



Exchange report
University of Innsbruck (Fall 2017)
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1. Monthly Activity Log

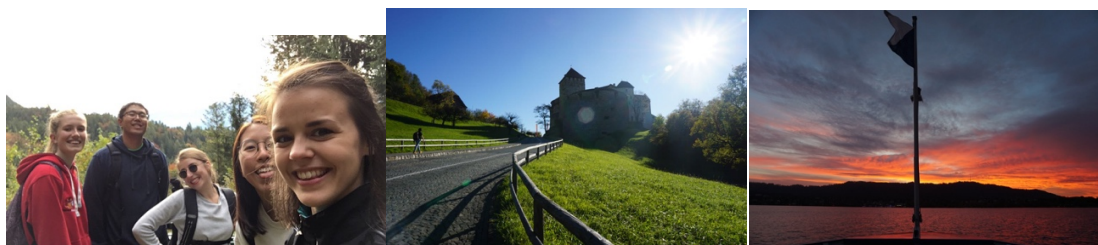
Sep

I travelled to Morocco, Portugal and Spain for 3 weeks and arrived in Innsbruck in late September right before the orientation activities start. I finished all the administrative procedures including getting the resident permit, open bank account, course registration etc.



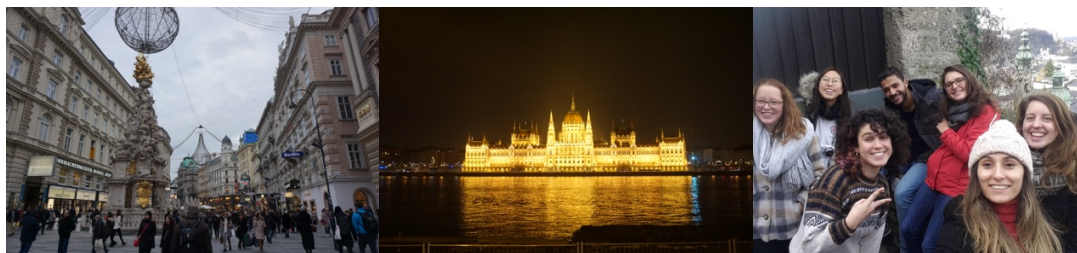
Oct

I went Munich for the Oktoberfest before the semester start. The workload is relatively low in October. I just have to work on some weekly assignments and attend some lessons. It is recommended to do a lot of hiking before winter come. The autumn view here is stunning! During the holiday in the late October, I went to Liechtenstein and Switzerland.



Nov

I went to Vienna and Budapest for 5 days. Christmas market started in mid Nov. Gluwwien is a special hot red wine only available in the Christmas Market. You can also find some traditional food there. I made a day trip to Salzburg with the ESN in late November.



Dec

This is the busiest month. For the first two weeks I focused on preparing the presentations and the final reports. During the Christmas holiday, I made a long trip to Germany, France, Belgium, Netherlands, London, Iceland, Prague.



Jan

As I didn't take any courses with exam, all my courses ended in this month. I have to do presentation for the English course and an exam for German course after coming back from the trip. There were farewell parties in late January as people started to leave. Remember to make appointment with the dorm manager for check out and obtain a confirmation for getting back the deposit. You have to take the confirmation to the OEAD office and get the cheque if you don't want them to transfer the money to you (which incur transaction fee).



Feb

After finishing all the administrative stuff, I went to Italy for my last trip. I go back to Hong Kong after the trip. Remember to unregister for citizenship before departure.

2. Visa Procedures

Visa D is free of charge for students. The application form can be downloaded from the official website: <http://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/embassy/hong-kong/practical-advice/travelling-to-austria/studying-in-austria.html>. Submit the following documents in original at least three weeks before departure.

- Application form
- Passport photo
- Passport

- HKID card
- Student card
- Birth- certified document
- Financial proof (if you submit the bank statement of your parents, a supporting letter is required)
- Travel insurance
- Supporting letter from HKUST
- Acceptance letter from UIBK
- Accommodation proof
- Round- trip flight ticket

3. Orientation Activities

There are orientation activities held by the school in late September. Introduction session, course registration session, campus tour and welcoming party would be offered. Some are compulsory. And there are some activities organized by the ESN.

4. Accommodations

There is no on- campus hall. You have to book your accommodations through the OEAD platform. It is better to apply for the accommodation as soon as the application start in order to get a preferable choice. I lived in a double room in the Home4Students with toilet in the room and a common kitchen on each floor. The size of room is quite similar to those in UST. They also offer single room. The dorm is located in Hottinger Au 34 which takes around 20 minutes to walk to the business school building. Wifi is included but sometimes very weak. You may consider to bring your own cable lens. There is a gym room in the dorm but the facility is very old and lake maintenance. Most of the exchange students are living in this dorm therefore this dorm is also known as a party dorm. I recommend this dorm as you can meet a lot of exchange students from the same program here and the atmosphere is very good in this dorm. Plus, it is not far away from the city center.

