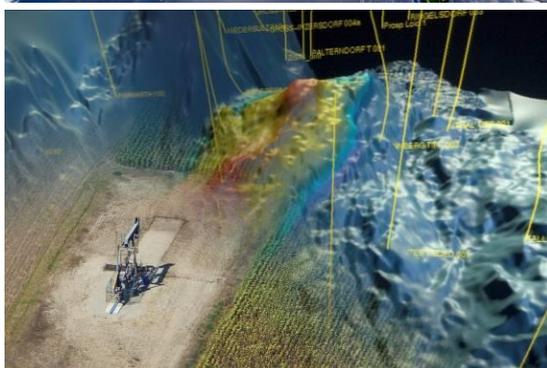




Researcher's Guide to AUSTRIA

Welcome to Austria!
Willkommen in Österreich!



If you are a researcher **planning your next stay in Austria**, look here for career opportunities and find relevant information and assistance

www.euraxess.at

There are very important things one has to think about when coming to a foreign country. This Researcher's Guide to Austria wants to support you and your family to get a good start in Austria. It provides information about Austria in general but will also give you a general idea of the legal basis of entry and residence regulations, taxation and social security.

This guide provides information especially for scientific (academic) teachers or researchers and their families. It is available for download (.pdf) on the website of [EURAXESS Austria](http://www.euraxess.at).

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1 About Austria

Austria, officially the Republic of Austria, is located in the heart of Europe and can boast a long history of scientific research as well as a highly diverse research landscape with internationally renowned research institutions – this all in addition to a rich cultural past and present and an exceptionally high quality of life. This wealthy, stable and prosperous nation of about 8.7 million people joined the European Union in 1995 and is part of the Euro zone and the Schengen area.

The country also plays an active part in the European Research Area. Investments in research and development have been increased in recent years in order to further strengthen Austria's position as a knowledge society and to foster innovation and work towards the goal of becoming one of Europe's most innovative countries.

To achieve this goal Austria also strives to provide favourable conditions and adequate support for researchers. With its active research landscape, a dynamic and innovative economy and a high quality of life Austria is an attractive destination for international researchers and their families.

Further information

Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs: www.bmeia.gv.at/en

Austrian Economic Chambers: www.wko.at

Austrian National Tourist Office: www.austria.info/uk

Relevant information on the topics of Science, Research and Innovation in Austria:
www.innovationaustria.at/home-en.html



2 The Research & Development Landscape of Austria

In recent years Austria has invested substantially in research and development, reaching the second-highest research intensity in the EU.

Even though further measures are required to reach Austria's goal of becoming one of Europe's most innovative countries efforts undertaken in recent years such as the reorganisation of non-university research institutes and the implementation of new funding programmes have already made an impact. The numbers of scientific publications and patent registrations have increased and the collaborations between science and business have been expanded. In addition, Austrian research organisations and enterprises have successfully participated in the EU research framework programmes.

New measures to achieve a better environment for research are put in place continuously, such as the increase of the research premium, which can be claimed for expenditures on R&D, to 14 % in the course of the latest tax reform.

Compared with 2016 the total amount of the Austrian Gross Expenditure on R&D (GERD) has risen by 3.8 %. Regarding the latest presumptions, in 2017, 48.2 % of total R&D expenditure were financed by domestic business, 36 % were contributed by the public sector, 15.4 % were financed from abroad and 0.4 % by the private non-profit sector.

According to the latest estimates of Statistics Austria € 11,325 bn have been spent on research and development (R&D) in 2017 in Austria, representing a research intensity of 3.14 %.

2.1 Research Policy (as set out in the ERA Portal Austria)

The RTI (Research, Technology, Innovation) strategy "Realising Potential, Increasing Dynamics, Creating the Future – Becoming an Innovation Leader", which was launched in 2011 for the next decade, aims to see Austria promoted from the group of "innovation followers" to the league of "innovation leaders" regarding the Innovation Union Scoreboard. The RTI strategy defines Austria's strategic and operational goals, sets priorities and includes support measures for the promotion of research, technology and innovation. It addresses measures to strengthen national research structures with a focus on excellence, to foster the innovative capacity of companies, to raise the efficiency of governance, and to link research, technology and innovation to the education system. The strategy should also help to mobilise research, technology and innovation for the grand challenges of society and the economy. The Federal Government proposes to set itself the goal of increasing the country's research ratio to 3.76 % of the GDP by 2020.

The European Research Area (ERA) plays an important part in Research, Technology and Innovation in Austria. In order to position Austria in the group of "Innovation Leaders" in the long run it will be necessary to promote internationalisation efforts in research and to participate even more in European research programmes and to optimise the participation of the country's enterprises and research organisations.

On 29 May 2015 the Council Competitiveness adopted conclusions in connection with the European ERA Roadmap 2015-2020. In these conclusions the Council called upon each Member State to provide for the national implementation of the European ERA Roadmap by means of national action



plans or strategies. With the “[Austrian ERA Roadmap](#)” Austria complies with this request by the research ministers of the European Union and follows the European ERA Roadmap, both with regard to structure and to content.

Regarding Europe and the European Research Area (ERA), the ERA Observatory Austria establishes a new roof for the integrated governance of Austria's role in European RTI policy. It supports evidence-based decision-making and enables Austria to play an active role in Europe. The ERA Observatory consists of an inter-ministerial steering committee, the "ERA Policy Forum Austria", as well as an expert advisory body, the "ERA Council Forum Austria". If you are further interested in EU-related research policy and its implementation in Austria and in Europe please refer to the [ERA Portal Austria](#).

2.2 Structure of the Austrian Research System (according to the Research and Innovation Observatory (RIO) / Horizon 2020 Policy Support Facility, Austria – Country analysis)

2.2.1 Policy level

Three ministries are responsible for research and technology at the policy level in Austria: the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF), the Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology (BMVIT) and the Federal Ministry for Digital, Business and Enterprise (BMDW). The Ministry of Finance (BMF) allocates the financial resources.

