

Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration- Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien

Accommodation

I signed up to stay in one of the OEAD housing buildings. These are generally great and are an easy option if you don't want to show up and then take a gamble at trying to get a good flat in a good area. I lived in Molkereistrasse, which is only a 5minute walk to the university. My flat inside the building consisted of 4 bedrooms, a kitchen and a bathroom. I paid 450 euros a month for my room which seemed pretty standard for the OEAD housing unless you wanted to live somewhere really inconvenient. The rooms are way nicer and bigger than any I had flatting in Dunedin, and they come fully furnished with bedding and kitchen utensils provided. My room has a TV in it with loads of channels but everything is in German! You can either use a WLAN cable for internet or rent a modem for WIFI. The flat was good although none of my flatmates would hang out in the kitchen/dining room and talk, everyone would stay in their rooms with their doors closed which is completely different to what I was use to from flatting in Dunedin! Another downside was the size of the fridge. It is literally the size of a half freezer and was way, way to small for 4 people.

It's a bit of luck when it comes to who your flatmates are. I had a bit of a mixed bag, one American, one French girl (who didn't speak English), and one 'mature' student who I am guessing was mid 30's-40. I met lots of other people in the building through my classes at university or just by bumping in to people in the laundry room or by the letterboxes. You really have to make an effort in meeting people and organising to do things because Molkereistrasse doesn't really have a common area.

Molkereistrasse is on the U2 metro line which is probably the best one to be on for getting into the city. The U2 station (Messe Prater) is only a 2minute walk away. It is really easy to get home from a night out in the weekend as all the trains run 24hours but during the week it can be a bit harder getting home as you will have to catch buses and can sometimes take up to an hour! Uber here is pretty cheap though so I tended to use that a lot.

If you know someone else going to Vienna you can request to live in one of the OEAD buildings together. I met lots of people who did that. Also it is not that hard to find a flat yourself when you arrive, I know people that looked on air bnb and found rooms to rent for the semester easy peasy.

Money Matters

Straight after first semester exams finished I headed off to Europe and as I didn't start at WU until October 1st, I had 3 months to travel. To be honest I am hopeless with keeping track of my money and making a budget. I generally just

spend as I go and try not to look at my bank account too often – not a great idea. Because of this, it's hard to know how much I have actually spent during the semester here. I have done quite a few weekend trips and went to London a couple of times for RWC games so probably spent more than your average exchange student over here. I don't think Vienna is too expensive of a place to live compared to many other cities in Europe.

Academics/course load

The courses at WU are weird because they are mainly block courses and the day and time can change every week. Sometimes I would have a class on a Monday, then Wednesday, then the next Monday but then after that we wouldn't have class for the next 2 weeks. Some of my classes would run each day for one week and then the whole course was over. Also my classes were always at least 4 hours long.

Here are the papers I took:

- Strategic Management
- International Marketing and Management I: International Management A
- Diversity Management in Practice
- International Business Strategy: Gaining and Maintaining Global Competitive Advantage.

All were relatively easy. Some of my classes were completely full of exchange students but then others were only Austrian students, which was weird because I thought they were advertised for the international students. Sometimes in the classes with mainly Austrian students, the teacher and the other students would start talking German to each other and I wouldn't have a clue what was going on! The course load was fine and I ended up mostly having uni only two or three times a week.

Transportation

Once you get to Vienna you have to register with the city so they know where you are living. You should do that straight away so then you get a signed form which you take to the OEBB train office to get a student transport pass. I paid 75 euros for the semester pass which allows you to freely use any of the public transport in Vienna. It's a great deal and way cheaper than any where else in Europe that I have experienced. Public transport is really good and trains go every few minutes and same with buses and trams.

Weather

I was in Vienna for Autumn going in to Winter. It is pretty mild and not as cold as Dunedin, although I did leave at the start of December and that is when it starts to get very cold.

Eating

You can eat out in Vienna for pretty cheap. I always try to never spend more than 8euros on any meal, which was easy to do there. I am not a big fan of cooking so I usually would make breakfast at home but then eat out for another

meal that day. Molkereistrasse has a supermarket called Billa right underneath the building so it was super handy to just pop down and buy something.

Things to do

Once you do all the touristy stuff in Vienna, there isn't a whole lot to do in the city. You can head out and go hiking or skiing, or even hop on a train and go to another city. The transport is really simple and you can just go to the train station and buy your own ticket from a machine.

The nightlife in Vienna is great. At the start of the semester you will probably go to Travel Shack, Ride club etc which all host Erasmus parties every week. They get old pretty quickly and once you make friends you will probably start to venture out to new places! There are some cool ones right by WU (Pratersauna and VielPee) and lots more scattered around the city which are worth a visit; U4, Passage, Die Kanteen, Volksgarten to name a few.

There are so many events on in Vienna and they always have facebook events so you can check them out.

Tips

Buy a student Vorteils card from the OBB train website if you are planning on doing trips around Austria. It is basically a student card and you get 50% off all tickets!