

## AHA International Austria Quick Facts

### **Academics**

- *Admission Requirements*
  - 2.5 minimum GPA
  - Sophomore status +
  - No previous German required
- *Program Academics*
  - Semester:
    - Typical course load = 4 courses
    - Courses (40-60 contact hours) typically translate to 4 AC credits.
    - Academic focus: culture, art, music, literature, philosophy, science
    - 1 mandatory German language course (taught in German)
    - 1 mandatory Cross Cultural Communication course
    - Visiting U.S. Professor teaches a specialty course each semester
    - Private music instruction available at request for additional fee
    - Student fulfills "S" course requirement
  - Summer:
    - 1 mandatory Beginning German language course
    - Private music instruction included in program cost
    - German course typically translates to 4 AC credits
    - Student fulfills "S" course requirement
  - Alma College allows pass/fail for a course provided it meets guidelines published in the Academic Catalog. Refer to the Pass/Fail Option form (provided with Step 4) for complete instructions. Pass/fail must be requested within nine weeks after the class begins.
  - Incomplete grades must be replaced by letter grades within six weeks from being recorded on the Alma transcript, or they convert to "E". contact the Registrar for assistance when you have received and Incomplete grade.

### **Housing**

- Host family, light breakfast provided
- Students responsible for lunch & dinner (typically allowed to use host family's kitchen)
- Daily commute may be approximately 15-45 minutes each way

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. *What travel documents do I need to go to Austria?*
  - A passport is required for international travel and must be valid at least 180 days beyond the last date of the program.
  - A student visa is not required for American students studying 90 days or less.
    - The AHA Austria program is typically under 90 days. If you plan on extending your stay or coming early for personal travel, you will need to apply for a visa.
2. *Can I use my cell phone in Austria?*
  - Using a U.S. cell phone abroad to make local and/or international calls can be very costly. Check with your service provider for details.
  - Cell phones will be provided for all students as a part of their program fee. Students are responsible for costs associated with placing calls and must purchase pre-paid minutes in order to place calls. Local calls cost Euro 0.10/minute, but it costs nothing to receive calls.
  - The program provided phone only works in Austria. For travel to other European countries, you will have to purchase a different SIM card.
  - PicCell Wireless and other such companies allow students to rent a phone with a global SIM card and charger appropriate for Austria.
  - Land line phone service is extremely expensive in Austria; you may not make international or local calls from your homestay.
  - Inexpensive prepaid calling cards are available in Vienna, but you need to plan the funds for this expenditure if you choose to buy them in Austria.
  - The cheapest option is to set up Skype or QQ, a free internet-based calling service. Look online for details.
3. *Will I have internet access at school? Should I bring my laptop?*
  - You will have wireless internet access at the Volkshochschule where classes are held, at your home-stay, and at the AHA office during office hours (you will also have access to a wireless printer).
    - Summer program participants will most likely only have access at the AHA site as classes will be held there.
  - You will need to bring your laptop to access the internet or email, as there are no student computers available. However, its safekeeping and insurance will remain your personal responsibility.
4. *What are the study abroad requirements for a German major?*
  - It is mandatory that students speak with the German Professor on campus before committing to a program. The off-campus study requirements for a German major may include the following and is subject to change.
    - a minimum of three courses in German.
    - a 20 page research paper written in German covering a topic agreed upon in advance by the German Department.
    - intensive C1 exam preparation to sit for and pass the exam while abroad
5. *What application and deposit fees am I responsible for?*
  - Students are responsible for all application fees that are not subtracted from program fees. For example, AHA's application requires a \$50 application fee that students must pay.