

# Guide

## for Incoming Exchange Students



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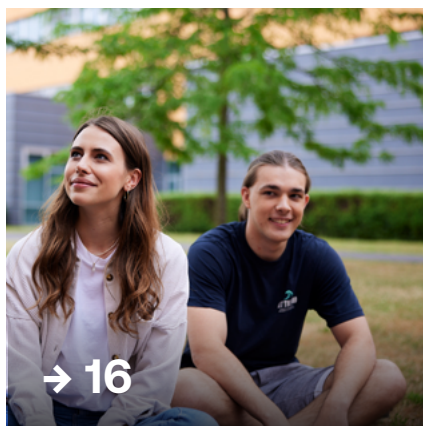
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Austria →



## The University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria (FH Upper Austria)

The University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria is the largest university of applied sciences in Austria and is an integral part of the tertiary education system. The organization is defined by the requirements of regional employment and research needs. Four locations in Upper Austria's central area offer innovative and interdisciplinary academic degrees, each with a different focus.

- School of Informatics, Communications and Media – Hagenberg Campus
- School of Medical Engineering and Applied Social Sciences – Linz Campus
- School of Management – Steyr Campus
- School of Engineering – Wels Campus

Universities of Applied Sciences – in German 'Fachhochschulen' (FH) – are relatively new in Austria; the law authorizing their introduction was passed in the early '90s and the first degree programs were launched in autumn 1994. The aim of Austria's Universities of Applied Sciences is to provide a more practice-oriented education to complement the range of courses offered by traditional universities. Education is founded on academic, research-based principles; Universities of Applied Sciences are required to carry out applied research and development, which are integrated into the curricula. Students are involved in

R&D projects already from an early stage of their studies. Keeping in line with the Bologna Declaration, the transition to the Bachelor/Master system at the University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria has already been completed in all degree programs. The transition not only serves to improve international comparability and recognition, but also leads to a greater degree of flexibility for the students.

## Austria

Austria is a beautiful country with a great cultural heritage, located in the heart of Europe. It is the home of Mozart, Klimt, Freud, and 'The Sound of Music'. Austria's snow-capped mountains, crystal-clear lakes and rivers and historic cities like Vienna and Salzburg attract tourists from all over the world. The economy is very much export-orientated and the standard of living is high. The national language is German, but most people speak some English.

## Upper Austria

The state of Upper Austria is located in the northern part of Austria and combines natural beauty with a thriving economy. Upper Austria is one of Europe's leading regions in education, technology and employment; in fact, about 25% of Austria's total exports originate here.





# Life as an International Student in Austria

Congratulations on your decision to embark on one of life's great adventures: a period of residence and study abroad. We hope that your stay here will be a wonderful, unforgettable experience for you.



International exchange students all over the world usually experience various phases of adjustment during their stay abroad. At first you will probably see everything through the eyes of a tourist. Everything is new and exotic. After this stage you get down to the business of living your everyday life, which for some people is accompanied by a sense of disorientation or culture shock. This is a quite natural phenomenon when someone is in completely unfamiliar surroundings where everything is new. If this affects you, please do not hesitate to speak to one of the staff. We have been through this ourselves and will be more than willing to listen and talk with you about it. You may also find it helpful to bear in mind that this is a phase that will pass and, in the meantime, try to keep an open mind and seek contact with other people.



## General information about Linz

Linz is a vibrant place – busy during the day, plenty of cultural highlights and a great atmosphere in the many bars and restaurants in the evening. The idyllic old alleys leading to the stylish main square are a great contrast to the contemporary art and virtual worlds to be found in the Ars Electronica Centre. The Landestheater, the Brucknerhaus, Lentos und the Design Center provide a rich background for culture. Linz provides a wonderful infrastructure for the University of Applied Sciences – it is an ideal place to study intensively. Linz is the capital of Upper Austria, Austria's third largest city (population > 200,000) and in 2009, Linz was the Cultural Capital of the EU.

People in Linz do lots of sports along and on the Danube: running, inline skating, bicycling, rowing, etc. And the Salzkammergut lakes, the hills ('Sound of Music'), and the Alps are not far, either, so day trips for hiking in the mountains, swimming, sailing, or skiing are no problem at all. Linz is also a city of festivals: Linzfest, Buskers' Fest ('Pflaster-spektakel'), Brucknerfest or Lido Sounds. For chillier days there are a multitude of good fitness and wellness clubs which often have special offers for students. You can dabble your toes (and swim) in the centrally situated Parkbad, in the Hummelhofbad in the south and in the Biesenfeld pool to the north of the town. There are several beach volleyball courts in Linz, and there are two excellent lakes to bathe in – Pleschingersee to the north and Pichlingersee to the south – where you can also play table tennis outdoors.



