

Webster University in Vienna

Webster's campus in Vienna, Austria has been open since the 1980s and many music students have studied there. When we introduced the music program, we thought that *Wien* (pronounced "veen" by Austrians) was a natural place for study because of its history as a center of European culture. Many important composers lived in Vienna at one time (Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Mahler, Liszt, and of course, the Strauss boys, to name but a few). Professor Prentiss Dunn will explain it all to you in one of his courses on the city and its history. Vienna remains not only one of the most beautiful cities in Europe, but also a center for diplomacy, finance, and the arts.

Your link to Vienna

Dr. Jeffrey Carter, Chair of the Department of Music, is the Vienna Coordinator. He takes the lead in providing accurate and up-to-date information and communicating with Vienna faculty and staff to offer classes that will constitute music degree requirements. In addition, Dr. Carter serves as a troubleshooter for students before, during, and after their time in Vienna.

Reasons to Study in Vienna

Why study in Vienna? Well, first, because you'll be in Vienna—the seat of the Hapsburg Empire that dominated continental Europe for the better part of two hundred years. You can visit the Hofburg, the 2400-room palace located in downtown Vienna. Or take the U-Bahn (subway) out to Schönbrunn—the tiny little summer palace with only 1400 rooms. When he was six, Mozart played for the royal family here.

Take a [Virtual Vienna Tour!](#)

Vienna is a modern center for the fine arts with magnificent museums and galleries, the [Stadtsoper](#) and Volksoper, as well as a terrific public transportation system. Many Viennese find no reason to own a car (and pay \$8.00 a gallon for gas) because you can hop on the U-Bahn, change to a waiting tram, and wind up a block or two from where you wanted to go. Tickets for public transportation can be purchased by the trip, the week, or the month.

Another reason to study in Vienna is for credentials. Whether you are auditioning for an orchestra, applying for graduate school, or interviewing for a job at Boeing, a term or a semester in Europe tells a prospective employer that you can *adapt*, *persevere*, and *succeed* in unfamiliar and occasionally stressful surroundings.

The Donaufeld Dorm

Housing in Vienna is incredibly expensive; furnished short-term rooms for students are almost nonexistent. The Webster University administration, however, leases a block of rooms at the [Donaufeld](#) (Danube) student apartments and pays for them whether they are rented or not. These accommodations are pleasant and similar to a dorm at Webster. But if you now live at home or in a private apartment by yourself, you will have to adjust to living in closer quarters and with a roommate (yes, you can go to Vienna with a friend and room with them). Each room

has a bath and each floor has a full kitchen. Rooms rented by Webster students are furnished with a small refrigerator in response to past requests. There are two TV rooms in the dorm, a “climbing” room, a photocopier, and two music practice rooms. You will also have the assistance of a resident advisor.

Depending on your interest in walking, public transportation (a combination of the U-Bahn, tram, and bus) is necessary to get from the dorm to the Webster campus (about 35 minutes). While this series of connections is not ideal, it is necessary at present. The Vienna administration, however, is constantly evaluating options for low-cost housing in a high-end city.

Planning Your Study in Vienna: *Think Spring II*

Spring II is the preferred semester for music study abroad. If you are now a freshman, we also suggest that you plan to go to Vienna during your sophomore or junior year. You can go abroad any time you wish, of course, but with more students concentrated in a single term, we will be able to offer music courses for degree credit. Our current plan offers MUSC 2040 (Music History II) in the Spring II term in 2009. If you are a sophomore, you could take a regular schedule in the fall semester (including MUSC 2030, Music History I), then also take one or more eight-week elective courses, applied music, or other degree requirements in the first eight weeks in St. Louis. We will also offer Music Theory IV (MUSC 2020) as an eight-week course during Spring I, for example. In Vienna, you would take MUSC 2040, a master class or applied music, German (if you choose), and at least one elective course.

Sprechen Sie Deutsch?

Even if your German is passable, your accent will be recognized and many Viennese will begin speaking English to you. Some Austrians speak English better than we do and they welcome the opportunity to show off. Even though you can get by without much German, we recommend that those who plan to study in Vienna take German courses *beginning with their freshman year*. Not only will you have a better cross-cultural experience with a little German, but you will also acquire skills that you may put to good use in later life. In addition, if you travel to Hungary, the Czech Republic, or even northern Italy, you will find fewer English-speakers and German may become your common language.