There are three advisory bodies at the policy level, the Austrian Council for Research and Technology Development (www.rat-fte.at), the Austrian Science Board (www.wissenschaftsrat.ac.at) and the ERA Council Forum Austria (<https://era.gv.at/directory/168>). The Austrian Council for Research and Technology Development advises the government in all matters related to research, technology and innovation and regularly monitors progress of the Austrian RTI strategy's implementation. The Austrian Science Board is the main advisory body in all university-related matters to the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF), the parliament and the universities. The ERA Council Forum Austria is a high-level expert body advising the Austrian Minister responsible for Science and Research at the interface of European research policy and the national science, research and innovation system. It provides strategic orientation and advice in the context of “Europe 2020”, “Innovation Union”, “ERA Partnership” as well as Horizon 2020.

2.2.2 Operational level

The Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research (OeAD) is Austria's central organisation for mobility and cooperation programmes in education, science and research in Europe and worldwide. The OeAD has over 50 years of experience and works with thousands of people, connecting them with educational institutions in Europe and all over the world. The OeAD advises, promotes and supports international cooperation in education, science and research. The OeAD provides guidance to internationally orientated activities and coordinates and supports their implementation (www.oead.at).



Three main funding agencies, the FWF (Austrian Science Fund), FFG (Austrian Research Promotion Agency) and the AWS (Austria Wirtschaftsservice GmbH) manage the funding for research, technology development and innovation on behalf of the ministries.

The Austrian Science Fund (FWF) is Austria's central funding organisation for basic research. The purpose of the FWF is to support the ongoing development of Austrian science and basic research at a high international level. In this way the FWF makes a significant contribution to cultural development, to the advancement of our knowledge-based society, and thus to the creation of value and wealth in Austria (www.fwf.ac.at).

The Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) is the national funding institution for applied industrial research in Austria. The FFG offers a comprehensive range of services for Austrian enterprises, research institutions and researchers – from the management of public funding programmes to consulting services in all phases of technology development and innovation, from support for integration into European research programmes and networks to the promotion of Austria's interests at the European and the international level (www.ffg.at).

Austria Wirtschaftsservice GmbH (AWS) is Austria's national promotional bank. AWS offers a broad range of company-specific investment promotion programmes and services, such as financial assistance and consultancy for companies, from the pre-seed phase up to the expansion stage. We offer Austrian companies financial assistance in the form of loans, guarantees, grants and/or equity as well as consultancy services (www.awsg.at).

2.2.3 Research performers

The Austrian research landscape is highly diverse and differentiated. It consists of universities, non-university research establishments and enterprises. Austria has 22 public universities, 13 private universities and 21 universities of applied sciences (Fachhochschulen), while approximately 2,000 enterprises are involved in research, including multinational corporations with headquarters in Austria.

Universities and the business sector are the biggest research performers. Due to several targeted promotion programmes the scope and share of research carried out by non-university research institutes has increased in recent years. The universities have dual responsibility for basic research and scientific training, while the focus of the non-university research institutes is normally directed towards the application of knowledge but in many cases they also make important contributions to basic knowledge.

All scientific topics are represented in the Austrian research landscape, particularly since the public universities, which support a broad variety of disciplines, still account for most of the research done in Austria.

Natural and technical sciences are generally very well established in both public and private research sectors. Many Austrian research institutions, such as the prestigious universities of technology of Vienna and Graz and the University of Innsbruck, are internationally renowned for state-of-the-art research in fields such as nanotechnology and quantum optics.

Life Sciences are also well established, evidenced by the approximately ten public universities that focus extensively on biomedical research, foremost universities in Vienna, Graz, Salzburg and



Innsbruck. Additionally, several clusters for biomedical research as well as more than 100 biotech companies, mainly located in Vienna, Tyrol and Styria, exist.

Austria not only has a long history in hard science but also in social sciences and humanities, beginning at the turn of the last century. This is very much reflected in the current landscape by a broad variety of institutions in both the public and private sector actively doing research in this particular field of science.

Further information

Statistics Austria: www.statistik.at/web_en > Research and development (R&D), innovation

Relevant information on the topics of Science, Research and Innovation in Austria:
www.innovationaustria.at/home-en.html

A detailed list of all Austrian research organisations can be found on the website of EURAXESS Austria: www.euraxess.at/austria/research-austria

2.3 Research Funding – Austrian Database for Scholarships and Research Grants

The Austrian Database for Scholarships and Research Grants is the most comprehensive national funding database for all research areas. It stores information about grants for students, graduates and researchers who are incoming (to Austria), outgoing (leaving Austria) or looking for funding within Austria. The database covers research allowances, prizes and other funding opportunities as well.

The information includes application conditions and deadlines as well as duration, allocation and other details of each grant. The database is continuously updated both by the Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research (OeAD-GmbH) and directly by grant-awarding institutions. This guarantees that available information is always up to date.

This bilingual (DE, EN) database has been financed by funds of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) and the EU.

Further information

Austrian Database for Scholarships and Research Grants: www.grants.at

For personal assistance please contact the EURAXESS Service Centre: info@oead.at



3 Higher Education in Austria

In Austria there is a wide variety of institutions of tertiary education. In addition to public universities, the Austrian tertiary sector includes universities of applied sciences (UAS, Fachhochschulen, since 1993), private universities (since 1999) and university colleges of teacher education.

The common language of instruction is German but an increasing number of programmes is offered in English (about 15 % of the degree programmes at public universities in 2016).

General information

Website "Study in Austria": www.studyinaustria.at

Full list of study programmes in Austria:

Website www.studienwahl.at/en (with search for language of instruction)

Brochure "Study Guide" (Download on www.oead.at)

Brochure "Higher Education Institutions": Overview of the study options as well as contact addresses of all Austrian universities, universities of applied sciences, university colleges of teacher education and private universities (Download on www.oead.at).

Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF): www.bmbwf.gv.at

Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation Austria (AQ Austria): www.aq.ac.at/en

3.1 Public Universities and Universities of the Arts

In Austria there are 22 public universities which offer a wide range of study programmes, including specialised universities such as medical universities, universities of technology and other universities with specific orientation, e.g. the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna, the Vienna University of Economics and Business, the University for Continuing Education Krems, etc. In certain studies (e.g. medicine, veterinary medicine, psychology, pharmacy, etc., see: studienwahl.at) there is a limitation in the number of new entrants, therefore applicants have to undergo an entrance procedure.

Academic calendar

The academic year in Austria begins on October 1st and ends on September 30th of the following year. It consists of:

- winter semester (October 1st to January 30th),
- summer semester (March 1st to September 30th) and
- periods during which no lectures are held (Christmas, semester and summer breaks).

Exceptions from this schedule are possible; please inquire at the higher education institution of your choice.