**For further information on the attractions of Linz and Upper Austria, please see Linz Tourist website:**  
→ [linztourismus.at](https://linztourismus.at)

**Or you can download the „visit Linz“ App which is available in German and English.**



## The structure of our degree programs

The Bachelor's degree programs (three years, 180 ECTS) require a one-term professional internship during which students work in companies or research institutes in Austria or abroad. Training in social skills is an additional feature of our programs.

The Master's degree programs (two years, 120 ECTS) offer in-depth specialization in specific fields with emphasis on strategic thinking and problem-solving skills.

## Final degree awarded

- 1** General university entrance qualification or Pre-entry course for university
- 2** Bachelor (6 Semesters)
- 3** Master (4 Semesters)
- 4** Eligible for Doctoral study program at a university

# Our degree programs

## Bachelor's degree programs

### Human Enhancement and Ethics (PT)

The Human Enhancement and Ethics degree program expands the existing (engineering) scientific career profiles and creates a new professional field at the interface of technology, biology and society. The gap between “development engineer” and “product user” is closed in order to develop new technologies for people’s living and working environments and also make them manageable.

### Medical Device Technology (FT)

A broad technical know-how for classic medical devices such as computed tomography scanners and pacemakers, as well as new technology fields in personalized medicine – this is what the study of medical technology offers you. Bionic prostheses, bioprinting, assistive robotic technologies, thought control, and artificial intelligence are dynamic technology fields that increasingly aid medicine in treating people successfully. Students learn the latest technologies for the design and manufacture of this latest generation of medical devices and can apply them directly in practice.

### Social-, Public- and Nonprofit Management (PT)

This is a part-time business degree that is tailored to the conditions of the social and health sector, the public sector, and the NPO sector. At the heart of the study program are profound business management qualifications. Furthermore, legal basics for management, sustainability, digitalization, and ethics are important elements. The degree program conveys – in the interest of the common good – the peculiarities and action logics of non-profit organizations and institutions. In addition, students develop a deep understanding of the diverse needs of the various target groups of public, social, and health-related services. Social and personal skills complete the profile of our graduates of this sector-specific management degree.



### Social Work (FT/PT)

Professional Social Work promotes social change, social development, and social cohesion, as well as the empowerment and liberation of individuals. Principles of social justice, human rights, collective responsibility, and respect for diversity are central to Social Work. Based on the methods and theories of Social Work and various scientific foundations, Social Work helps individuals cope with life's challenges. The program offers an interdisciplinary education for experts who provide advice, support, and assistance to individuals, as well as plan and organize aid processes. The study program ensures a practice-related professional education with the general training objective: "Learning how to make help successful!"

## Master's degree programs

### Applied Technologies for Medical Diagnostics (PT)

This program covers a new professional field at the intersection of technology, natural sciences, and technology-oriented health professions. It bridges the gap between development engineering and the application of medical devices and provides in-depth technical knowledge for Medical Diagnostics, which is required for project planning and product management - in the legally regulated environment of medical devices and IVDs. Technical focus areas include new detection methods and those innovative products that are shaped by the dimensions of innovation: digitalization, new materials, and biosignal evaluation. Graduates apply their expertise in quality and risk management, for clinical evaluations and performance evaluations, or in the development of medical devices. Their expertise is also in demand when new products are launched, in market surveillance, or in in-house applications of diagnostic medical devices. The handling of regulations is practiced in the context of practical tasks.

### Leading Transformation for Impact Organizations (PT)

This program is all about digitalization and sustainability combined with organizational development and change! The main topics include Transformation Management & Design, Digital Transformation, Organization & Leadership Transformation as well as Socio-Ecology Transformation. Students will be empowered to effect positive social and ecological change within organizations.

### Managing Non-Profit and Public Services (PT)

This program offers industry-specific general management training with a focus on non-profit organizations and public institutions. With experts from science and practice, the state of the art and trends in non-profit and public management are worked on in small groups, so that sound industry-specific skills are acquired at master's level. As part of the course, students independently carry out projects for non-profit organizations and public institutions. In this way, the knowledge they have learned is transferred directly into practice. The imparting of a holistic management understanding of non-profit organizations and the public sector prepares students as best as possible for future challenges as managers.

### Medical Engineering (FT)

The international Master's degree program enables students to engineer medical devices as well as products and to position them on the market. They can choose out of a catalogue of electives in the fields of Electronics, Biomechanics, Medical Device Software and Materials Technology. These are enhanced by courses in Medical Technology (e.g. Advanced Systems for Diagnostics, Clinical Treatment Systems and Bionic Implants), Medical Systems Engineering (including Product Management and Regulatory Affairs), Medicine, Mathematics and Statistics. As part of project work and master's thesis, students can apply their skills within companies, research institutes or hospitals to develop, produce and/or integrate modern medical devices or products.

