

Erasmus Exchange Report 08/09

Name of Partner Institution:

Universitat Wien

Before Leaving:

Before leaving we were advised to peruse the programme of subjects offered by the university. It was also possible to enrol in some subjects before arriving while others required personal registration. I also organised accommodation before arriving in Vienna. I chose student accommodation which was all organised via email. It was also possible to register for a buddy/ mentor with the Erasmus Student Network (ESN) who helped inform you of what was required of you, before and on arrival.

On Arrival/ Orientation:

I was required to register with the University of Vienna, to pay student union fees in order to get a student card. It is also necessary to register with the City of Vienna within 3 days of arrival and then with the Magistrate within the first 3 months. The ESN organised many tours of the campus and city and social events in order for Erasmus students to meet and get to know each other. The European Law Society Association (ELSA) also held nights in order to assist law students in choosing their subjects and told us of how the law faculty worked. Both associations also offered assistance and information and urged Erasmus students to go to them if they needed assistance or information concerning all elements of exchange.

Academic Studies:

It was relatively easy to enrol in subjects. However, different subjects and lecturers had different requirements for enrolling in their lectures and seminars. This caused some problems but these were usually easily fixed. It is worth noting that all lectures required full attendance and missing more than 2 lectures without a valid reason led to a student being removed from the class. The University offers a wide variety of subjects to cater for the many students both exchange and others.

Extra Curricular/ Job Opportunities:

The University offered a variety of sports facilities and had many associations. It was difficult to take part in these as they required enrolling in the sports classes before a student knew his/her full timetable which often led to students having paid to participate in a certain sport which they later found out not possible due to timetable clashes.

Additional Information:

Vienna is easily accessible to many other European countries and for this reason many people used the location and year abroad to travel. I would recommend students to buy a 'vorteilcard' on arrival if they plan on using the trains or buses on the continent as this card was recognised in many countries.