Structure of study programmes

In the last decades the Austrian university system has introduced the European three-tier system of degrees according to the Bologna process. Besides, the old two-tier system still exists in a few subjects (for example medicine).

a) Bachelor's and master's programmes

Most degree programmes distinguish between

1. **Bachelor's** programmes, which conclude with the degree of Bachelor. ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System) credits: 180; in special cases 240
2. **Master's** programmes, which require the successful completion of a bachelor's programme and conclude with the academic degree of Master. ECTS credits: at least 120

b) Traditional diploma degree programmes

On completion, these programmes award a diploma degree: "Magistra/Magister" or "Diplomingenieur/in" (for engineers). The duration of diploma degree programmes is between 4 and 6 years.

c) Doctoral studies (Dr./PhD)

Doctoral studies are based on the successful completion of diploma or master's degree programmes and are conceived to demonstrate the ability of autonomous research. Doctoral programmes conclude with the degree of "Doktor/in" or "PhD". The duration is at least three years without the award of ECTS credits.

Further information

Universities Austria (uniko): www.uniko.ac.at

Full list of study programmes in Austria:

Website www.studienwahl.at/en

Brochure "Study Guide" (Download on www.oead.at)

3.2 Private Universities

The curricula of the 13 Austrian private universities as well as the academic degrees awarded are similar to those awarded by public universities. Private university institutions and their study programmes need an accreditation from the AQ Austria.

Further information

Conference of Austrian Private Universities (OePUK): www.privatuniversitaeten.at (in German only)

Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation Austria (AQ Austria): www.aq.ac.at/en



3.3 Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS; Fachhochschulen, FH)

Universities of applied sciences (UAS) offer professionally-oriented higher education. This is reflected in their curricula, which include mandatory job-oriented practical training or internships in the bachelor's programmes. Applicants have to undergo an entrance procedure because of the limited number of study places per year.

The academic degrees awarded are bachelor's and master's degrees. In the technical fields the degree of "Master of Science" or "Diplomingenieur/in" (equivalent to a "Master of Science") is awarded. Graduates of UAS master's programmes may enrol in doctoral programmes at universities.

Duration:

UAS **bachelor's** programmes: 3 years (180 ECTS credits)

UAS **master's** programmes: 1 - 2 years (60 - 120 ECTS credits)

At present more than 450 UAS degree programmes in areas such as business, engineering and IT, natural sciences, social sciences, media and design, military and security and health sciences are offered by 21 institutions. About 60 degree programmes are offered entirely in English. UAS institutions and their study programmes need an accreditation from the AQ Austria.

Further information

FH guide – Austrian Universities of Applied Sciences at a glance: www.fachhochschulen.ac.at/en

An overview of the programmes can be found on: www.studienwahl.at/en

Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation Austria (AQ Austria): www.aq.ac.at/en

3.4 Certificate University Programmes for Further Education (Universitätslehrgänge)

Certificate university programmes for further education are the main form of continuing education offered within the university sector. An internationally common master's degree (MA, MSc, MBA, etc., depending on the discipline) is awarded when the certificate university programme for further education is comparable to the respective master's degree programme with regard to admission conditions, content and scope of the curriculum. Usually these programmes comprise 90 to 120 ECTS credits. Most programmes are part-time programmes, therefore the duration varies from one up to three or four years.

In all other cases the title of "Akademischer ..." or "Akademische..." ("Academic...") together with an attribute characterising the field of the certificate university programme for further education may be awarded if the programme comprises a minimum of 60 ECTS credits.

Universities of applied sciences and private universities also have the possibility to offer certificate programmes for further education.

An overview of the courses can be found at: www.studienwahl.at/en



3.5 University Colleges of Teacher Education

The 14 Austrian university colleges of teacher education, nine state-run university colleges as well as five private institutions, offer qualifications and continuing further education programmes for pedagogical and especially teaching professions.

Range of studies: Teaching qualifications are established as four-year (eight-semester, workload 240 ECTS credits) bachelor's (**Bachelor of Education, BEd**) and at least one-year (two-semester, at least 60 ECTS credits) master's (**Master of Education, MEd**) degree programmes. Master's degree programmes with teaching qualification for secondary schools may only be offered in the form of a joint study programme with one (or several) universities. At the moment all programmes with teaching qualification for secondary schools (bachelor's as well as master's degree programmes) are joint study programmes with universities.

Public university colleges of teacher education establish the following degree programmes:

- Bachelor's and master's degree for teaching qualification for primary level
- Bachelor's and master's degree for teaching qualification for secondary level (secondary school)
- Bachelor's degree programmes alone as well as bachelor's and master's degree programmes for teaching qualification for secondary level (vocational schools)

Further information

All Austrian University Colleges of Teacher Education: <https://www.ph-online.ac.at> (in German only)

Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF): www.bmbwf.gv.at



4 Entry and residence regulations

Competent authorities are:

- Austrian representative authorities abroad (embassies, consulates general): www.bmeia.gv.at
- Residence authorities (Magistrat, Bezirkshauptmannschaft, Landeshauptmann): www.help.gv.at

4.1 Nationals of EU/EEA countries and Swiss

Nationals of EU/EEA countries and Swiss nationals need no visa for entry to Austria and no residence title for residence in Austria. For entry to Austria only a valid travel document (passport or identity card) is required.

If you are staying in Austria for longer than three months, you have to – in addition to the registration according to the Registration Act (see below 4.3) – register with the competent immigration office within the first four months of your stay. The following documents must be produced:

- Filled in and signed application form
- Valid identification card or passport
- Proof of health insurance covering all the necessary costs (e.g. European Health Insurance Card or employment contract)
- Proof of sufficient financial means (e.g. employment contract)

The immigration office will issue a **confirmation of registration** (Anmeldebescheinigung) (a fee of € 15 is payable, additional fees may occur). Failure to register can lead to a fine of up to € 250 being imposed. The confirmation of registration is valid for an unlimited period of time and a renewal is not necessary. Before leaving Austria you have to cancel your registration.

For family members of EEA nationals, Swiss nationals or Austrians who have the right of residence and demand on this Community Law and who are not EEA nationals or Swiss nationals a residence card can be issued. After five years of permanent and legal residence in the country a permanent residence card can be issued.

Family members are: spouse or a registered partner; minors up to the age of 21 and beyond, as long as support is granted.