### Social Work (PT)

The study program imparts a scientifically and professionally deepened education, with particular consideration of (post-)migration societal differences. This major was chosen against the background of an Austrian population structure shaped by migration. Today, people with migration experience can be found in all areas of Social Work. Therefore, the ability to critically engage with racism, gender, and other powerful differences as well as their intersectionality is understood as a cross-sectional competence throughout the entirety of Social Work, and not just as a specific qualification for employees in migration-specific institutions.

FT = full time, PT = part time

 Program taught in English



# Internationalization

The University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria maintains contacts to partner universities on almost all continents. The university's International Offices are in charge of international relations and facilitating exchanges of students and academic staff. Each campus has its own International Office. Globalization is changing the face of business today and dealing with its challenges should be part of every student's education. Linz Campus therefore has a firm commitment to providing its students with opportunities to broaden their horizons on an international level, not least by encouraging them to complete part of their studies abroad, either at a partner institution or by doing their internships abroad.

The presence of foreign exchange students also makes an important contribution to the internationalization of the campus environment and students are encouraged to take full advantage of this by taking part in the Buddy System and generally seeking contact with students from other cultures.

## ECTS

ECTS ('European Credit Transfer System') credits are a numerical value allocated to course units to denote the student workload required to complete them. They reflect a quantity of work required by each course unit. That includes lectures, practical work, seminars, tutorials, field-work and private study as well as assessment activities. The ECTS is thus based on a full student workload and not limited to contact hours only. The basic allocation of academic credits in ECTS is 60 credits for a full year of study, 30 credits for a semester.

Credits are awarded only when the course has been completed and all required examinations have been passed. In other words, students do not get ECTS credits simply for attending classes or spending time abroad, but must fulfill the assessment requirements of the host institution to demonstrate that they satisfy the specified learning objectives for the course unit.



## Grading system

The Austrian education system works with 5 grades:

Austrian Grade	Equivalent
sehr gut (1)	excellent
gut (2)	good
befriedigend (3)	satisfactory
genügend (4)	sufficient
nicht genügend (5)	insufficient

80% of attendance should be maintained in order to write an exam and pass the course.

### Contact International Office Linz

Head of International Office  
Iwona Hunstorfer | Phone: +43 5 0804 54060

Assistant International Office  
Brigitte Brandstätter | Phone: +43 5 0804 54061



international@fh-linz.at  
fh-ooe.at/en/international/  
exchange-students/incomings

# Services and facilities

## → Accommodation

Linz has numerous student dormitories.  
The rent for a standard single room is around 400 Euro.

Student dormitory in „Garnisonstraße“  
(next to Linz Campus) or „Kaisergasse“:  
→ [wistooe.at](https://www.wistooe.at)

Student dormitory „Dr. Karl Grüner Haus“  
or „Europahaus“:  
→ [ooe-heimbauverein.at](https://www.ooe-heimbauverein.at)

For a complete list, please see the FAQs on our homepage:  
→ [fh-ooe.at/en/international/faq](https://fh-ooe.at/en/international/faq)

Please make sure to register in time with the chosen dormitory. Most of the offered dormitories use an online application process which enables you an independent registration. Please note that the first month's rent, and in most cases also a security deposit, will have to be paid prior to your arrival. The security deposit will be returned to you at the end of your stay if the room has been left in a proper condition, just a small fee for the final cleaning may occur.

Rooms in student dormitories normally do not provide bedding, crockery and cutlery – make sure to ask in advance what's included in the rent. And very often, rooms in residences can only be rented for a full month.

You can also find accommodation in an apartment alone or with other students. The local newspapers list flats/rooms for rent every weekend or information can also be found online. Please note that the International Office is unable to provide assistance with private house hunting.

## → IT Information

The IT department provides the following services for our students, which you will have access to as well:

- free wifi on campus (eduroam)
- student e-mail account  
([firstname.lastname@students.fh-linz.at](mailto:firstname.lastname@students.fh-linz.at))
- print & copy system
- student's online information system (Levis)
- free access to computers on campus for individual studying

The IT helpdesk can be contacted via e-mail [servicedesk@fh-linz.at](mailto:servicedesk@fh-linz.at) or by phone +43 5 0804 15000

## → Austrian Student Union

The Austrian Student Union (ÖH) is the official representative of all students' interests in Austria. Similar to other chambers in Austria membership is compulsory. Thus every student, registered at an Austrian University has to pay the Student's Union fee per semester (about 25 Euro). The membership entitles you to a variety of services and discounts.

## → Library

All students have access to library books/online books and full archive of papers and articles with student's ID cards. Further information on the use of the library will be provided during the first days in Linz.

## → Student ID card

At the International Office (ground floor, first door on your left), you will get your student ID card, which contains your student number. The ID card also works as a key to the building, which is necessary if you need access to the computers or printer/copiers after regular opening hours.





# Academic information

Although the primary language of instruction at Linz Campus is German, a number of selected courses may be offered in English as part of our commitment to internationalization. Courses in German are available to foreign exchange students with a good command of the German language (B2 proficiency is required).

