

### The basics



- If you are holding a passport of a member state of the European Union, Lichtenstein, Norway, or Switzerland, you do not need a visa. Please inform us about this ASAP!
- Your turn! Appointment already booked?
- It's important to apply for your visa in your home country before you arrive in Austria.
- Please check if you're allowed to enter the <u>Schengen Area without a visa</u> with your passport. If yes, please check how many visa free days you have (for example, US and Canadian citizens can stay in the Schengen Area without a visa for 90 days).



# Which entry and residence documents do I need?



Are you staying for an academic year?

residence permit - student

apply for a residence permit – student at an Austrian embassy or consulate general Are you staying for a semester and more than your visa free days?

visa D

apply for a visa D at a VFS office or at the Austrian embassy/consulate in your home country Are you staying for a semester and less than your visa free days?

We still advise to get a visa D







# Travelling to Austria without a visa?



- Please register in the European Entry-Exit-System (EES)!
- EES collects
  - Personal data
  - Travel document
  - Facial image and/or fingerprints
- Long waiting times when entering the Schengen area!
- More information





# Where to apply



### VFS offices in the US:

- Chicago
- Houston
- Los Angeles
- Miami
- New York
- San Francisco
- Washington DC

#### VFS offices in Canada:

- Edmonton
- Ottawa
- Vancouver

### All others:

 Austrian embassy or consulate in your home country

### --> Hand in a complete set of the required documents!



# The Paperwork



#### Sort the completed documents in this order:

- Completed and signed form for Visa D
- 1 recent color passport picture, sized 3.5 x 4.5 cm for EU, not older than 6 months
- Valid passport (valid until at least three months after leaving the Schengen territory; issued within the last ten years)
  - ✓ + photocopy of data page of passport (black and white copy)
  - + photocopies of pages that contain entries and stamps (color copies)
- Proof of accommodation in Austria (OEAD contract or tenancy contract)
- Proof of health insurance
- Proof of financial means (e.g. bank statement of past three months displaying name of account holder; scholarship;...)
- Letter of acceptance
- Letter of your home university
- Flight, bus or train reservation

#### → Copies of EVERYTHING







# The Paperwork (Application form)



### Useful advice for filling in the form:

- Bordercrossing: the point where you enter the Schengen Area (if you have a layover in Paris, then put Paris here)
- <u>Schengen Area</u>: EU countries+ Norway, Iceland, Switzerland and Liechtenstein (for a list of countries click on the link)
- Multiple entries



# The Paperwork (Picture)



#### VISA PHOTOGRAPHS CRITERIA



All visa applications must include one recent photograph in colour meeting the compulsory internationally agreed standards.

#### The basic rules are simple:

face must cover 2/3 of photo and looking straight forward - eyes must be on the middle line or in upper half of the photograph - neutral expression please and mouth must be closed - hair must not cover face - background must be light and plain no reflexion on glasses - photograph should be 45 mm high and 35 mm wide

Please have a look at some samples and turn the page for more detailed information.









#### The photograph must

- · be in sharp focus and clear
- · have a strong definition between the face and background
- · be printed professionally

#### The photograph must show

- no shadows
- · you facing forwards, looking towards the camera
- · a neutral expression, with your mouth closed (no obvious grinning, frowning or raised evebrowes)
- · your eyes open and clearly visible (with no sunglasses or heavily tinted glasses, and no hair across your eyes)
- · no reflection or glare on your glasses and the frames should not cover your eyes (you may find it easier to remove your glasses)
- · your full head, without any head covering, unless it is worn for religious beliefs or medical reasons

CHILDREN. Photographs of children must show a clear image that is a true likeness of the child. The eyes should be open and if you need to support a baby's head, it is important, that your hand cannot be seen in the photograph.





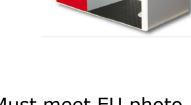












Must meet EU photo standards













SFITE 8 Austrian Embassy W Visa Department

# The Paperwork (Health Insurance)



- Insurance card is NOT sufficient!
- You need an insurance letter containing the following:
  - Your name
  - Countries of validity (Europe or worldwide)
  - Period of validity (must cover the entire visa period)
  - Minimum coverage sum: USD 50,000 or EUR 30,000 or unlimited
  - Must be included:
    - Guarantee to cover possible recovery and repatriation costs
  - Recommended insurance: <u>care concept</u>
  - Can also check other insurance providers: UNIQA, Generali, Wiener Städtische, Allianz, Care Concept AG, DONAU-Versicherung



# The Paperwork (Financial means)



- Bank statement with full transactions for the last 3 months including the name, address
- Scholarships, letter of grants etc.
- Letter of support from parents (sample attached)
- Proof of sufficient financial means (depends on age/accommodation expenses ≈ € 4,500- € 6,000 in total)



• Any questions from your side?





