

Vienna PhD School of Informatics

Welcome Guide 2011/12



FAKULTÄT
FÜR INFORMATIK
Faculty of Informatics

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Coordination and Communication Center
of the Faculty of Informatics

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Faculty of Informatics

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Preface

Arriving in Austria might cause some unusual situations for you. In order not to face problems and to be well prepared this Welcome Guide tries to give those answers on questions you might have at the beginning of your PhD program in Vienna. In this guide you might find important information about public transport, the Austrian life, get some ideas for your activities in spare time and useful information about questions of insurance or the academic year of the PhD School of the Faculty of Informatics.

Dean's Welcome

Dear Students,

Congratulations! You will join the Vienna PhD School of Informatics in its third year. I would like to welcome you to the Vienna PhD School of Informatics. We are looking forward to this new program of teaching and research with you.

This guide should help you to find your way around Vienna and the Faculty of Informatics. In case of further questions, please contact Ms. Clarissa Schmid, the administration of the PhD School.

Prof. Gerald Steinhardt
Dean of the Faculty of Informatics
Vienna University of Technology

Contact Information

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How to find Clarissa's office

In the faculty's building in Favoritenstraße 9-11 take the elevator or staircase at 'Stiege 3' up to the fourth floor, exit the elevator/staircase, take the first glass door to the left following the sign 'ZKK', walk through the glass corridor, exit the corridor to the right and take first door to the right 'Coordination and Communication Center'.

Arriving in Vienna

Vienna is easy to reach by most international airlines. You may want to look for cheap flights to Bratislava airport which is 60km from Vienna and connected by bus.

Getting there and away from Vienna International Airport (VIE)

- *By City Airport Train CAT:* non-stop to station 'Wien Mitte-Landstraße' (City Check-In) approx. 16 min, online fare for a One-Way-Ticket EUR 9,-
- Schedule Vienna International Airport – 'Wien Mitte-Landstraße': Leaving 5 and 35 min after the hour: www.cityairporttrain.com
- *By train/suburban railway S-Bahn line S7:* Federal Railway System ÖBB to station 'Wien-Mitte' and Station 'Wien-Nord' (Praterstern) approx. 25 min (cheapest fare!)
- Train schedule 'Flughafen Wien' – 'Wien City': www.oebb.at/en/index.jsp
- Suburban railway schedule line S7: www.oebb.at/de/Fahrplanauskunft/Aktuelles_Kursbuch/Detail_907/kif907_11.pdf
- *By bus:* Vienna Airport Lines, to both train stations 'Westbahnhof' and 'Wien Mitte-Landstraße' (City Check-In) and the city center 'Morzinplatz/Schwedenplatz' approx. 20 min, One-Way-Ticket EUR 7,- (fare incl. 3 pieces of luggage)
- Schedule Airport Bus Vienna International Airport: www.postbus.at/en/Regions/Vienna_-_Lower_Austria_-_Burgenland/Airport_Bus/Vienna_AirportLines/index.jsp
- Schedule Airport Bus from Bratislava: www.postbus.at/en/Regions/Vienna_-_Lower_Austria_-_Burgenland/Airport_Bus/Vienna_-_Bratislava/index.jsp
- The bus to Schwedenplatz is leaving 20 and 50 min after the hour.
- *By Taxi:* Local taxis from the airport are rather expensive (at least EUR 29,-).
- You can also order the transfer via Internet:
- C&K: www.ck-airportservice.at
Airport Service Wien: www.airportservice.at/airport.htm
Taxi Funk Schwechat: www.airporttaxi-wien.at/en_bestellung_ap.php



- Vienna International Airport: www.flughafenwien.at
- Vienna Public Transport System: www.wienerlinien.at/wl/ep/home.do?tabId=0

Arriving at the Train Station

Currently, a new Central Train Station is built in Vienna. Therefore, there is a lot of construction work going on at both major train stations – the 'Westbahnhof' and the 'Südbahnhof'. Therefore you should calculate more time for journeys via those train stations, which are well connected to Vienna's public transport system anyway.



- ÖBB – The Austrian Federal Railway Group: www.oebb.at/en/index.jsp
- Vienna Public Transport System: www.wienerlinien.at/wl/ep/home.do?tabId=0

Getting Settled

About Austria

Austria, officially the Republic of Austria ('Republik Österreich') is a landlocked country of roughly 8.3 million people in Central Europe. It borders both Germany and the Czech Republic to the north, Slovakia and Hungary to the east, Slovenia and Italy to the south, and Switzerland and Liechtenstein to the west. The territory of Austria covers 83,872 km² (32,383 sq mi), and is influenced by a temperate and alpine climate. Austria's terrain is highly mountain-nous due to the presence of the Alps; only 32% of the country is below 500 meters (1,600 ft), and its highest point is 3,797 metres (12,460 ft).



Figure 1 - Location of Austria (c) Wikipedia

The majority of the population—about 90%—speaks German, which is also the country's official language.