Exception: The Master's Degree Program in Medical Engineering is fully taught in English. B2 proficiency in English is obligatory for this program.



A catalogue of courses currently taught in English is available online at  
→ [fh-ooe.at/courses](https://fh-ooe.at/courses)

## Attendance policy

Students are expected to attend and participate fully in all lectures, seminars and projects in which they have elected to take part. Attendance lists may be kept at the discretion of the individual faculty members.

To be allowed for exam and pass the course, attendance of each student should be 80% or higher. This means that systematical or unjustified missing of classes may lead to reexamination or fail of the course. Lecturers should be notified individually in case of skipping the course and an additional task or assignment may be offered.

## Examinations

Final examinations usually take place in January/ February and July (i.e. at the end of each semester), but sessions for resits (called 'Sammeltermine') take place throughout the academic year at regular intervals. Students are informed of the date, place and time of examinations, and given details of the examination procedure by the instructor and course administrator. Lectures are generally assessed by final examination.



## Types of Classes

### Block Instruction

In many cases, particularly in subjects which are taught as lectures combined with a lab, instruction does not take place weekly, but is instead delivered in longer units of more intensive instruction, or 'blocks' (e.g. one block every two weeks or even one block per semester). Blocked laboratory sessions are often followed by blocked lectures.

### Seminars and Workshops

A seminar or a workshop is a small group discussion or interactive class focused on a specific topic or area of study. It encourages active participation and in-depth exploration of ideas through discussions, presentations, and collaborative learning.

### Excursions

Some courses occasionally include excursions, and attendance is generally obligatory. Usually students arrange transportation themselves.

### Project Work

All of our students are required to participate in research projects as part of their curriculum. They work in teams and do research in selected fields. In some programs, they may work in organisations or government offices. These are not theoretical projects, but 'real' work that requires careful planning and organization. Students are guided and supervised by faculty members, but most of the time they work on their own. Not only do students learn project management and research skills, they also learn to work in a team, and teamwork is an essential element of our education. At the end of the project, some of which can run as long as a semester, students present their findings to faculty and representatives from the organisations/offices involved.

### Personalized Schedule

Because we keep groups small, every student has a personalized schedule. There is a meeting at the beginning of each semester for exchange students to help you set up your schedule.

### German Language Courses

Can be arranged on demand.

A number of intermediate exams may also be required, depending on the curriculum. The academic achievement for tutorials, seminars, projects, integrated courses, laboratory work and social skills is usually subject to continuous assessment during the course (course immanent examination).

## Academic calendar

The academic year at the Linz Campus is divided into two semesters:

### Winter Semester

→ Beginning of October to mid-February

### Summer Semester

→ Beginning of March to mid-July

### Examination Period

→ End of January to mid-February (winter semester),

→ End of June to mid-July (summer semester)

### Breaks

→ Christmas (2 weeks), February (2 to 4 weeks),

→ Easter (1 week), summer holidays in July/August/September (12 weeks).

## Public holidays

### 1 January

→ New Year's Day – Neujahrstag

### 6 January

→ Epiphany – Hl. Drei Könige

### 1 May

→ Labour Day – Tag der Arbeit

### 26 October

→ Austrian National Holiday – Nationalfeiertag

### 1 November

→ All Saints' Day – Allerheiligen

### 8 December

→ Immaculate Conception – Maria Empfängnis

The following church holidays are also public holidays in Austria:

→ Ascension Day	Christi Himmelfahrt
→ Whitsuntide	Pfingsten
→ Corpus Christi	Fronleichnam
→ Assumption Maria	Himmelfahrt
→ Easter Monday	Ostermontag

# Dos and don'ts

Austria is a German-speaking country but most people, especially in the bigger cities and touristic areas, speak some English. Nevertheless, knowing a few key words of German can help make everyday communication run more smoothly and also shows your respect towards Austrian culture.

<b>Bitte</b>	please
<b>Danke</b>	thank you
<b>Entschuldigung</b>	excuse me/pardon me
<b>Guten Morgen</b>	good morning
<b>Grüß Gott</b>	hello (formal)
<b>Guten Abend</b>	good evening
<b>Auf Wiedersehen</b>	goodbye



When entering shops, especially smaller ones, greet the salesperson. A 'Grüß Gott' is simply expected of well-mannered persons. This even applies to outdoor markets. Austrian shops, especially on the countryside and in non-touristic areas, have quite restricted opening hours. Usually they are open from 7.00/8.00 in the morning to 16.00/17.00 in the evening from Monday to Friday. On Saturdays they often close at 17.00/18.00 and on Sundays do not open at all. This also applies to grocery stores! Smaller shops and services may also close for a couple hours around lunch time, or even for the entire afternoon. However, most petrol stations have small grocery stores included and are open Monday – Sunday.