4.2 Nationals of other countries ("third countries")

Nationals of other countries (so-called "third countries") need an entry or residence title for entry to Austria and for residence in Austria. Which title is required depends on the duration of stay and the intended purpose.

4.2.1 For stays up to six months

Any stay for a maximum of six months that includes work (= employment, which can also be unpaid) (e.g. unpaid traineeship, work placement, scholarship) requires a **visa** (visa C "Erwerb" or visa D "Erwerb").



A visa C "Erwerb" entitles to entry and residence in all Schengen countries up to three months provided that you fulfil the general entry and residence requirements.

Scientific teachers and researchers from third countries need, provided that they stay for no longer than six months, a residence visa D "Erwerb" (Aufenthaltsvisum D "Erwerb") for entry to and residence in Austria. It can be issued for durations of 91 days to six months. People in possession of a visa D "Erwerb" are also permitted to travel to other Schengen countries for up to 90 days per half year provided they fulfil the general entry requirements.

This visa has to be applied for at the competent Austrian representative authority in your country of residence at least four weeks before leaving for Austria. The visa will be issued by that authority. For researchers with a letter of invitation (Verpflichtungserklärung) a simplified procedure will apply. The visa is free of charge for researchers.

Attention: It is generally not possible to extend a visa! If you, however, wish to extend your stay it may be possible to apply for one of the residence titles mentioned below.

4.2.2 For stays of more than six months

Scientific teachers and researchers from third countries need, for stays in Austria of longer than six months, one of the following residence or settlement permits:

- a) "Residence Permit – **Student**" ("Aufenthaltsbewilligung –Studierender")
- b) "Residence Permit – **Special cases of gainful employment** " ("Aufenthaltsbewilligung – Sonderfälle unselbständiger Erwerbstätigkeit")
- c) "Settlement Permit – **Special cases of gainful employment**" ("Niederlassungsbewilligung – Sonderfälle unselbständiger Erwerbstätigkeit")
- d) "Settlement Permit – **Researcher**" ("Niederlassungsbewilligung – Forscher") – only if you have got a hosting agreement (Aufnahmevereinbarung) from your research institution
- e) "**Red-White-Red Card**" ("Rot-Weiß-Rot-Karte")

All permits are subject to a fee of € 120 (extensions of permits € 100). Individual additional fees may occur.

a) "Residence Permit – Student"

Doctoral Students/PhD candidates who have a confirmation of admission from their prospective university may apply for a residence permit for students in person at the competent Austrian representative authority in their country of residence before travelling to Austria. The application will be forwarded to Austria by the representative authority and processed by the competent residence authority in Austria. Since the decision regarding your application needs to be awaited in your country of residence we recommend to apply at least three months before the intended entry to Austria.

If the residence authority in Austria decides to grant you a residence permit, the representative authority in your country of residence will inform you accordingly and, upon application, will issue a residence visa D for you to enter Austria. You have to apply for this visa within three months of receiving the notification that your residence permit has been granted. You can then collect your



residence permit at the residence authority in Austria within 6 months of receiving the notification; in any case you have to collect it within the validity period of your visa.

Important: People who are allowed to enter Austria without a visa can also apply for a "Residence Permit – Student" during their visa-free stay (90 days) in Austria. An application for a "Residence Permit – Student" does not entitle applicants to overstay their lawful residence time; therefore you should apply immediately after arrival in Austria.

Family members may apply for a "Residence Permit – Family" ("Aufenthaltsbewilligung – Familiengemeinschaft"). Applications for residence titles for family members generally need to be submitted at the competent Austrian representative authority in the country of residence. A proof of family relationship (e.g. marriage certificate) and of living together as a family in the home country has to be provided. Family members are only allowed to work with a work permit, which the Public Employment Service Austria (AMS) may grant after carrying out a labour market check.

b) "Residence Permit – Special cases of gainful employment"

This kind of residence permit is available to persons whose intended activities are not subject to the Act Governing Employment of Foreign Nationals (Ausländerbeschäftigungsgesetz [AuslBG]). These are for example:

- Activities within the framework of educational, further education or research programmes of the European Union (e.g. Erasmus+)
- Exchange teachers and foreign language assistants at educational institutions and universities within the framework of international agreements and exchange programmes
- Foreign students and graduates within the framework of exchange programmes that are based on reciprocity, provided that the exchange is managed by associations in which an Austrian higher education institution is a member or that are managed in cooperation with an Austrian higher education institution

In order to enter Austria you have to apply in person for a residence visa D at the competent Austrian representative authority (embassy, consulate general) in your country of residence. **If you want to start working immediately after entry, you have to apply for a residence visa D for gainful employment ("Visum D – Erwerb").** When applying for the visa you have to submit all documents that are required for the residence permit. If the documents are found to be complete, a residence visa D valid for 6 months will be issued. This visa allows you to enter Austria where you can apply for a "Residence Permit – Special cases of gainful employment" at the competent residence authority.

Important: People who are allowed to enter Austria [without a visa](#) can also apply for the "Residence Permit – Special cases of gainful employment" during their visa-free stay (90 days) in Austria. Please note that during a visa-free stay you are not allowed to work in Austria, working is only possible with a visa for gainful employment. An application for a "Residence Permit – Special cases of gainful employment" does not entitle applicants to overstay their lawful residence time; therefore you should apply immediately after arrival in Austria.

Family members may apply for a "Residence Permit – Family" ("Aufenthaltsbewilligung Familiengemeinschaft"). Applications for residence titles for family members generally need to be submitted at the competent Austrian representative authority in the country of residence. A proof of



family relationship (e.g. marriage certificate) and of living together as a family in the home country has to be provided. Family members are only allowed to work with a work permit, which the Public Employment Service Austria (AMS) may grant after carrying out a labour market check.

c) "Settlement Permit – Special cases of gainful employment"

Persons who are working in research and teaching in Austria in public or private institutions and companies (without hosting agreement) can apply for a "Settlement Permit – Special cases of gainful employment".

In order to enter Austria you have to apply in person for a residence visa D at the competent Austrian representative authority (embassy, consulate general) in your country of residence. **If you want to start working immediately after entry, you have to apply for a residence visa D for gainful employment ("Visum D – Erwerb").** When applying for the visa you have to submit all documents that are required for the settlement permit. If the documents are found to be complete, a residence visa D valid for 6 months will be issued. This visa allows you to enter Austria where you can apply for a "Settlement Permit – Special cases of gainful employment" at the competent residence authority.