Austria is a parliamentary representative democracy, composed of nine federal states (capitals in brackets):

1. Burgenland (Eisenstadt)
2. Carinthia/Kärnten (Klagenfurt)
3. Lower Austria/Niederösterreich (St. Pölten)
4. Upper Austria/Oberösterreich (Linz)
5. Salzburg (City of Salzburg)
6. Styria/Steiermark (Graz)
7. Tyrol/Tirol (Innsbruck)
8. Vorarlberg (Bregenz)
9. Vienna/Wien (City of Vienna)

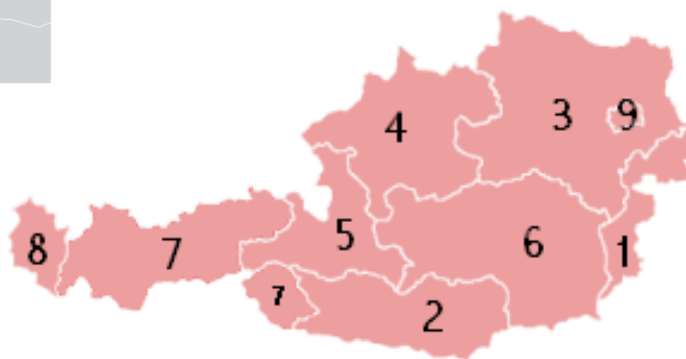


Figure 2 - States of Austria (c) Wikipedia

Austria is one of six European countries that have declared permanent neutrality, and one of the few countries that includes the concept of everlasting neutrality in its constitution. The capital—and with a population exceeding 1.6 million, Austria's largest city—is Vienna. Austria is one of the richest countries in the world, with a nominal per capita GDP of \$43,570. The country has developed a high standard of living, and in 2008 was ranked 14th in the world for its Human Development Index.

Austria has been a member of the United Nations since 1955, joined the European Union in 1995, and is a founder of the OECD. Austria also signed the Schengen Agreement in 1995, and adopted the European currency, the euro, in 1999.



- Austria Information Site: www.austria.info/uk
- Vienna Information Sites: www.wien.info/en

Currency and Payment

Austria's currency is the Euro (EUR, €). ATM/Cash cards and major credit cards are accepted in most places. This is indicated with the respective logo stickers on entrance doors.

Opening a Bank Account

Most major banks in Austria offer special accounts or students under the age of 26. For details, please check the banks' websites.



- Bank Austria: www.bankaustria.at/en/index.html
- Bawag: www.bawag.com
- Erste Bank: www.sparkasse.at
- Raiffeisen Bank: www.raiffeisen.at
- Online currency converter: www.fx-converter.com

Electricity

Austrian electricity works on 220 volts and 50 cycles (Hz), alternating current. Connector plugs/outlets generally correspond to the Euro-norm. If students are bringing their own electrical equipment, they have to make sure it can be used safely on this voltage, and they need to check whether they will need an adaptor.

Time Zone

Austria is located in the Central European Time Zone (CET) – UTC +1. Central European Summer Time or daylight saving time (CEST) is generally used in Austria during the summer months, which means that in this period the clocks have to be put one hour forward – UTC +2.

Summer Time: end of March – end of October

Climate and Weather in Austria

Vienna has a moderate continental, i.e. summers tend to be hot and sunny, while winters are cold, damp and wet with snowfall and icy winds. During the cold season, warm clothing, a waterproof, warm jacket and sensible winter shoes are essential.

Drinking Water

The tap water in your flat or student room as well as in any public building all over Austria is on superior quality. You can drink Austrian tap water without any hesitation.

Drugs and Cigarettes

The use and abuse of drugs (hash, marijuana, designer drugs etc.) is illegal and forbidden by law in Austria.

The existing smoking ban became effective on January 1, 2009. The smoking ban applies to

- rooms that serve for educational purposes,
- public spaces (e.g. public means of transport: tram, bus, train; public buildings: museums, courts, schools, administrative offices, hospitals, train stations, airports),
- most of the dining areas of restaurants, bars, etc. There are certain circumstances under which restaurants and bars may allow smoking. Please look for signs and ask if you are not certain whether smoking is allowed.

Entry and Residence Regulations

Austrian entry and residence regulations are of major importance for all of you coming from abroad. In order to guarantee a smooth entry process, please carefully check the OEAD (Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education & Research) website as the first step of planning your move to Vienna.



- OEAD: www.oead.at/index.php?id=1916&l=1
- Details on coming to Austria:
www.oead.at/welcome_to_austria/legal_practical_issues/entry_to_austria/EN
- Regulations for citizens from EU, EEA and Switzerland:
www.oead.at/welcome_to_austria/legal_practical_issues/entry_to_austria/eu_eea_switzerland/EN
- Regulations for citizens from other – so-called third – countries:
www.oead.at/welcome_to_austria/legal_practical_issues/entry_to_austria/nationals_of_third_countries/EN

Registration in Austria

Within three working days after arriving in Austria (as well as after every change of address within Austria) you have to register at your district office ('Magistratisches Bezirksamt') in Vienna. Depending on the location (district) you live in, you have to register at the district's registry office. Registration forms ('Meldezettel') are available there as well as online. The completed form has to be signed both by the landlord/landlady and by the tenant. If you are staying at a guesthouse or a hotel, the landlord/landlady/Management will take care of your registration. You will need your 'Meldezettel' for further official channels in Austria.