In Austria academic, professional and honorary titles (e.g. 'Professor', 'Ingenieur' etc.) are widely used when addressing someone, especially in formal conversations and business. In academic environments many Austrians are quite sensitive about this and feel insulted if not addressed by their titles. Although many of the academic staff in Linz prefer to be addressed simply as 'Herr' or 'Frau', this is not the norm. Whenever you are in a company doing project work however, always pay attention to the company culture. When in doubt, it is always better to use the title than to omit it. If it is not common in the company to use titles, you will be told so. Whenever talking to staff of a traditional university, never forget to use their title.

Austrians usually take their shoes off as soon as they enter someone's home. Most of the time the host responds by telling you not to do so; it is however better to take them off nevertheless as the host's request to leave them on might be just politeness. If other guests are present the easiest is to simply follow their lead.



Austrian waiters generally expect tips. This applies not only in restaurants but also in cafés and pubs. It is not customary to leave the tip on the table when leaving but to inform the waiter/waitress when paying what he/she should keep. For example, if the bill comes to 9.20 Euro, you should round it up and tell him/her 'make it 10'. In good restaurants Austrians tip up to 10 % for particularly good service.

When invited to someone's home for a party or a meal it is always wise to bring along a little present. Austrians usually give a bottle of wine, sweets, flowers, etc.

Never take purchases you have made elsewhere into shops selling similar products in Austria. You may be asked to show the contents of your shopping bag or backpack at the checkout and it can lead to difficulties if you have products in your bag that are also sold in the shop concerned. Many large stores provide lockers where you can store your purchases before you enter.

Under Austrian law it is compulsory to separate your rubbish for recycling. Special bins are provided for glass, metal, plastic packaging, organic waste, recyclable paper and remaining non-recyclable waste. Additionally, all packaging materials have to be washed before being thrown away. In order to maintain a harmonious relationship with your neighbors, landlord and even to avoid problems with the authorities, it is important that you comply with this law.



# Survival German for student life

This short glossary of German terms related to life at Linz Campus should help you in your orientation as a student here.

<b>Bibliothek</b>	library
<b>Endnote</b>	final mark/grade
<b>Hauptberuflich Lehrende*r (HBL)</b>	full-time professor
<b>Hörsaal (HS)</b>	lecture hall
<b>IT-/EDV-Raum</b>	IT lab (computer lab)
<b>Jahrgangssprecher*in</b>	class representative
<b>Klausur</b>	written exam
<b>Labor</b>	laboratory
<b>Laborübung</b>	laboratory tutorial
<b>Lehrveranstaltung (LVA)</b>	module / course
<b>Mündliche Prüfung</b>	oral exam
<b>Nebenberuflich Lehrende*r (NBL)</b>	part-time lecturer
<b>Note</b>	mark / grade
<b>Prüfung</b>	exam
<b>Sekretariat</b>	administration office
<b>Seminarraum (SR)</b>	seminar room
<b>Studiengang</b>	degree program
<b>Studiengangsleiter*in</b>	head of studies
<b>Stundenplan</b>	schedule
<b>Studienplan</b>	curriculum
<b>Übung</b>	practical class
<b>Vorlesung (VL/VO)</b>	lecture



**SANDBURG**,  
the first beach bar in Linz  
directly on the banks of the  
Danube, where you can enjoy  
the sunset with delicious  
cocktails, beach food and  
chilling DJ and live music  
© Sandburg Philipp Lipiarski



# Events / free time activities

## Sports & leisure

The FH OÖ Sports Team organizes on a regular basis running and swimming training.



Further information can be found  
on their website:  
→ [sportsteam.fh-ooe.at](https://sportsteam.fh-ooe.at)

All students of FH Upper Austria can also book sports classes at the USI, the university sports institut of the Johannes-Kepler-University. 200 different sport's classes are offered each semester and courses are always very quickly fully booked.



Registration and course information  
can be found at  
→ [jku.at/en/campus/recreation/usi-sport-classes-programs/](https://jku.at/en/campus/recreation/usi-sport-classes-programs/)

In the winter, the mountains offer wonderful slopes for skiing and snowboarding in the Mühlviertel as well as in the south of Upper Austria (Salzkammergut) and in the neighboring provinces of Salzburg and Styria.

Furthermore, the city of Linz offers extensive information regarding different leisure and sport activities.  
→ [linz.at](https://linz.at)

Lots of cultural activities such as concerts, festivals, opera and musicals or exhibitions go on throughout the year:  
→ [linztourismus.at](https://linztourismus.at)

## Reductions for students

Austria is very student-friendly; many businesses grant price reductions to students. When sightseeing or attending events, concerts, balls or even parties, just ask whether a reduction is given, and identify yourself as a student by showing your student ID card.