5. Course Registration

I suggest not to spend too much time on time part at the beginning stage as there are not much information available. A computer lab session would be provided to give you step- by- step instructions for the course registration.

I took 4 courses:

a. Intercultural communication (MGMT 4000-)

It is an online course with only 3 compulsory classes during the semester. The workload is not that heavy if you manage your time well. There is one assignment every week which consists of around 10 essay questions. There is no exam, you can choose to do a refugee project or write an essay of 12- 16 pages at the end of the semester. The content of the course is quite interesting. This is a course offering to exchange students therefore you can experience a lot of cultural differences and learn a lot during the group work. One point to note is that the teacher cares a lot about the reference.

b. Business in English (LABU 2020)

This is a course offering to local students, therefore you have to wait for the second round to see if you can register or not. The teaching is good and interactive. It had long hour lesson. We have to do some group discussions and some little presentations during lessons. The workload is average. You have to update the time log and internet manual every week before the lesson. It is an easy task but it takes time. At the end of the semester you have to hand in a group project.

c. Joint Study- German as a Foreign Language I (partly A1) (LANG 1320)

This is a course that really worth taking. The teacher is nice and the atmosphere of the lesson is good. You can meet many exchange students. The workload is low and the lesson is enjoyable. Throughout the course, there would be some simple homework, two exams and a 5- minutes presentation. Personally highly recommend this course.

6. Teaching & Assessment Methods

Most lessons consist of a lecture and a pro-seminar part which known as VO and PS respectively. Usually each part carries 3.5 ECTS. Teachers do most of the talking in the lecture part. For the pro-seminar, you usually go for the first lesson to meet the group mates and only have to attend a few sessions at the end of the semester for

presentation. The university also offers block courses which the course would finish within a week or a few lessons with long hour throughout the semester. It would be an option if you want to save time for travel. Beware that the semester starts and end late in Austria. The exam take place in February.

7. Sports & Recreation Facilities

The University Sports Centre offered great variety of sports lessons including skiing and snowboarding. The lessons are fee- charging but in a reasonable price. Remember to register early (before October) if interested as the place run out very fast. The school is located near the airport. If you plan to do a lot of sports, a Freizeit ticket which costs 422 Euro can be an option. It includes entre for swimming pools, cable car, skating rink etc. The ice skating rink is big as it was a venue for winter Olympics. The glacier in Innsbruck is ready for ski in November which is quite early compare to other regions.

8. Finance & Banking (including currency / expenses)

It is free for student to open a bank account. There is no transaction fee or administration fee. Remember not to use the card 3 days before closing the account. The bank card of SPARKASSE can also serve as an international student card.

- Flight ticket (680 euro)
- Insurance (800 euro)
- Accommodation (1655 euro)
- Transportation (100 euro)
- Daily Expense (1000 euro)
- Travel expense (5500 euro)

9. Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

For school in Europe, they don't have as many club as in Hong Kong. The social activities I joined are mainly organized by other exchange students from the dorm. There are activities organized by the Erasmus Student Network (ESN) and the student union (OH). The ESN would hold events on regular basis. You can register for the ESN buddy program before arrival if you want to meet some locals.

10. Health & Safety

It is super safe in Innsbruck. You would feel extremely safe walking alone on street at midnight. If you need to go to the hospital or want to reach a doctor, you can contact Christoph (our coordinator) first. He will direct you to the doctor and help with any language problem.

11. Food

It is rather expensive to eat out. I usually cook by myself. Gasthaus Anich is a restaurant that offers Austrian food which I think is worth to try.

12. Transportation

Innsbruck is a small city, most of the students here ride a bike or walk. Or you can buy a semester ticket by 127 euro. Vorteils card is an option if you plan to travel a lot with train. It costs 19 Euro and you can get a 50% off for all tickets departing from Austria. From my personal experience, the price of Sparschiene tickets (kind of early bird ticket) would be cheaper. Besides, in most of the time I would travel by FlixBus. Therefore, you can consider joining the ENS membership as they provide vouchers of FlixBus.

13. Climate

The temperature difference is quite large for September and October. Plus, there would be heater indoor in most of the European cities including Innsbruck. Therefore, it is better to wear like an 'onion'. It started to snow on some days in November. The temperature is around -2 to 5 in winter. A winter coat and hoodie with heat-tech inner wear and a scarf would be enough for winter.

14. Communication

Most of the Austrians speaks English. Even if they are not, they would try their best to communicate. Therefore, no worry about it.

15. Items to bring

- Passport

- HKID card
- Student Card
- Acceptance letter
- Housing agreement
- Headphone
- cloths
- chargers
- camera
- cash, credit card
- lock
- medicine
- notebook
- adaptors