For Your Registration You Need

- Travel document
- Birth certificate
- Marriage certificate and/or proof of academic titles as applicable
- Registration form ('Meldezettel')
 - District offices in Vienna for registration:
www.wien.gv.at/english/administration/civilstatus/wedding/sta.html
 - OEAD information:
www.oead.at/welcome_to_austria/legal_practical_issues/life_in_austria/registration/EN
 - Brief information on registration services:
www.wien.gv.at/verwaltung/meldeservice/pdf/meldeserviceenglisch.pdf



Health Insurance

Public social insurance

Austria provides a reliable public social insurance system with local public carriers ('Gebietskrankenkassen'). Under certain conditions foreign insurances cover the costs for medical treatment of acute illnesses in Austria. Therefore, please contact your health insurance carrier in order to find out any details concerning the compensation procedure.

Students from EU/EEA countries who are holding a valid national health insurance in their home country need the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). Students holding a valid national health insurance in a country that has concluded a health insurance agreement with Austria (currently: Bosnia, Croatia, Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey), please bring along the A3 form, which is available from your national health insurance carrier. This form has to be handed in for forms that entitle you to medical treatment in Austria ('Krankenscheine', 'Kranken-kassenschecks') at the relevant Austrian health insurance carrier ('Wiener Gebietskrankenkasse (WGKK)').

Degree program students ('ordentliche Studierende') who do not fall into the above-mentioned categories may take out a health insurance policy with the relevant Austrian Gebietskrankenkasse themselves, under certain conditions (e.g. income limits, duration of studies). The monthly costs for this insurance are EUR 49.85. In order to apply, the following documents have to be provided personally at the 'Wiener Gebietskrankenkasse': the application form and the confirmation of admission to study ('Zulassungsbestätigung') issued by TU Vienna. By December 31st of each year students have to submit a valid confirmation of the continuation of their studies ('Fortsetzungsbestätigung') at the 'Gebietskrankenkasse', which proves for the whole academic year that the student in question is a degree program student ('ordentlicher Studierender') at an Austrian university and entitled to continue his/her studies at that university.

The insurance with the 'Gebietskrankenkasse' only covers medical treatment by doctors and medical institutions who have contracts with the 'Gebietskrankenkasse'. The treatment is paid directly by the 'Gebietskrankenkasse' when patients hand in their so-called 'e-card' (this is the electronic insurance card, which is valid in all countries of the EU/EEA and Switzerland). Prescription medicines are available from pharmacies, for a prescription fee ('Rezeptgebühr') of EUR 5.00 per medicine prescribed by your doctor.

Spouses may be insured with the 'Gebietskrankenkasse' against payment of an additional contribution; children may be insured with the 'Gebietskrankenkasse' for free with their parent/s.

Private health insurance

It is also possible to take out a private or travel insurance, e.g. ISIS insurance with STA-Travel. The benefits of such insurances differ greatly from one to the other; therefore please enquire in detail. Please make sure to take out an insurance that covers medical treatment in the whole of Austria and that it provides sufficient protection for various types of illness (it would be ideal if it also covers transport back to your home country). Travel insurances (for at least 6 months) have to be taken out before the entry to Austria.



- OEAD: www.oead.at/welcome_to_austria/legal_practical_issues/insurance/EN
- Health & Social Services: www.wien.gv.at/english/health-socialservices
- Vienna Health Insurance ('Wiener Gebietskrankenkasse'): www.wgkk.at
- European Health Insurance Card (EHIC): <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=559&langId=en>
- Health in Vienna (incl. list of doctors): www.wien.gv.at/english/health

Hospitals

Depending on your insurance you can utilize the services either of public or private hospitals.

- Overview over public hospitals: www.wien.gv.at/sozialinfo/content/en/10/Institutions.do?alpha=h&senseid=151
- Overview over private hospitals www.wien.gv.at/sozialinfo/content/en/10/Institutions.do?alpha=h&senseid=152

Public Transport and Getting Around in Vienna

Vienna has an excellent public transport system of underground (U-Bahn), tram and buses. You can buy 24-hour, 72-hour tickets or a ticket for the whole week or month. Buses, trains, trams and underground lines are operated by 'Vienna Public Transport' ('Wiener Linien') and will take you almost anywhere in the city.



The 'Wiener Linien' are part of the transport association for Austria's eastern regions ('Verkehrsverbund Ost Region' shortly VOR). VOR is split into eight zones and includes parts of Lower Austria, Burgenland and the entire Vienna. The city of Vienna accounts for one full zone or core zone ('Kernzone' or 'Zone 100'). A single ticket is valid for travelling one way in

Figure 3 – Ticket machine (c) Vienna City Administration

one zone. You may change to different lines during this journey but you may not interrupt your journey. Single tickets can be purchased at a prepaid price of EUR 1,80.