Important: People who are allowed to enter Austria [without a visa](#) can also apply for the "Settlement Permit – Special cases of gainful employment" during their visa-free stay (90 days) in Austria. Please note that during a visa-free stay you are not allowed to work in Austria, working is only possible with a visa for gainful employment. An application for a "Settlement Permit – Special cases of gainful employment" does not entitle applicants to overstay their lawful residence time; therefore you should apply immediately after arrival in Austria.

Family members of holders of a "Settlement Permit – Special cases of gainful employment" may apply for a "Red-White-Red Card plus" or a "Settlement Permit" (which is subject to quotas). The "Red-White-Red Card plus" grants its holder free access to the labour market and no further permissions are required for any employed activity as long as the family relationship remains upright. A "Settlement Permit" only allows self-employed work. Applications for a "Red-White-Red Card plus" can be submitted at the competent Austrian residence authority in Austria after having entered Austria with a visa or without requiring a visa. Family members may have to prove their command of German at A1 level when applying and may be required to fulfil the Module 1 of the Integration Agreement within two years.

d) "Settlement Permit – Researcher"

This kind of settlement permit is available to all persons whose activities for an Austrian research institution are not subject to the Act Governing Employment of Foreign Nationals (Ausländerbeschäftigungsgesetz (AuslBG)) and who have concluded a "Hosting agreement" (Aufnahmevereinbarung) with the Austrian research institution.

In order to enter Austria you have to apply in person for a residence visa D at the competent Austrian representative authority (embassy, consulate general) in your country of residence. **If you want to start working immediately after entry, you have to apply for a residence visa D for gainful employment ("Visum D – Erwerb").** When applying for the visa you have to submit all documents that are required for the settlement permit. If the documents are found to be complete, a visa valid



for 6 months will be issued. This visa allows you to enter Austria where you can apply for a "Settlement Permit – Researcher" at the competent residence authority.

Important: People who are allowed to enter Austria **without a visa** can also apply for the "Settlement Permit – Researcher" during their visa-free stay (90 days) in Austria. Please note that during a visa-free stay you are not allowed to work in Austria, working is only possible with a visa for gainful employment. An application for a "Settlement Permit – Researcher" does not entitle applicants to overstay their lawful residence time; therefore you should apply immediately after arrival in Austria.

Family members of holders of a "Settlement Permit – Researcher" may apply for a "Red-White-Red Card plus". The "Red-White-Red Card plus" grants its holder free access to the labour market and no further permissions are required for any employed activity as long as the family relationship remains upright. The application may be submitted at the competent Austrian residence authority in Austria after having entered Austria with a visa or without requiring a visa. Family members may be required to fulfil the Module 1 of the Integration Agreement within two years.

e) "Red-White-Red Card" (Rot-Weiß-Rot-Karte)

If you are highly qualified, meet the requirements of a key worker or graduated from an Austrian higher education institution, if you are planning to settle in Austria and fulfill the criteria for admission in one of the above mentioned categories you may apply for a "Red-White-Red Card".

You have to submit the application for the "Red-White-Red Card" together with a declaration of your prospective employer about the compliance with the regulations concerning employment at the Austrian representative authority of your country of residence. In case you are allowed to enter Austria without a visa you may submit the application at the competent residence authority in Austria.

The issuance of the "Red-White-Red Card" takes place in a one-stop-shop procedure. The Austrian Public Employment Service (Arbeitsmarktservice Österreich – AMS) provides an expertise about the fulfilment of the criteria of the applicant and that the requirements for employment according to the Austrian employment regulations are met.

The authority has to decide upon the application within eight weeks after submission of the application.

Further information & application forms

Federal Government's official website on migration: www.migration.gv.at/en

Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research (OeAD):
www.oead.at/entry

For personal assistance please contact the EURAXESS Service Centre: info@oead.at



Travelling to other countries

All **residence titles** entitle the bearer during their validity period to travel through other Schengen countries and to stay in those countries for up to a maximum of three months, respectively.

The **residence visa (visa D "Erwerb")** entitles the bearer during its validity period to travel through other Schengen countries for up to 90 days. Travelling to non-Schengen countries may require additional visas!

After entry (Registration)

Nationals of all countries, no matter whether they entered Austria with or without a visa, have to register with the registration office at their place of residence in Austria within three days of arrival in Austria.

The registration offices are the municipal authorities. This means that in the university cities the "Magistrat" is the competent authority and in all other places the "Gemeindeamt" is in charge of registration, cancellation of registrations and changes of registrations.

Any change of the residential address has to be reported to the registration office within three working days, change of any other data (e.g. marriage, name change) has to be reported within one month.

The confirmation of registration (**Meldebestätigung**) should be kept safe because it will be needed for certain dealings with the authorities (e.g. for a renewal of your residence title).

Further information

Austrian Government HELP Service:

www.help.gv.at



5 Working in Austria

Whether or not researchers are allowed to take up gainful employment in Austria depends on their nationality, the kind of employment and – for third country nationals – on the type of their residence title. You can find the regulations for working in Austria in the Austrian Act Governing the Employment of Foreign Nationals ([Ausländerbeschäftigungsgesetz – AuslBG](#)).

Nationals of **Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Great Britain, Ireland, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden** or **Switzerland** are allowed to work in Austria without any further permit (e.g. work permit) being required.

Family members with the above-mentioned nationalities are also allowed to work in Austria without any further permit being required.

Nationals of **Croatia** need a work permit if their occupation goes beyond their academic teaching or research activities; the transitional regulations regarding labour market access apply. For Croatian nationals the transitional regulations will expire after 2020.

Nationals of third countries holding a **visa D "Erwerb"** may only take up employment that has been authorised by the employment office or that is not subject to the regulations of the Austrian Act Governing the Employment of Foreign Nationals (e.g. academic teaching and research) and has been declared in the application for the visa.