Throughout the student year the ÖH, the student union organizes different events for students:  
→ [oeh.fh-ooe.at](https://oeh.fh-ooe.at)



### Going with the flow

In Linz, everything, from beach-style bathing, and sports activities to popular festivals like Bubbledays, happens by, in, on, along, or near the Danube River

World-class slopes and great snow make Upper Austria a favorite winter sports destination.  
→ [skisport.com/de/skigebiete](https://skisport.com/de/skigebiete)



Surrounded by stunning alpine scenery, Upper Austria's crystal-clear lakes beckon to dive right in.  
→ [salzkammergut.at/en/](https://salzkammergut.at/en/)

© ÖÖ Tourisms GmbH/Robert Maybach



Enjoy breathtaking vistas hiking through the lush green of magical meadows and dazzling mountains.  
→ [upperaustria.com/en/activities/hiking.html](https://upperaustria.com/en/activities/hiking.html)



It's that festive time again at our campus winter party with Punsch and Glühwein



# Essential information

## Registration with the local authorities

### **‘Anmeldebescheinigung’ – Confirmation of Registration (For Nationals of EU/EEA countries only!)**

If you are staying in Austria for longer than 3 months you have to apply for a confirmation of registration (Anmeldebescheinigung) at the city council („Magistrat/Bürgerservice“) Linz. You have to apply for this confirmation within the first four months of your stay in Austria. This registration is obligatory in addition to the Residence Registration („Meldezettel“) which needs to be done within the first three days of your stay in Linz. In case of non-compliance with this regulation a fine may be imposed. The International Office will assist international students in this registration process.

### **Non-EU Citizens**

Non-EU citizens have to contact the local Austrian Consulate/Embassy in their home country for details regarding current visa regulations for Austria. In order to enter Austria and to live here, you have to apply for visa and/or a residence permit. Please note that the residence permit is NOT a work permit for Austria.

The Letter of Confirmation for the embassy will be sent to you by the International Office. Under Austrian law all changes of address have to be registered with the local authority within three working days; of course this also applies to foreign exchange students, so please go to your nearest „Bürgerservice“ after your arrival in Linz.

The nearest „Meldeamt/Bürgerservice“ can be found at the City Hall, „Neues Rathaus Linz“, Hauptstraße 1-5, 4041 Linz, or in the „Wissensturm“, which is located opposite of the main train station.

→ [linz.at](https://linz.at)

## Living costs in Linz

Rent (inclusive) around 400 Euro

Food around 250 Euro

Personal requirements around 200 Euro

**Total around 850 Euro**

## Currency

Since the beginning of 2002, Austria's currency has been the Euro (€). 1 Euro = 100 cents

## Climate and clothing

Austria gets very cold in the winter with temperatures sometimes dropping below  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$ , so we recommend that you bring warm clothes and shoes with good sturdy soles for the winter term; however, although you may associate Austria with winter sports, we often enjoy warm summers with temperatures sometimes up to and even above  $30^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

## Banking hours

Banking hours in Austria vary, but as a general rule banks open between 8:30 and 16:00 Monday to Friday and often close for one or two hours at lunchtime. Many banks might also be closed on afternoons. You will need to check the exact opening hours of the bank of your choice, as the above is just a general guideline. Student accounts usually are free in Austria, for opening an account you will need your passport, residence registration („Meldezettel“) and a confirmation from our university.

## Credit cards

Lots of businesses in Austria accept major international credit cards such as Visa and Mastercard. The use of credit cards still is not particularly common, but often people use bank cards (ATM/Maestro cards) or the mobile phone to pay without cash.

## Shopping

Linz has a variety of shopping possibilities. If you want to go shopping, you just have to visit „Landstrasse“ which is the long and main shopping street in Linz. You will find many interesting shops there. Also on the Landstrasse, you will find the mall „Passage“, „Atrium“ or „Linzerie“ and on the other side of the bridge „Nibelungenbrücke“ the shopping mall „Lentia City“.

The big shopping malls are situated, as in most countries, in the outskirts, but can be easily reached by tram or bus. Plus City is one of the largest shopping malls in Austria and the biggest in Upper Austria:

Plus City, Pluskaufstrasse 7, 4066 Pasching

→ [pluscity.at](https://pluscity.at)



## Medical services and pharmacies

Austria boasts an excellent network of pharmacies and medical practitioners. Pharmacies operate a rota system for night and Sunday duty. When a pharmacy is closed, a notice is displayed giving details of the nearest pharmacies that are open.

### Pharmacy close to Linz Campus:

Prinz Eugen Apotheke

Prinz-Eugen-Straße 10 b

Phone: +43 (0)732 601500

Open Mon – Fri 8:00 – 18:00, Sat 8:00 – 12:00

## Hospitals

There are numerous hospitals in Linz. The two closest to campus are:

- Med Campus III (Kepler Universitätsklinikum), General Hospital, Krankenhausstraße 9a, Linz
- Unfallkrankenhaus (UKH), Emergency Hospital, Garnisonstraße 7, Linz

Please see the local newspaper/internet listing of the hospital on call after hours („Aufnahme“).