Please note that night lines in Vienna operate with a different schedule (buses only) and only between 00:30 and 5:00 a.m. During night time, night buses (Nightline) are leaving every 30 minutes from station Schwedenplatz. On weekends the undergrounds are working non-stop – only with a lower frequency during the nights. Generally, it is safe to walk around Vienna, also late at night.



- Information about Vienna Public Transport: www.wien.gv.at/english/transportation-urbanplanning/public-transport
- Online personal timetable of 'Vienna Public Transport': http://efa.vor.at/wvb/XSLT_TRIP_REQUEST2?language=en
- Online overview over all public transport available in and around Vienna: www.wien.gv.at/english/transportation-urbanplanning/timetables
- Schedules of the nightline buses: www.wienerlinien.at/wl/ep/programView.do/channelId/-8353/programId/11337/pageTypeId/9082
- Realtime online itinerary: www.wienerlinien.at/itip

Tickets and Passes

Apart from student term tickets and single tickets there are passes for longer periods of time. Those are available for 24 hours and 72 hours, or as weekly, monthly or annual passes. Furthermore there is the so-called 8-day Climate Ticket available ('8 Tage Klimakarte'), which can be used eight days – chosen by oneself – in all public transport for the whole day until midnight.

Where to Buy a Ticket

Tickets can be bought at ticket machines at nearly all underground stations, at points of advance sale, on board (in most trams and busses, except in the underground) as well as at Tobacconist. After registration with an Austrian mobile phone number, they can also be bought via SMS.

How to Punch Your Ticket

Tickets bought in advance must be punched in a blue ticket cancelling machine in the tram or bus or at the barrier before you entrance the underground platform. Slips for multiple rides must be punched on the upper line first; otherwise all other lines/rides are void. Semester or annual tickets do not have to be punched.

Maps (As Downloads)

- Vienna rapid traffic system (in English): www.wienerlinien.at/media/files/2008/Schnellverbindungsplan_englisch_3104.pdf
- Public transport in the city center: www.wienerlinien.at/media/files/2008/U_Bahn_Cityplan_5614.pdf
- Vienna and surrounding area ('VOR'): www.wienerlinien.at/media/files/2008/Schnellverbindungen_Wien_Umgebung_5558.pdf

Student's Tickets

Students under the age of 26 can get special semester tickets for EUR 128,50. They can be obtained from the 'Wiener Linien' points of advance sale or their customer service Center at Erdberg (U3 stop 'Erdberg'), providing the following documents:

- Student ID
- Admission record for the current semester
- Proof of residence ('Meldezettel')
- Up-to-date picture
- Completed application form (www.wienerlinien.at/media/files/2011/studentenbestellformular_somer2011_28832.pdf)



Figure 4 – Vienna Rapid Traffic System (c) Wiener Linien

Cycling

Bicycles will get you from A to B quicker than anything else in the city. Additionally, designated cycle lanes encourage discovering Vienna by bike. Bicycles are allowed to be taken with on the underground from 9 am to 3 pm and after 6 pm on weekdays, and all day Saturday and Sunday. Half-price tickets for EUR 0.90 each are required for bicycle transportation if you don't own a semester ticket.

The City of Vienna also offers City bikes, a public rental network. To use 'Citybike Wien' services, a one-time registration is required – either online or directly at the Citybike terminals. Registrations can be made by using a MAESTRO card (cash-dispensing card) issued by an Austrian bank, or a credit card (VISA, MasterCard, or JCB Creditcard). Following your initial registration, you can hire a bike per card immediately. Across the inner districts of Vienna there are about 61 bike stations. Bikes can be hired and returned any station.



- Citybike Wien (public bicycles in central districts): www.citybikewien.at
- Bike Rentals in Vienna: www.wien.gv.at/english/leisure/bike/bikerental.htm
- Online Bicycle itinerary (Routenplan, in German): www.anachb.at/radroutenplaner

Business Hours (in general)

Shops and Supermarkets

Mon-Fri opening between 7:00 and 9:00 am
 closing between 6:00 and 7:30 pm
 Sat regularly 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
 Sun/on holidays closed (a few exceptions apply, see e.g. supermarkets at train stations)

Bank branches

Mon-Fri 08:00 am – 3:00 pm (some branches are closed at lunch time)
 Thu 08:00 am – 5:30 pm
 Sat/Sun/on holidays closed

Post offices

Mon-Fri 08:00 resp. 9:00 am – 6:00 pm
 Sat 08:00 resp. 09:00 – 12:00 am
 Sun/on holidays closed (main offices at railway stations have longer opening hours)

Pharmacies

Mon-Fri 08:00 resp. 9:00 am – 6:00 pm
 Sat 08:00 resp. 09:00 – 12:00 am
 Sun/on holidays closed (at least one pharmacy is on duty in each district: the referring information is available in newspapers)

Shopping

City shopping

The most fashionable shopping streets can be found in the City Center, mostly pedestrianized such as Kärntnerstraße and Graben. Towards the west of the Center, the popular Mariahilfer Straße caters to virtually every need, followed by the district around Neubaugasse which is dedicated to alternative and trendy shopping.