Academic teachers and researchers from third countries who are in possession of a "Residence Permit – Special cases of gainful employment" ("Aufenthaltsbewilligung – Sonderfälle unselbständiger Erwerbstätigkeit"), "Settlement Permit – Special cases of gainful employment" ("Niederlassungsbewilligung – Sonderfälle unselbständiger Erwerbstätigkeit") or a "Settlement Permit – Researcher" ("Niederlassungsbewilligung – Forscher") may carry out their academic teaching or research activities without any further work permit. These types of employment are not subject to the regulations of the Austrian Act Governing the Employment of Foreign Nationals but they may not take up any additional employment. If you wish to work in Austria beyond your teaching or research activities please inquire about the conditions at the Public Employment Service (Arbeitsmarktservice Österreich – AMS) before taking up an additional job!

Family members of researchers who possess a "Red-White-Red Card plus" (Rot-Weiß-Rot-Karte plus) are allowed to work in Austria without any further permit being required. Their residence titles contain information about their free access to the Austrian labour market.

The "**Red-White-Red Card**" (Rot-Weiß-Rot-Karte) is quota free and is issued for a maximum duration of two years; no further working permit is required.

Family members of holders of a "**Red-White-Red Card**" shall obtain the residence title "Red-White-Red Card Plus" provided they meet the general granting requirements. The "Red-White-Red Card Plus" grants its holder **free access to the labour market**. According to the Act Governing the Employment of Foreign Nationals no further permissions are required **for any employed activity**.



6 Taxation

The Austrian tax system is a pay-as-you-earn system. The most important categories of income that are subject to taxation for researchers/scientists are income from employment and income from independent personal services (self-employment). The difference between these categories is the method of levying – employers are obliged to deduct taxes from the wages and transmit them to the tax office; in case of independent services an income tax declaration has to be filed by the self-employed person. Tax rates are basically the same for both kinds of taxes.

However, as the Austrian tax system considers individual situations (i.e. special expenses, extraordinary burdens), it is possible that you might get back some tax. To get a tax return an application ("Erklärung zur Arbeitnehmer/innenveranlagung") has to be filed with the tax office.

Every person who has her/his regular residence or habitual abode in Austria is subject to unlimited liability to tax with their worldwide income. Unlimited liability is constituted if your stay in Austria exceeds six months. A limited liability to tax applies to those persons who neither have their residence nor their habitual abode in Austria; they are subject to tax only with their income from Austrian sources. There is no joint taxation of married couples or households in Austria.

EU/EEA nationals with no main place of residence in Austria but main source of income in Austria (90 percent of their income originates from Austria or their income abroad does not exceed a total of 11,000 Euros) can opt for unrestricted tax liability in Austria in their Employee Tax Assessment Declaration (Erklärung zur Arbeitnehmer/innenveranlagung). In this case only the income generated in Austria is taxed despite the unrestricted tax liability.

It may occur that foreign nationals also have to pay taxes in their home countries. Austria has concluded **Double Taxation Agreements** ("Doppelbesteuerungsabkommen") with some countries to avoid double taxation.

Tax benefits for highly qualified researchers moving to Austria (Zuzugsbegünstigungsverordnung)

Provided that the required criteria (in particular public benefit) are met highly qualified researchers moving to Austria may be entitled to tax benefits. This concerns

- 1) the possibility of a tax deduction of 30% ("Zuzugsfreibetrag"), limited to five years, on income from scientific work in Austria and abroad, and
- 2) the application of a standardised tax rate on non-Austrian-sourced income to avoid additional tax burdens. The application for obtaining such tax benefits must be filed with the Austrian Ministry of Finance within 6 months from the date of the move to Austria.

More information (in German) at: <https://www.bmf.gv.at/steuern/arbeitnehmer-pensionisten/283857.html>

Further information

Federal Ministry of Finance (BMF): <https://english.bmf.gv.at/taxation/Double-Taxation-Agreements.html>

Austrian Government HELP Service: www.help.gv.at



Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research (OeAD):
www.oead.at/en/to-austria/entry-residence-and-employment/working



7 Social Security in Austria

Principles

Social insurance in Austria is compulsory and mainly financed by contributions. It follows the principle of solidarity which basically means equal benefits for all people insured.

Social security covers health, accident, and pension insurance, usually administered independently by different social insurance carriers. The Main Association of Social Security Institutions is responsible for the macroeconomic interests of the social insurance carriers and acts as their representative to foreign organisations.

Unemployment insurance is part of the compulsory social insurance system in Austria. It is administered by the Austrian Employment Service supervised by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection.

Family benefits such as child benefit, care benefit, maternity benefit, etc. are financed by general taxation and thus a non-contributory state support.

Most relevant social insurance carriers for mobile researchers

There are five social insurance carriers in Austria that might be relevant for mobile researchers:

- Insurance Institution for Public Service Wage and Salary Earners – BVA: www.bva.at (in German only)
- The nine District Health Insurance Funds – GKK: www.sozialversicherung.at
- Social Insurance Institution for Trade and Industry – SVA: www.sva.or.at (in German only)
- Pension Insurance Institution – PVA : www.pensionsversicherung.at (in German only)
- Accident Insurance Institution – AUVA : www.auva.at (in German only)

Overview of social security covered by the different carriers:

Social insurance carrier	Health insurance	Accident insurance	Pension insurance
BVA	X	X	
GKK	X		
SVA	X		X
PVA			X
AUVA		X	

There is no free choice of the social insurance carrier; you are automatically registered with the one that fits your employment conditions. In any case compulsory social security covers health, accident and pension insurance even in case a single insurance carrier only covers one of the aforementioned.



7.1 Health Insurance

If you are employed or self-employed you are covered by health insurance. If you are employed, your employer is responsible for registering you with the social insurance carrier that fits your employment conditions (BVA, GKK). If you are self-employed, "newly" self-employed or receive minimum income you typically have to register with and pay for health insurance yourself (SVA), unless you are already covered by health insurance due to a gainful occupation.

Once you are registered you will receive an e-card with your personal data (name, insurance number, etc.). The back of the card corresponds to the European social security card. The card ensures free of charge medical treatment in the EU countries as well as EEA (European economic area) countries, Switzerland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. Health insurance covers free treatment by doctors who have contracts with your social security carrier (BVA, GKK, SVA) and hospitals. There are also private doctors whose services are not covered by the social insurance system and have to be paid for.

Family members can be co-insured, provided they are resident in Austria. Minors up to 18 years of age are co-insured, minors (children/grandchildren) attending schools or vocational training or university can be co-insured free of charge up to 27 years of age. Spouses with children can be co-insured free of charge, co-insurance of spouses without children entails an additional contribution.

