese philosophy and was the first major composition to be commissioned from a non-Chinese composer by the People's Republic of China.

The choirs are: the Philharmonic Choir, who sing demanding classics; the Concert Choir, which sings easier classic pieces for beginners; the Symphonic Women's Choir, who sing classical music for female voices, and the four groups of the Voice Club from beginners to advanced singers, who sing pop, world music, musicals and jazz. There are also the groups Femmes Vocales and Singing Generations for singers aged 55 and over. In addition to these permanent groups, each comprising 60–100 singers, there are also many projects like chamber orchestras, string quartets, chamber music for vocalists for small groups down to four people as well as the possibility to perform solo.

Thanks to its many international contacts, Vienna University Philharmonic has organised concert tours in over 30 different countries, including the USA, Brazil, Chile, Peru, India, China, Russia and South Africa. On these concert tours, the Vienna University Philharmonic regularly collaborates with local musicians, and musicians from partner orchestras and choirs also come to Vienna to give concerts together: For example, in 2017 Vienna University Philharmonic performed together with the India National Youth Orchestra, both in Vienna and in Bangalore, India. Also in 2017, Vienna University Philharmonic cooperated with the China National Symphony Orchestra and Chorus at the world premiere of Vijay Upadhyaya's 2nd Symphony in Beijing, China. In addition to concert tours, there are also several choir workshops in Italy every year, which all singers are invited to participate in.

Vienna University Philharmonic is familiar to many international students. International students who play in the orchestra or sing in the choir regularly report having heard about Vienna University Philharmonic from colleagues at their home university who were also involved while here. Making music

Vijay Upadhaya has been director of the Vienna University Philharmonic since 1994. He was born in Lucknow, India and studied at the Music University Graz. Apart from his work at Vienna University Philharmonic, he is the Austrian representative on the jury of experts for the evaluation of European Union culture projects and is the founder and artistic director of the India National Youth Orchestra. Since 2009 he has been conductor and composer for the Chinese National Orchestra and Chorus. His past roles include music director at the Karlskirche in Vienna, lecturer at the Graz Music University, director of the Iran-Austria Symphony Orchestra and Chorus in Tehran and conductor of the Providencia Philharmonic Orchestra in Santiago de Chile as well as the director of a European Union programme in Turkey.

Photo: Maria Neusternig
together enables many international connections and friendships to be forged between the Austrian and the foreign choir and orchestra members.

In selecting pieces, emphasis is placed not only on diversity in the music, but also on linguistic and cultural diversity.

Whether pop or classical, music in as many different languages and from as many different cultural backgrounds as possible is sung. In the last year alone, pieces were sung in the following languages: German, English, French, Italian, Russian, Swahili, Zulu, Xhosa, Chinese, Latin, Middle High German.
Works have previously also been performed in Hebrew and Hindi. The extremely homogeneous nature of the choirs means that even in the more obscure languages, there is usually a native speaker in the choir who can school the other singers in the correct pronunciation.

As a result of the many international projects he has led, it is always important to Vijay Upadhyaya, who is both the director and the choir conductor, to not only familiarise the singers with the music, but also to give them insights into the culture and daily life in the country in question.
The University of Vienna offers a wide range of summer and winter schools during recess: The univie: summer/winter schools are short programmes mainly offered to Master- and PhD students, mirroring the versatility of academic disciplines at the University of Vienna. These intensive programmes are designed to meet students’ needs for cultural, interdisciplinary and scientific learning. Students gain the unique opportunity to engage with high-level academics, recognized experts in their field and industry leaders. Furthermore students participate in bilateral language schools within the framework of the Area Studies. Most of the courses are held in Vienna, some at other venues in Austria and some take place abroad.

All summer/winter school initiatives at the University of Vienna which have agreed to a standardized procedure for submission, implementation and awarding of ECTS points and undergone an evaluation process, are summarised under the label "univie: summer/winter schools".

More information on univie: summer/winter schools 2019: 
international.univie.ac.at
univie: summer school for Drug Design
Photo: ©Manzanoimages.com
univie: winter school for Cultural-Historical Studies

The Discovery of Modernity – Vienna around 1900
Period: February 1–15, 2019
Application Deadline: November 30, 2018

The univie: winter school for cultural-historical studies takes place in Vienna, the capital of the former Habsburg Monarchy (and Austria of today) where traces of the outstanding culture of the late 19th and the beginning of the 20th century are still visible. The two week program combines first class academic courses with an extensive social and cultural program. Vienna’s rich cultural heritage, especially the museums, will lead to a thorough understanding of the input of the fin-de-siècle on the modernization of Europe.

More information: shs.univie.ac.at/

univie: summer schools for Social Sciences

univie: summer school International and European Studies
Period: July / August 2019
Application Deadline: April 30, 2019

The program provides a multidimensional survey of the present development of Europe and the European Union (EU). Participants will study both the decision making processes within the EU institutions as well as various aspects of European political culture. The program aims at contributing to an increased understanding of the EU and its possible future shape.

More information: shs.univie.ac.at/

univie: summer school – Scientific World Conceptions 2019
Period: July 2019
Application Deadline: January 31, 2019

Since 2001 the University of Vienna and the Institute Vienna Circle holds an annual two-week summer program dedicated to major current issues in the natural and the social sciences, their history and philosophy. The title of the program reflects the heritage of the Vienna Circle which promoted interdisciplinary and philosophical investigations based on solid disciplinary knowledge.