Shopping Malls

For larger scale shopping expeditions in Vienna, various malls can be found around the city center (such as 'Ringstraßen Galerien' near the opera house or 'Lugner City' near Westbahnhof) as well as towards the outskirts of the city (mainly SCS - Shopping City Süd and SCN - Shopping City Nord).

Markets

Viennese markets provide very good insights to the everyday life of Vienna's inhabitants. Ranging from 'Naschmarkt' probably Vienna's most popular market to the multicultural (and by far cheaper) 'Brunnenmarkt' where Turkish and Levantine products can be found.

'Naschmarkt' is the upgraded old central market, which is popular with tourists and natives, who mostly use it for Saturday grocery shopping.

'Brunnenmarkt' (in the 16th district, Ottakring, take tram no. 2) is the longest street market in Europe. It's center at 'Yppenplatz' offers good small restaurants.

Groceries

For shopping groceries and products for your everyday needs, several large supermarket chains (both discounters and upmarket ones) can be found as well as smaller independent stores.

- *Upmarket:*
 focus on brand names, often serviced counters in-store (for bread, meat, fish), large range of medium and high-end products. E.g.: BILLA (www.billa.at), Merkur, Spar (www.spar.at).
- *Discounters:*
 limited product range, pre-packed meat and bread, focus on lower-priced store brands. E.g.: Hofer (www.hofer.at), Lidl, Penny, Zielpunkt/Plus (www.zielpunkt.at).

Drugstores

Austrian drugstores offer sanitary products, sometimes food, but no OTC pharmaceuticals (the latter are available in pharmacies only). Check DM-Drogeriemarkt (www.dm-drogeriemarkt.at) and BIPA (www.bipa.at), or the discounter Schlecker (www.schlecker.at).

Communication

Emergency Numbers

Fire Department:	122	European emergency number: 112
Police Department:	133	
Ambulance:	144	Emergency numbers can be dialed from any phone, also from mobile phones without SIM card, without contract or positive balance.
Doctors on call (nights and weekends):	141	
Detoxication hotline:	01-406 43 43	

Dialing Codes

International Dialing Code for Austria: 0043 (for mobile phone numbers also +43)

Area code for Vienna: 01



- List of international country codes: www.herold.at/servlet/at.herold.sp.servlet.SPIYPHomeServlet?context=IYP
- Online phone directory and yellow pages: www.herold.at/en
- Phone directory assistance numbers (with costs): dial 118899

Mail Services

Post offices are open from Mo-Fri 08:00 resp. 9:00 am – 6:00 pm, Sat from 08:00 resp. 09:00 – 12:00 am. In addition to mail services, the post offices offer banking, telephone, copy and fax services. There are several post offices over the city. For details, please check www.post.at/en.

Sending and receiving Mail

To receive your private mail, you need to have an address at which you are officially registered, your name must appear on the mailbox belonging to your apartment. Mail is delivered once a day from Monday to Friday, usually before noon.

Austrian letterboxes are yellow (see picture) and can be found on most streets. For details on how to send mail check www.post.at/en/114.php.



Figure 5 - Austrian letterboxes

Mobile Provider

Austria's mobile network operates on the 900 and 1800 bands for GSM. There are four main mobile phone providers in Austria: A1 Mobilkom, Orange, T-Mobile and Drei. Disconters (like HOFER) offer prepaid cards like yesss! or bob.

Each provider has a variety of packages and special offers. Basically, you can choose between a contract package (often including a certain amount of free minutes/SMS) and a pay-as-you-go package. Most providers also offer comparably low priced contracts under a different name.



- A1: www.mobilkom.at/en/index?rdeLocaleAttr=en
- Orange: www.orange.at
- T-Mobile: www.tmobile.at
- Drei: www.drei.at/portal/de/privat/Privat_Home_1.html
- Comparison of Mobile Phone Providers (in German only): www.tarifecheck.at/index.php?rubrik=mobilfunk&p=preisvergleich&go=de

Public Internet in Vienna

The TU Vienna offers free mobile internet to its students. Also, the City of Vienna offers free WLAN in public buildings like libraries and public internet hotspots.



- List of internet cafés (in German only): www.internist.at/inet.htm
- List of public internet access points, WLAN and internet terminal providers: www.wien.gv.at/english/administration/ict/wlan.html

Media in Vienna/Austria

Press

Austria generally (and Vienna as the largest city in particular) has a very high printmedia density catering to most gustos and (political) directions.