Applied Music

The applied fee in Vienna is substantially higher than in St. Louis because the best Viennese performers charge about twice as much as their counterparts in America. Webster/Vienna subsidizes some of this additional cost, but if you want to take applied music (and this is *not* required), be prepared to pay an applied fee that is about \$470 for eight one-hour lessons.

See Dr. Carter for coordination with your instructor and the Vienna campus in selecting a teacher.

Possible Free Airfare to Vienna

If you are accepted for Vienna study and qualify for the **Webster World Traveler Program**, the university may pay your round-trip airfare to Vienna! Contact the Office of Study Abroad or Dr. Carter for more information.

Yes, It's Expensive, But You Can Do It!

Believe it or not, Vienna is the *least* expensive of Webster's four European campuses. But since the dollar has fallen from about even with the euro a decade ago to a rate of \$1.41 per euro, everyone on this side of the Atlantic is feeling the pinch. Here's a breakdown for the approximate basic expenses for eight weeks as of October 2008. Remember that you are *already* paying some of these costs; in some cases, you will just be paying at a higher rate and to a different landlord.

Airfare	FREE! (if you qualify for the Webster World Traveler Program; about \$1100 if you do not)
Residence	€980, or \$1380 for eight weeks
Tuition	Same as the Saint Louis campus
Applied Music Fee	\$470 for eight one-hour lessons
Study Abroad Fee	\$500 (INS paperwork, insurance, ID card, travel materials)
Living Expenses	\$1500 and up depending on your lifestyle. Figure at least \$15 a day for food, transportation, and entertainment.

Eurail Passes

Unlike Amtrak, which may routinely be two hours late, European trains are immaculate and come and go exactly when scheduled. The best deal for train travel may be a [Eurail](#) Pass, which you cannot buy once you arrive in Europe. A three-country youth Eurail pass, letting you travel anywhere for five days in a two-month period, is about \$300. You could travel to Prague (about 4.5 hours away), Budapest (only 3 hours from Vienna), and a day trip somewhere nearby. You can also buy round-trip tickets individually. Sample round-trip rail fares from Vienna:

- to Salzburg (3hours) is \$80;
- \$79 for Prague;
- \$63 for Budapest.

Airfare is also reasonable. From Vienna to Athens, for example, is \$226 round trip; \$159 to Paris (CDG); \$156 to Amsterdam.

Hotels are pricey anywhere in Europe, but if you travel with friends, you can split a room. Few tourist-class hotels in big cities are under \$120 a night, but hostels are widely available. You can get a bed or even a single room in a dorm for \$25 a night or less. The Czech Inn (cute) in Prague, for example, has a lot to offer for under \$20 a night. In hostels, the bathroom is down the hall and there may be a curfew (lockout time).

Food In Vienna and Elsewhere

Sit-down restaurants are expensive (even for sandwiches and schnitzel). There are food stands in central Vienna and the Webster campus has its own café. Many students cook for themselves in the dorm (think big pots of spaghetti, roast chicken, and beef stew) and fast food is available everywhere. Grocery stores are generally smaller and operate on a different system (yes, you bag your own cart), but they have everything you need.

Passport

If you don't have a passport, get an application from a post office, travel agent, or any number of other outlets. You will need a double photo, which is available at places like Kinko's and Office

Depot. Fill out the form and take it to one of the St. Louis post offices that offer passport services (Clayton, Brentwood, and Creve Coeur, for example). The fee is \$97 for six- to eight-week processing; add \$60 for expedited (three-week) delivery. Passports are good for ten years.

For More Information.

For more information, you cannot beat the [Vienna, Austria](#) pages on the **webster.edu** site. This is a great source of information including a handbook on acclimating yourself to Vienna, course offerings, personnel, and much more. Also, use the quick link to the Study Abroad pages and check out **Study Abroad 101**. Use Google, Expedia, or Yahoo to search for fares, hotel prices, and general information. The Vienna campus website is <http://www.webster.ac.at/>.

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