

Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien (Vienna University of Economics and Business)

International Summer University (ISU) July 10-28, 2017

Preparation for exchange

I attended the July session of the ISU at WU, which offers two courses over the course of three weeks. They also offer an August session and you can apply for either or both. I knew that I did not want to go away for a full semester, so this made it easy to choose where I wanted to go on exchange. I looked at other partial summer exchanges, but Vienna was my top choice after hearing from other students I knew who had gone there. Coming from a German background, I also wanted to go to a place where I would be able to practice my German. Choosing the courses is very easy as they only offer three to choose from for each of the weeks. I did not need any of the courses so I just chose the ones that interested me and I was able to get my first choice for both. I went over a week and a half before the start of the program and stayed a week and a half afterwards to travel. Luckily, having a mother who is a flight attendant and also family in Germany made figuring out transportation very easy. Trains and buses are very frequent and cheap, however in the summer booking trains in advance does make it cheaper than waiting last minute. It is best to always have cash on hand as many smaller stores and restaurants do not accept cards, and when travelling on the weekends it is much easier just to exchange Euros than CAD. Since the exchange program was less than 6 months, I did not have to apply for a student visa.

brewery tour, Opera tour, many dinners, a visit to Schloss Schönbrunn, Schloss Bevedere and multiple museums. As a horse-lover I also made sure to visit the famous Spanish Riding School at the Hofberg Palace. Unfortunately, there are no performances during July as the horses get a break, but the guided tour was very interesting.

Although it is a very intense program and a very busy three weeks, you are able to do and see so much. The classes seemed to vary in the amount of work involved, but nothing was too overwhelming. You are required to do some pre-course assignments before arrival. Some classes were more of a lecture format while others were very interactive, but everyone seemed to enjoy them and the different professors.

Reflection After Exchange

I absolutely loved Vienna. I had never been there before and now it will always have a place in my heart. Meeting people from all over the world was one of the highlights of the program and I now have friends in so many different places. Having the opportunity to explore new countries is also an amazing opportunity. There is nothing planned on weekends so I would recommend planning weekend trips either within Austria or to neighbouring countries. They can be planned easily once you get to know other people in the program and buses are quite cheap. I was able to visit Budapest, Bratislava and Prague. Other advice would be to plan for all sort of weather. It was very hot and humid most days so we could get showers passing through later in the day. Another thing to note is that most stores are closed on Sundays in Austria so do your grocery shopping during the rest of the week or you will find it hard to find things open (although there are often convenience stores at some of the bigger U-bahn and train stations open).

Photo 1: Inside the main Learning Centre with all of the July 2017 ISU students.

Photo 2: The famous Wiener Riesenrad at Prater



Photo 3: The outside of the Learning Centre on campus



Photo 4: Enjoying the beautiful day at Schloss Schönbrunn

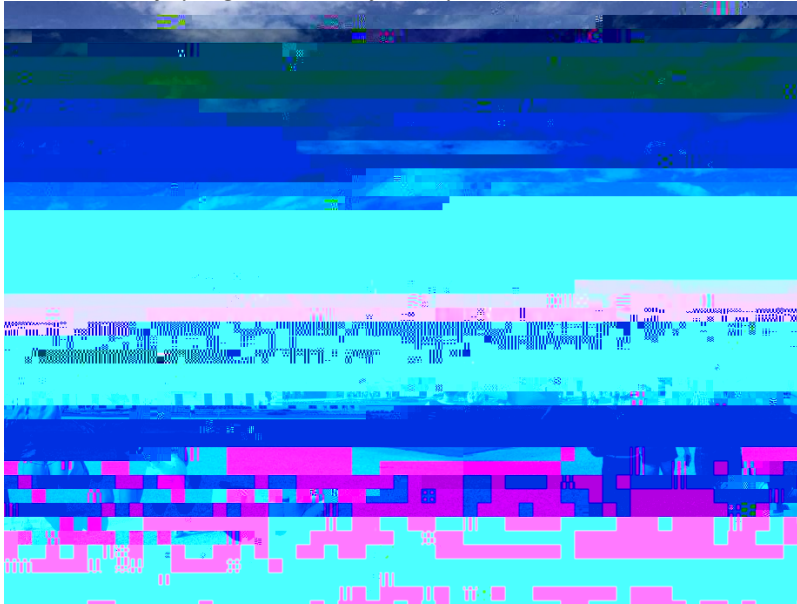


Photo 5: The amazing Hundertwasserhaus

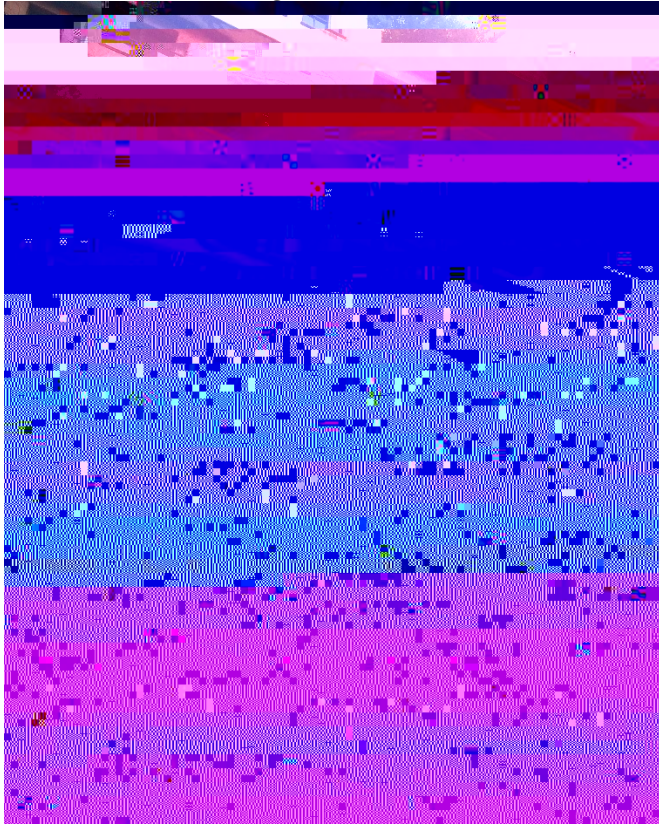


Photo 6: Stephansdom in Stephansplatz - the main square of the city that has lots of shopping, souvenirs and beautiful architecture