The following daily newspapers are focusing on Austrian wide, international and Viennese topics:

- Der Standard (www.derstandard.at) – quality paper with economic focus at the moderate left side of the spectrum. The Monday print edition offers an English supplement by the New York Times.
- Die Presse (www.diepresse.com) – traditional paper focusing on political/economic and cultural news, catering rather to the politically conservative. Also offers a print Sunday edition.
- Wirtschaftsblatt (www.wirtschaftsblatt.at) – daily newspaper focusing economic topics and developments.
- Wiener Zeitung (www.wienerzeitung.at) – political, economic and cultural focus and regional news reports mainly about Eastern Austria.
- Kronen Zeitung (www.krone.at) – daily newspaper (with an additional edition on Sunday) which has got the highest density in Austria. The paper's content covers politics, economy, culture, human interest from a more popular point of view.
- Kurier (www.kurier.at) – is a daily paper with focus on political, economic topics and a regional focus on Vienna, Lower Austria and Burgenland.
- Österreich (www.oe24.at) – tabloid which is available at tobacconists as well as at several points for free.
- Heute (www.heute.at) – paper for free which is distributed in subway stations.

Weekly papers

Der Falter (www.falter.at) – the most popular weekly paper and event guide for Vienna. Further weekly newspapers (e.g. Die Furche, Die Zeit) as well as weekly magazines (e.g. Profil, Format, News, Der Spiegel) are also available in the usual tobacconists and shops.

International press

A selection of international newspapers is offered at well-sorted tobacconists (usually in the inner city), at Morawa e.g. in Wollzeile 11, in the first district, (www.morawa-buch.at) as well as at train stations.

Radio Stations

Although privately owned radio has been introduced quite a few years ago, the ORF formats still enjoy a large market share. A bundle of private stations adds to a pretty diverse program portfolio – just to name a few:

- Ö1 @ 87.8 FM (public broadcaster ORF) focus on classical music, literature, science, news and politics. <http://oe1.orf.at>
- Ö3 @ 99.9 FM (public broadcaster ORF) young commercial mainstream pop and rock, news on the hour. <http://oe1.orf.at>
- FM4 @ 103.8 FM (public broadcaster ORF) alternative music and ENGLISH program as well as hourly news. <http://fm4.orf.at>
- Radio 88.6 @ 88.6 FM (private) commercial mix of everything (slogan: we play what we want). <http://wien.886.at>
- Radio NRG @ 104.2 FM (private) catering to the younger club crowd: top 40, rnb, hip hop, soul. <http://apa.energy.at>

Television

ORF (www.orf.at) is the national public broadcasting organization featuring two channels (ORF 1 and ORF 2) and the sports channel ORF SPORT PLUS. Austrian commercial broadcasters are ATV, PULS 4, Austria 9, ServusTV and TW1. There are several local community and free TV channels such as the regional Okto.

German commercial channels are e.g. Pro7, Sat.1, RTL, VOX. The public channels ARD and ZDF are similar to the Austrian ORF and the channels 3Sat and Arte focus on high-quality films (often in OV), arts, lifestyle and documentations. Cable TV is widespread in Austrian households.

Television has been digitalized in Austria in the past few years. For receiving TV programs you need either a DVB-T-Box, cable, DVB-S (digital satellite) or DVB-H (mobile receiver). Most of the channels offer free downloads of past programs for several days (e.g. daily news of ORF: <http://tvthek.orf.at>)

Leisure and Recreation

For details and inspiration, check www.wien.gv.at/english/environment-leisure.

'Kaffeehauskultur' – Vienna's coffee house tradition

Vienna is world famous for its excellent coffee and cafés. Austrian coffee houses are something of an institution here and a traditional meeting place. A café ('Kaffeehaus') is the best place to relax, read the newspaper, enjoy the good things in life.

Typical Viennese coffee

- Melange – coffee with frothy milk
- Kleiner or großer Brauner – coffee with cream
- Espresso – strong, black Italian-style coffee
- Einspänner – mocha with whipped cream, served in a glass
- Fiaker – mocha with brandy, served in a glass

Typical cakes and pastries to accompany your coffee

- Strudel – sweet flaky pastry with apple, nut or sweet cheese filling
- Golatschen – puff pastry with sweet cheese ('Topfen') or plum-jam filling ('Powidl')
- Sacher Torte – chocolate cake for which Austrian tradition is famous
- Zimtschnecke – spiral-shaped pastry with nut filling and sugar-coating

Cinema ('Kino')

A number of cinemas are offering movies also in Original Version.

- Artis International Cinema: www.cineplex.at
- Austrian Filmmuseum: www.filmmuseum.at/jart/prj3/filmmuseum/main.jart
- Burgkino: www.burgkino.at
- English Cinemy Haydn: www.haydnkino.at
- Filmcasino: www.filmcasino.at
- HTU Cinestudio (at TU Vienna Audimax): www.cinestudio.at
- Village Cinema: www.villagecinemas.at/villagekino.aspx
- Motiv Kino: www.votivkino.at
- Stadtkino: www.stadtkinowien.at
- Gartenbaukino: www.gartenbaukino.at

Sports

The University Sport Institute USI ('Universitäts-sportinstitut Wien') offers an impressive number of sports courses at competitive rates. The City of Vienna offers an attractive environment for sports.