General information: www.sozialversicherung.at

7.2 Accident Insurance

Accident insurance covers benefits payable as a result of workplace accidents, occupational illnesses and the accidental death of an employee. These benefits include for instance accident treatment costs, rehabilitation, reimbursements, surviving dependents' benefits (e.g. widow's/widower's pension).

Details: www.auva.at > English information

7.3 Pension Insurance

In Austria females currently reach retirement age at 60 and men at 65. As of 2024 the retirement age for women will be raised stepwise from 60 to 65 years.

The following applies to EU/EEA (European Economic Area) nationals and Swiss nationals:

You are entitled to pension benefits if you have been employed or self-employed for more than one year and have paid pension insurance contributions. Insurance periods below one year will be added to the pension insurance periods obtained in your home country.

For third country nationals:

There are bilateral agreements with the following countries: Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chile, India, Israel, Canada (and Quebec), Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey, Uruguay and the USA. The individual agreements vary in content but care for the portability of your pension rights.



Coming up: RESAVER – a single European pension arrangement

In order to solve the problem of preserving the supplementary pension benefits of researchers that move between different countries the European Commission supports a consortium of employers in creating a single European pension arrangement (RESAVER). RESAVER aims to enable mobile and non-mobile employees to remain affiliated to the same pension vehicle when moving between different countries and changing jobs.

Details:

www.resaver.eu

Brochure: [RESAVER – Giving you the facts](#) (pdf)

7.4 Unemployment Insurance

Unemployment benefits consist of a basic sum, family supplement and various supplementary benefits. While in receipt of unemployment benefits you and your family members continue to be covered by health insurance.

The following applies to EU/EEA and Swiss nationals:

If you have already paid contributions in any EU/EEA country or Switzerland, this period will be taken into account for the fulfilment of the qualifying period and to determine the duration of the reference period provided that you have been employed in Austria for at least one day and have paid the mandatory unemployment insurance prior to the application for the unemployment benefit. After consultation with the public employment services of your country of origin you may under certain circumstances receive benefits from your country of origin for an approved period while already seeking employment in Austria. It is essential to register with your competent public employment service office **prior** to departure to Austria, stating that you are intending to seek employment in Austria. Under certain circumstances you may also be entitled to receive benefits attributable to insurance periods abroad.

Qualifying period:

At least 52 weeks of contribution paying employment over the past 24 months from the moment of application must be demonstrated (for persons over 25 upon initial claim), or

At least 28 weeks of contribution paying employment over the past year from the moment of application must be demonstrated (applies to additional claims).

For third country nationals:

There are only five countries where bilateral agreements on social security include unemployment benefits: Bosnia & Herzegovina, Israel, Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. Please note that in most cases the agreement only settles addition of insurance periods to determine the qualifying periods.

Details at:

www.hauptverband.at (in German only)



7.5 Social Security and Stipends

If you are not employed or self-employed due to the nature of your stipend, social security issues will have to be dealt with on a case-by-case basis, depending on the type of stipend and respective personal circumstances. In most cases, if there is no employment or the status of self-employee, general self-insurance or the "Studierendenselbstversicherung" (provided certain conditions are met) can be taken out.

In order to apply for co-insurance with your family/partner, an [application form](#) needs to be filled in, which can be downloaded at www.sozialversicherung.at (in German only).

Third-country nationals coming from a country without a cross-national agreement on social security in most cases will have to insure themselves with the Social Insurance Institution for Trade and Industry (SVA).

If you are not insured anywhere, there are different options, from self-insurance via the main social insurance carriers in Austria to contracts with private insurance companies. For personal assistance please contact the EURAXESS Service Centre: research_career_eu@ffg.at

7.6 Means-Tested Minimum Benefits

The means-tested minimum benefits (Bedarfsorientierte Mindestsicherung, BMS) are foreseen for people having no reasonable funds to pay for their living or of their family members. Means-tested benefits are intended to support individuals who can no longer pay for their living on their own. An amount stipulated every year corresponds to costs for covering the required costs of food, clothing, body care, heating and electricity, furnishings and other personal needs such as appropriate social and cultural involvement as well as housing needs. Means-tested minimum benefits are only available when no other sufficient financial means (such as income, social security benefits, alimonies, etc.) or assets are available.

EU and EEA nationals, respectively, are only unrestrictedly entitled to means-tested minimum benefits if they are in Austria as employees or have lived here for more than five years. Nationals of third countries are only eligible to receive means-tested minimum benefits if they have been legally residing in Austria for more than five years. The amount of means-tested minimum benefits will be individually regulated by each federal province.

Further information

Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research (OeAD):
www.oead.at/en/to-austria/entry-residence-and-employment/working

Publication "[Living and working in Austria](#)" (AMS/EURES)



8 Intellectual Property Rights

Inventions, company brands and industrial designs can be protected by Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), such as patents, utility models, trademarks and registered designs. The [Austrian Patent Office](#) is the national Centre of Excellence which provides protection for inventions required for the legitimate safeguarding of the interests of scientists in case they plan to commercialise research results.

Copyrights – the protection of creative and technical expression (e.g. books, plays, music or software, building designs and instruction manuals) – need no special registration; they are generated by the creation of the opus itself. The copyright belongs solely to the creator and generally lasts for 70 years after the death of the creator.

8.1 Protection of inventions/company labels/designs in Austria

- *Patent or Utility Model*

There are two possibilities to protect technical inventions: a patent or a utility model. They both give the right for a limited period of time to exclude others from possessing, importing, producing, using or selling the invention without permission. The right can be sold or transferred by licence. Patents and utility models are territorial rights and therefore limited to the countries for which the protection is granted and limited to a maximum of 20 years for patents and six to ten years for utility models. A technical invention is patentable if it is novel, contains an inventive step and if it is capable of industrial application. In contrast to a patent a utility model involves testing for novelty as well but none for the inventive process or commercial applicability. The protection through utility models is normally granted more quickly than a patent but it also confers weaker protection and is only applicable in certain countries.

Topographies – three-dimensional structures of micro-electronic semiconductor products – can also be protected and the right will be entered in the semiconductor register.

- *Trademark*

A company label can be protected by a trademark – an independent property right which allows distinguishing goods and services of different companies from one another. Trademarks can be protected for ten years but this period may be extended indefinitely by paying the fee every ten years.