## Health advice hotline 1450

Specially trained staff are available to provide free telephone health advice around the clock on 1450. They will provide you with help to help yourself if you have mild complaints.

## Health Insurance Coverage

Austria has an excellent public health care system. If you are staying in Austria for less than one year, you should find out if there is an agreement between your home country and Austria regarding health insurance. Between EU countries there is reciprocal health insurance system. You need to bring your health card ('e-card') before coming to Linz to ensure that you can be treated in Austria in the event of any illness without having to pay anything yourself.

International students who are non-EU citizens have the possibility to apply for full health insurance coverage in Austria from the Upper Austria Health Insurance Company (OEGK) for a monthly fee. Students can insure themselves for as long as necessary.

To register for insurance with OEGK you need the following:

- Confirmation of enrolment at Linz Campus („Inskriptionsbestätigung“)
- Your Residence Registration („Meldezettel“)
- Proof of health insurance coverage in your home country during the last 12 months

The Upper Austria Health Insurance Company will then issue you an insurance card which covers hospital stays, medical treatment and services, and reduced prescription charges.



## Emergency numbers

**Ambulance** (Rettung) /  
Emergency Doctor (Notarzt)  
→ **Phone: 144**

**Fire Brigade** (Feuerwehr)  
→ **Phone: 122**

**Police** (Polizei)  
→ **Phone: 133**

**Mountain rescue service** (Bergrettung)  
→ **Phone: 140**

**Emergency telephone number** (Euronotruf)  
→ **Phone: 112**

Information on local medical emergency services is available from the on-duty medical service (141) as well as in telephone directories and daily newspapers.

## Important vocabulary

<b>Praktischer Arzt</b>	general medical practitioner
<b>Facharzt</b>	medical specialist
<b>Zahnarzt</b>	dental surgeon
<b>Frauenarzt</b>	gynaecologist
<b>Augenarzt</b>	eye specialist
<b>Urologe</b>	urologist
<b>HNO-Arzt</b>	ear, nose and throat specialist
<b>Ordination</b>	medical practice
<b>Sprechstunden</b>	consulting hours
<b>Termin</b>	appointment
<b>Nach Vereinbarung</b>	by appointment
<b>Schmerzen</b>	pains
<b>Behandlung</b>	treatment
<b>Rezept</b>	prescription
<b>Apotheke</b>	pharmacy

## Non-emergency medical treatment

If you need non-emergency medical treatment and are from an EU country that has a reciprocal health insurance agreement with Austria, you must take your passport and your e-card to the general medical practitioner or the medical specialist whom you like to see. These documents entitle you to receive most medical treatment free of charge from doctors that have a contract with this regional public health insurance organization. Such doctors usually advertise with the words 'alle Kassen' on the wall plates outside their offices and it is to them that you should go for non-emergency medical treatment during consulting hours.

If you are from a country that does not have such a reciprocal health care agreement with Austria, you must take your passport and your health insurance card (e-card) to the general medical practitioner or the medical specialist whom you like to see. After your registration with the Upper Austrian Health Insurance Company (OEGK) it usually takes 2 weeks to receive your e-card.

## Public transport

### City Center of Linz

As a student registered and with a principal residence („Hauptwohnsitz“) in Linz, you may apply for the so called 'Aktivpass', which will enable you to receive discounts e.g. for a monthly ticket for all public transport (tram and bus) in Linz city center. You need to apply for the „Aktivpass“ at the „Bürgerservice“.



**For information on public transportation in Linz, please see:**

→ [linzag.at](https://linzag.at) or download the App „LinzMobil“

### Railways

Two railway companies offer their transport service:

→ [oebb.at](https://oebb.at)

→ [westbahn.at](https://westbahn.at)

### Discount Rail Travel

'ÖBB Vorteils card Jugend' – It is recommended that students intending to travel extensively within Austria purchase an ÖBB Vorteils card Jugend. The Vorteils card Jugend entitles holders to a 50% discount on all tickets for travel on the Austrian Federal Railway Network and is available to anyone under the age of 26 at the reduced price of 19 Euro and is valid for one year. For students over the age of 26 the Vorteils card costs 99 Euro.

'Klimaticket': 821 Euro for a year. It may be useful for students who are coming for two semesters and want to travel around Austria a lot. All public transport in Austria with a single ticket valid for a year.

Special Rates for International train tickets 'Spar Schiene' or 'City Star' Tickets for city travelling to selected cities within Europe, ÖBB offers extra cheap 'Spar Schiene' tickets. Book as early as possible (usually 3 months before you want to travel) because only a limited number of tickets is available for each train. For detailed information please check the ÖBB homepage:

→ [oebb.at/en](https://oebb.at/en)

## Getting to Linz

Linz is located at 130km from Salzburg and 180km from Vienna. The city has direct train connections to Vienna, Salzburg, Hamburg, Berlin, Budapest, etc. There is a bus to the railway station from campus.