- www.wien.gv.at/english/environment-leisure/sports
- www.univie.ac.at/USI-Wien
- www.unisport.at
- www.studentensport.at

First Steps at the Faculty of Informatics

The Faculty of Informatics

The Faculty of Informatics is one of eight faculties at the Vienna University of Technology (TU Vienna), which carries out research in informatics and business informatics.

The faculty consists of seven institutes and the central services 'Office of the Dean', and the 'Coordination and Communication Center'. The major fields of studies are computer science and business informatics; those are the biggest and fourth biggest courses of study, respectively, at Vienna University of Technology. The five main research areas are Distributed and Parallel Systems, Computational Intelligence, Business Informatics, Computer Engineering, and Media Informatics and Visual Computing.

Location

The Faculty of Informatics is spread over four locations: Most institutes are located in Favoritenstraße 9-11; further locations are Argentinierstraße 8, Treitlstraße 3 and Erzherzog-Johann-Platz 1.

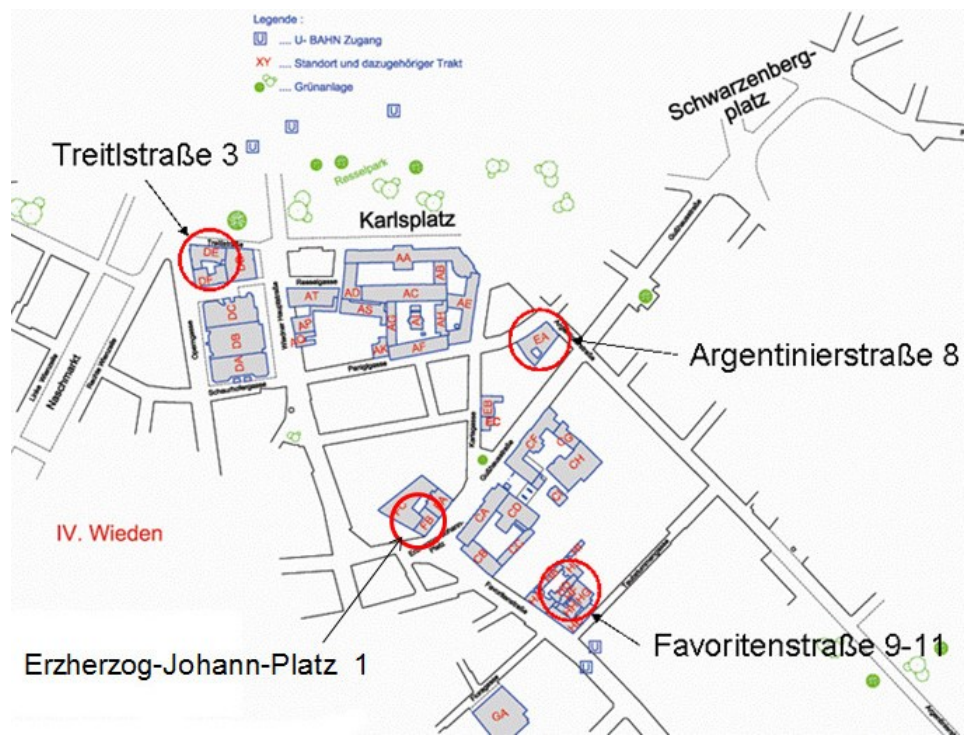


Figure 6 - The five locations of the Faculty of Informatics

Check the location on e.g. the online Vienna City map: www.wien.gv.at/stadtplan/en

Registration at TU Vienna

In addition to your application process for the Vienna PhD School of Informatics, you have to *register at TU Vienna – first online, then in person*.

Please register at TU Vienna ONLINE *before* your arrival. After you have submitted the registration you will receive your file number ('Sequenznummer') by e-mail. You will need your file number for personal registration.

In order to finalize the enrolment at the *Department for Studies and Examinations* ('*Studien- und Prüfungsabteilung*'; Address: 1040 Wien, Karlsplatz 13/1st floor) you have to provide the following documents:

- Your file number ('Sequenznummer')
- 1 up-to-date passport photo
- 1 ID-card
- Confirmation of acceptance to the Vienna PhD School of Informatics

After paying the Student Union fee of EUR 17.00 your confirmation of registration ('Inskriptionsbestätigung') and term label will be sent to you by mail within 1-1.5 weeks after your personal registration. Please *stick this label into your student card, in order to validate it*. Keep your payment slip until you receive your label – as proof of payment!

Fees

There are no tuition fees for regular students of the Vienna PhD School of Informatics. However, you have to pay the Austrian student Union fee ('ÖH-Beitrag') of EUR 17.00 per term.