As an international interdisciplinary program, USS-SWC brings graduate students in close contact with world-renowned scholars. It operates under the academic supervision of an International Program Committee of distinguished philosophers, historians, and scientists. The program is directed primarily to graduate students and junior researchers in fields related to the annual topic, but the organizers also encourage applications from gifted undergraduates and from people in all stages of their career who wish to broaden their horizon through cross-disciplinary studies of methodological and foundational issues in science.

More information: univie.ac.at/ivc/SWC/start.htm
univie: summer schools for Natural Sciences

univie: summer school Basic Aerosol Science
Period: June 30 – July 6, 2019
Application Deadline: January 31, 2019 (for travel grant) | March 31, 2019 (regular)

The univie: summer school "Basic Aerosol Science" offers a broad education in basic principles and techniques of aerosol science. The main focus is on aerosol physics, but other fields such as aerosol chemistry and applications of aerosol science for e.g. issues of human health are also covered. The teachers of this summer school are leading European experts in the field of aerosol science. In the previous years, participants from all over Europe and overseas attended the univie: summer school "Basic Aerosol Science" demonstrating the international reputation of this lecture series.

More information: aerosols.univie.ac.at/teaching/summerschool-2019/

univie: summer school for Drug Design
Period: September 22–27, 2019
Application Deadline: August 15, 2019 | early bird June 30, 2019

The summer school especially focuses on students and professionals who have a clear interest in learning the basics as well as latest developments in Pharmacoinformatics. In former editions the program has put an emphasis on open innovation, computational technologies used for the kinetics of ligand binding, and toxicity prediction.

The summer school is linked to the Doctoral Programme EUROPIN – A European Pharmacoinformatics Initiative.

More information: univie.ac.at/europin/summerschool/

univie: summer schools for Humanities

univie: summer school Dutch in A Central European Context
Period: July 2019
Application Deadline: Participation is limited to CEEPUS scholarship holders

This summer school is a collaboration between Dutch Studies and the Joint Bachelor DCC (Dutch Language and Literature in a Central European Context) within the framework of the CEEPUS Programme.

The topical focus of the summer school is on the one hand the evaluation of the historical dimension of Dutch literature, on the other hand the closer investigation of its national and global context.

More information: ned.univie.ac.at/en/studium/studienrichtungen/univie-summer-school/
**univie: summer schools for (Bilateral) Language schools**

**univie: summer school for Russian-German Language Tandem in Nischnij-Nowgorod**

**Period:** August 2–23, 2019

**Application Deadline:** April 2019

The aim of the project is to provide both the Austrian and the Russian students with sufficient opportunities to come into direct contact with one another in order to try out the linguistic and cultural skills they have acquired thus far in the real context of an – insofar as this is possible – unforced opportunity to communicate. The course offers the Russian students the opportunity to acquaint the Austrian students with daily life in their homeland outside of lessons, whilst the Russian participants will have the opportunity to satisfy their curiosity about Austria and the German-speaking regions through direct interactions with their Austrian colleagues. More information: univie.ac.at/tandem/

**univie: summer school for Hungarian-German Language Tandem in Szombathely**

**Period:** July 2019

**Application Deadline:** May 2019

Together with the Savaria University Centre of the ELTE University and supported by the Stiftung Aktion Österreich-Ungarn, the Department of Finno-Ugrian Studies yearly organizes dual Hungarian-German language courses, since 2017 under the title univie: summer school for Hungarian-German language tandem in Szombathely and with the quality label of the University of Vienna.

More information: finno-ugristik.univie.ac.at/studium/internationales/sommerkolleg-szombathely/

**univie: summer school for Czech-German Language Tandem in České Budějovice**

**Period:** July 2019

**Application Deadline:** May 2019

The project univie: summer school for Czech-German Language Tandem: Sommerkolleg České Budějovice 2018 is intended for students at Czech and Austrian universities who are interested in the Czech or German languages and wish to improve their intercultural skills and to acquire new knowledge of the neighbouring country. The primary aim of this project is to deliver language lessons which are as communication-oriented as possible (German and Czech), although an indispensable component will be subject-based events such as optional seminars and a workshop. Readings and excursions will give participants access to the geography, culture, history and art history of both countries.

More information: pf.jcu.cz/stru/katedry/nj/sommerkolleg/
univie: summer school "Translating Literature" in Premuda/Kroatien

Period: August 2019
Application Deadline: June 1, 2019

This summer course provides insights into contemporary literature in German and Croatian and the opportunity to familiarise oneself with the strategies employed by literary translators, as well as to have a go at translating some literary texts oneself. The best translations into German will be published in the Croatian Writers’ Association’s literary journal Relations.

More information: transvienna.univie.ac.at/news-events/sommerkollegs/sommerkolleg-premuda/

Photos (clockwise from top left:)
univie: summer school for Russian-German Language Tandem: Christiane Neglyad | Universität Wien (Barbara Mair) | Hans Schubert | univie: summer school International and European Studies: SHS Sommerhochschule
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.

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<td>Center for Doctoral Studies</td>
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<td>Alumni Association</td>
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around the world
For further information on the university’s internationalisation services, please see [univie.ac.at/en/international/](http://univie.ac.at/en/international/).

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Photos (clockwise from top left:)
First two photos: Hans Schubert | Universität Wien (Barbara Mair) | derknopfdrecker.com | Elia Zilberberg
Discover your Master

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

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