By aeroplane, we recommend that you fly to Linz, Salzburg, Vienna or Munich airport and then take a train (from Munich airport by train via Salzburg).

### From Linz airport

Linz airport is situated a few kilometres outside the city. From 8 a.m. until 7 p.m. there is a shuttle bus to the train station in Linz every hour (tickets available on the bus). Please note that on Sundays and public holidays, there is no shuttle bus connection.

### From Salzburg airport

Bus no. 2 to the train station departs from Salzburg airport every 15 minutes. From there, trains to Linz leave every hour; travel time one hour and fifteen minutes. Tickets for the bus can be bought at the newspaper shop inside the airport or from the driver.

### From Vienna airport

There is a direct bus connection between the airport and the 'Westbahnhof' (train station west) or the 'Hauptbahnhof', where trains to Linz leave hourly. The bus stop is in front of the arrivals hall. Tickets are sold on the bus. Travel time from Vienna Westbahnhof to Linz by train is less than two hours.

Additionally the ÖBB is operating long-distance trains directly from Vienna Airport to Linz train station. Tickets need to be bought before entering the train.

From Vienna 'Westbahnhof' there is also another train company operating: Westbahn → [westbahn.at/en/](https://westbahn.at/en/). Check out the ticket prices, Westbahn might be cheaper and the ticket can be bought on the train as well.

On request, our student buddies will pick you up at Linz train station.

Acknowledgment and Disclaimer – Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this booklet, but Linz Campus cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions. To the best of our knowledge the most accurate and recent data at the time of going to press have been used. (Linz, November 2024)



# International students in Linz

If you look, you will find really nice, open people. I'm from Lower Bavaria, and am enjoying listening to the various Austrian dialects. You can do all kinds of sports here, and climbing, dancing, volleyball, etc., don't cost much at all. Plus you meet a lot of interesting people. Evenings are never boring. Both JKU (Johannes Kepler University) and FH organize parties regularly; there is at least one every week. There are free admission nights at Billiardtempel, karaoke, music, dance, theatre, literature, and film. After the movies I usually have hot chocolate with chilli-coconut, honey and cinnamon or peppermint at one of the many pubs nearby. If there's snow, you'll find me out skiing. It's so easy to do outdoor activities if you live in Linz – the Danube, lakes, forests, and mountains are close by. If you're looking for a part-time job or even a flat, go to: [oeh.fh-ooe.at](http://oeh.fh-ooe.at). If you earn less than 1,500 Euro – apply for an Aktivpass at 'Bürgerservice' to save money on streetcar tickets and admissions to many, many places (see [www.linz.at](http://www.linz.at)). I could go on and on and on. But come to Linz and see for yourself – I am still in the process of discovering Linz myself!

Melanie Biber, Bavaria

I have been studying here in Linz for several years. At first I did not know which side of the Earth Linz was on. So I started searching somewhere in Australia, and I found it in Europe, in Austria. As you can see on the pictures, Linz is beautiful. I do not know how I can describe it. The best way to say it is 'Just come and see.' You will find different people from different countries. You will enjoy the weather. You will always want to climb mountains surrounding Linz. The best of all is that you can, with your bike, go everywhere in a short time. Finally, I would like to say that Linz does not sleep (Life goes on 24/7).

Gaspar NY, Rwanda

Hi, I'm Amela Balihodzic. I'm from Bosnia, and was studying social work at FH OÖ (University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria) in the part-time program. Studying in Linz was very interesting. You meet so many nice people that language is never a problem. In addition to lectures, we worked in small cohort groups of about 15 students – we were like one big family. Thanks to careful scheduling, I had time for classes, my job as a nurse, my family, and my hobbies. I can highly recommend studying here!

Amela Balihodzic, Bosnia

My name is Michael Sekulic and I am 22 years old. I was born in Linz and I grew up here. I began to study social work at Linz Campus, which was a decision that I don't regret. Here I am surrounded by lots of nice and helpful people. The education I get is high standard. Linz is a nice place to live, especially for students. It's no problem getting a part-time job here in case you need to finance your studies on your own. For registered students there are benefits in the city of Linz, such as lower fares for public transportation, cheaper admissions, etc. Linz also offers a lot of things to do in your spare time. I'm quite happy to have the opportunity to live and study here.

Michael Sekulic, Linz

The program in social services management is demanding, and you really need a good command of German, but studying in Linz is fun. Also, I know that this practice-oriented education will give me a great advantage in the job market. In Russia, where I am from, there are no programs that combine management and social sciences.

Ekaterina Lingur, Rostow



# Visit us at Linz Campus.



## Aim

→ higher

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