- TU Vienna Online Registration: http://tuwis.tuwien.ac.at/ora/tuwis/student/anmeldungen.index_html?i_lang=en
- TU Vienna Online Registration: http://tuwis.tuwien.ac.at/ora/tuwis/student/anmeldungen.index_html?i_lang=en
- Austrian Student Union (Österreichische Hochschülerschaft, ÖH): www.oeh.ac.at/en
- TU Vienna Department for Studies and Examinations: www.tuwien.ac.at/en/services/departement_for_studies_and_examinations

TISS – TU Vienna Online Information System

In TISS, you can find all necessary information regarding institutes, courses and curricula – online. Students can log in using their registration number. The password asked for is the TU-Password.

Login: <https://tiss.tuwien.ac.at/course/courseList.xhtml>

In order to obtain your TU password, contact the Student's Internet Service of TU Vienna's Information Technology Services: www.zid.tuwien.ac.at/student (German Website only).

Student Computer Services

The Information Technology Services (ZID) provide the following services for students of the Vienna University of Technology (TU Wien) with: personal account, access to the TUWIS++ information sys* electronic mail, access to internet (WWW) and newsgroups, permanent storage space for home page, mail and files, Webmail, WLAN, public computer pools (internet rooms), laptop plug-in stations, access via dial-in and VPN-service.

In order to activate your account, check the Student Computer Services' Website: www.zid.tuwien.ac.at/student/student_computer_services

TU Vienna Library

The Vienna University of Technology Library is a public library open to university staff, students and members of the public. Online catalogue: www.ub.tuwien.ac.at/eng

Mensa – Student's Cafeteria

From the students' office (TU Freihaus, red area) you can get a MENSA sticker. With this sticker, you will get partial discount on the food offered by MENSA (student's restaurant located in TU Freihaus). Meals are offered for EUR 3-4. The daily menu: www.mensen.at

TU Vienna Buddynetwork

Buddynetwork is a student-run non-profit organization whose primary goal is to promote social contacts among foreign and local students at Vienna University of Technology. Besides assigning Buddies to exchange students, the Buddynetwork Team organizes a variety of events in which all exchange students and Buddies are welcome to participate.

For more details, check <http://buddynet.htu.tuwien.ac.at> or contact buddynetwork@tuwien.ac.at

Courses in German Language

The Vienna University of Technologies offers several courses in German language. For offers, duration, and prices of language training courses, check the website of the International Office: www.ai.tuwien.ac.at/international



- inlingua: www.inlingua.at/lang_en.html
- ActiLingua Academy: www.actilingua.com
- Innovationszentrum Uni Wien: <http://deutschkurse.univie.ac.at/content/site/dk/en/home/index.html>
- IKI Internationales Kulturinstitut: www.ikiwien.at
- BFI Wien: www.bfi.at/English
- DeutschAkademie: www.deutschakademie.at

Vienna PhD School of Informatics

The Vienna PhD School of Informatics is widely varied in the sense that it covers the main research areas of the Faculty of Informatics, and is not specifically related to one single research topic.

The PhD school intends to generate scientists who

- have broad knowledge and expertise in the domain (breadth) as well as contribute to the development of the sciences (depth) through autonomous research.
- gain new scientific insight and present this comprehensively.
- gain the ability to solve complex scientific problems in both fundamental and applied research at a high international level according to accepted scientific standards.

A curriculum for doctoral studies of this kind is atypical for Austrian Universities. In Austria, doctoral students traditionally have fewer courses (with less curriculum structure). This PhD curriculum contains more courses, which are structured around the faculty's research areas. The student's personal responsibility and commitment to pursuing research is an important prerequisite for a successful PhD thesis.

The objective of this PhD curriculum is to provide an environment that encourages students to contribute to the advancement of technology through independent creative research. One objective of doing a doctoral degree is to become an independent researcher, capable of generating, pursuing and communicating novel research ideas. Therefore, students will become involved in research activities as soon as possible.

The school is designed as an international one, inviting applications world-wide. All courses are held in English. Students have to attend the school for three years. During the first two years they have to follow courses, whereas in the third year they exclusively work on their PhD thesis. The program is a full-time one.

Organizational Structure

At an organizational level the school consists of

- the Commission of the PhD School
- the Director of the PhD School (Prof. Hannes Werthner)
- a pool of internal and external scientists, including the supervisors of the PhD theses and the invited guest lecturers
- an administrative assistant (Ms. Clarissa Schmid)

Academic Year 2011/12 and Public Holidays

Winter Term 2011/12 (1st October 2011 – 26th January 2012)

Start of PhD School Program: 17th October 2011

Holidays in the winter term 2011/12

Holiday (All Souls' Day): 2nd November 2011

Holiday (Patron's Day): 15th November 2011

Christmas Holidays: 23rd December 2011 – 7th January 2012

Term Break: 27th January – 29th February 2012

Summer Term 2012 (1st March – 29th June 2012)

Holidays in the summer term 2012

Easter Holidays: 2nd April – 14th April 2012

Rector's day: 18th May 2012

Pentecost: 26th May – 29th May 2012

Summer holidays: 2nd July – 28th September 2012

The Vienna PhD School of Informatics is sponsored by



We thank our sponsor for the support!

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