

VISA APPLICATION INFORMATION FOR WU'S INCOMING EXCHANGE STUDENTS

Before traveling to Austria, please make sure you are familiar with the regulations concerning visas and residence permits.

(A) STAYS FOR UP TO 90 DAYS

Students from third countries who participate in an academic exchange program and are citizens of one of the visa-exempt countries (please download the visa list [here](#)) do not require a visa for stays of up to 90 days. Passport holders from countries that do not participate in the Visa Waiver Program have to submit their application for an entry permit in person at the appropriate Austrian representation in their home country or country of residence.

(B) STAYS FROM 91 DAYS UP TO 180 DAYS

For stays that last from 91 days up to a maximum of 180 days, an Austrian national visa (D visa) is required. A D visa entitles you to spend up to 90 days of the maximum total of 180 days in other Schengen countries. Austrian visa regulations require all visa applicants to submit electronic fingerprints personally at the premises of the Austrian consulate serving their consular district in their country of residence (see option 1 below). Please note that students entering Austria with a national Austrian student visa (D Visa) are not allowed to take up any employment during their stay.

Required Documents (D Visa):

Students applying for visa are required to submit the following documents. Please note that the consulates might require additional documents. For this reason, please contact the Austrian representative authority where you apply for your visa or refer to their website for the list of required documents:

- Fully completed and signed application form for Visa D
https://www.bmeia.gv.at/fileadmin/user_upload/Allgemein/Formulare/Antragsformular_Visum_D_NEU.pdf
- One recent color passport picture, sized 3.5 x 4.5 cm
https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/borders-and-visas/visa-policy/docs/icao_photograph_guidelines_en.pdf
- Valid passport (must be valid for at least three months beyond date of leaving Austria. First passport issuance date must not be longer than 10 years ago) + photocopy of data page of passport + photocopies of pages that contain entries and stamps
- Proof of accommodation in Austria: rental contract, [private accommodation agreement](#), contract with a student residence hall or OeAD-Housing confirmation.

- Proof of health insurance: letter issued by insurance company confirming complete coverage for the entire duration of your stay in Austria, minimum coverage in case of accident must cover health costs of at least USD 50,000 / € 30,000. A copy of your insurance ID is not sufficient. The confirmation of the insurance must clearly show the name of the insured person, countries of validity (Europe!), the period of validity, and minimum coverage sum. Emergency coverage only is also not sufficient.
- Proof of financial means (bank statement with full transactions of last three months including name and address, pay stubs, scholarship, letter of grants, tax returns, proof of pension, other proof of income)
- Letter of acceptance issued by Austrian university.
- Letter of exchange confirmation issued by your home university.
- If available: return flight reservation.

Strongly recommended: Before departure visa application

As a general rule, students have to apply for and obtain their D visa at one of the Austrian representative authorities before they depart for Austria.

Students studying in the US have to submit their visa applications at the authorized [VFS-offices](#) in the US. Students residing in Canada have to submit their visa applications at the authorized [VFS-offices](#) or if possible, at the Austrian representations depending on where they are located.

Students from all other countries must submit their visa application at the Austrian representative authority. A list of Austrian representations can be found [here](#).

Important: Make sure that you submit your visa application to the right place in order to avoid complications. Furthermore, please also note that you cannot apply for a visa at the honorary consulates.

In exceptional cases only: After arrival in Austria (For students holding a US or Canadian passport):

This option is available only for students holding a US or Canadian passport and thus are entitled to enter the Schengen Area on a visa waiver and reside for up to 90 days. These students, as an exception, can also submit their D visa applications at the Austrian Embassy Bratislava (Slovakia) after their arrival in Austria.

If students need to apply for a D visa in Bratislava, please inform us during one of our mandatory online visa sessions to receive further information.

Important: This procedure follows Austrian national regulations. If you intend to apply for a D visa during a visa-free stay, Austria should be your first entry point into the Schengen area.

STAYS FOR LONGER THAN 180 DAYS

If you are staying in Austria for longer than 180 days (e.g. full year exchange), you have to apply for a residence permit for students (*"Aufenthaltsbewilligung Studierender"*) once you arrive in Austria. Any passport holder who is entitled to stay in Austria visa-free (because her/his country of origin participates in the Visa Waiver Program) can submit an application for a residence permit (for stays longer than 180 days) at the appropriate local authority in Austria. However, filing an application for a residence permit does not entitle the applicant to extend the maximum duration (90 days) of his or her visa-free stay in Austria and the Schengen area.

Applicants must show proof of health insurance covering all risks in Austria when collecting the residence permit (travel health insurance will not be sufficient!). We strongly advise students to purchase a student insurance with **one** of the following health insurance carriers:

- Austrian national health insurance carrier (österreichische Gesundheitskasse): this insurance has to be bought in person directly at their headquarter office (approx. € 69 per month).
- Feelsafe: This insurance can be bought online and all information is also available in English (approx. € 80 per month); <https://www.feelsafe.at/>
- Care Concept: The insurance „Care Austria“ and „Care Austria 364“ in the version „Education“ are accepted by MA 35 (approx. 51 per month); https://www.care-concept.de/oesterreichversicherung_eng.php?navilang=eng

For further information incl. the required documents to apply for a residence permit, please click [here](#).