Community Trade Marks and designs can be registered with the OHIM, the [Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market](#), the official trademarks and designs registration office of the European Union. The Community Trade Mark (CTM) and the Registered Community Design (RCD) are prerequisites for commercialisation in the European Single Market.

For an EU-wide search for trademarks you can refer to [this database](#); to search for patents worldwide the [Espacenet database](#) is a useful tool. A global brand database can be found [here](#).



- *Industrial Design*

By registration of an industrial design, the appearance of a commercial product is protected (e.g. the shape of a mineral water bottle). The protection is valid for five years and can be extended four times up to a maximum of 25 years.

serv.ip ("Service of Industrial property") at the Austrian Patent Office (www.patentamt.at) is a service centre which employs specialists in commercial legal protection.

For information regarding universities and inventions please see the website of the [Regional Knowledge Transfer Centers \(Wissenstransferzentren\) of Austrian universities](#).

8.2 IPR issues at application stage

Different organisations have different ways of dealing with IPR issues. As there might be sensitive information that has to be given to the partners before submitting a proposal which should be protected or if the partners want to make sure that all partners are in line with the conditions and really join the project if it is approved there should be a contract or an agreement signed beforehand. This could be a Letter of Intent, a Confidentiality Agreement or a Memorandum of Understanding. Model Agreements might be available at your organisation/university. Links to such models can also be found at the [IPR helpdesk](#).

Standard sample contracts for technology transfer have been made available free of charge online to enable Austrian universities and their contractual partners to avail themselves of comprehensive contract expertise complete with commentaries. The contracts can be found at www.ipag.at.

Useful Links

Austrian Patent Office: www.patentamt.at/en

European Patent Office: www.epo.org

Espacenet (world-wide patent search): www.epo.org/searching/free/espacenet.html

IPAG – Intellectual Property Agreement Guide: www.ipag.at

IPR Helpdesk: www.iprhelphdesk.eu

Regional Knowledge Transfer Centers (Wissenstransferzentren): www.wtz.ac.at

Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market: <http://oami.europa.eu>

Service of Industrial Property (serv.ip): www.patentamt.at/en (in German only)

World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO): www.wipo.int



9 Education

9.1 The Austrian Education System

Compulsory education for all children permanently living in Austria starts at the age of six and lasts for nine years. Austria has a free public school system. The school year starts in early September and ends in early July.

Education in Austria is divided into primary education from the age of six to the age of ten years and secondary education. Lower secondary education encompasses the first four years after primary education. At the secondary level II students will attend the upper level of academic secondary schools or the medium or upper level secondary technical and vocational schools. Once students have completed nine years of compulsory education they can also take up an apprenticeship within the dual system of practical training combined with part-time vocational schooling or attend a programme of training leading to a healthcare profession.

Upon completion of the secondary level II the Austrian education system offers additional educational opportunities, ranging from short-cycle tertiary education in the field of vocational education and training (VET) to degree-level programmes at universities, universities of applied sciences and university colleges of teacher education.

Source and further information

The Austrian Education System: www.bildungssystem.at/en

The simplified diagram of the Austrian education system, produced by Euroguidance Austria, is available as a poster and a leaflet in more than 20 languages (Albanian, Arabic, Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian, Bulgarian, Chinese, Czech, Dari, English, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Kurdish, Polish, Romanian, Romani, Russian, Slovak, Slovene, Spanish, Turkish and Urdu) and can be ordered or downloaded from the website www.edusystem.at.

Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF):

Education in Austria: www.bmb.gv.at/enfr/school/schools.html

Brochures available at <http://pubshop.bmbf.gv.at>



10 Recognition of Qualifications

ENIC NARIC Austria (National Academic Recognition Information Centre) is the official contact point for all kinds of questions concerning transnational recognition in the field of higher education.

What is academic recognition?

Academic recognition takes place when studies completed or examinations passed in one country are credited towards studies in another country. This recognition can take place in different stages of study. The field of academic recognition is therefore split into three main areas:

- entry into studies: admission
- progress of studies: recognition of examinations
- completion of studies: recognition of diplomas (including nostrification)

Certain rights are linked to the recognition of diplomas, e. g. the right to use an academic degree and to be admitted to further studies or to certain professions and activities.

What is professional recognition?

Professional recognition means that employees who are entitled to exercise a given profession on the basis of the education in their country of origin may be admitted to the relevant profession in another country. The professional recognition of diplomas is of special importance within the European Economic Area (EEA) and is regulated by the EU directive on professional recognition.

In this area the NARIC acts as an important point of intersection between higher education and professional activity.

Further information

NARIC Austria: www.naric.at

Recognition, application and information system (AAIS – Anerkennungs-, Antrags- und Informations-system): www.aais.at



11 Learning German

The [language portal "Mein Sprachportal"](#) offers learning programmes in nine languages: German, English, French, Turkish, Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian, Hungarian, Romanian, Polish and Arabic. An overview of German courses and certificated German language institutes in Austria and abroad can be found as well.

The main language of instruction at Austrian universities and universities of applied sciences is German, only a few programmes are taught in English. www.studienwahl.at/en offers an overview of all study programmes.

In order to be admitted to a degree programme students have to prove sufficient knowledge of German. At some universities students need proficiency in German corresponding to level B2, at others corresponding to level C1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. There are different diplomas that are accepted, e.g. the *Österreichisches Sprachdiplom Deutsch*, Austria's officially recognised examination system for German as a foreign language with licensed examination centres all over the world.

Courses in your own country

The [Österreich Institut](#) conducts German language courses outside Austria (Rome, Ljubljana, Warsaw, Krakow, Bratislava, Budapest and Brno). It promotes and supports education in German as a foreign language and collaborates with interested partner institutions in the field of German as a foreign language and other languages.

The [Österreichische Sprachdiplom Deutsch](#) (ÖSD, Austrian Language Diploma German) is a state-recognised four-level examination system for German as a foreign language. It has been designed for people wishing to learn German in Austria and abroad. This diploma is of international importance as a proof of proficiency in German and is recognised as a qualification by universities, educational institutions and employers in many countries.

The ÖSD is conceived as a central examination that is not dependent on a certain course and that is oriented towards communicative skills. It is not so much linguistic knowledge but rather proficiency in speaking with a view to future situations in which the language will be used that is examined.

Courses in Austria

Austria has many language schools teaching German. Selected language schools offering "German as a Foreign Language" are united in [Campus Austria](#), an association of Austrian language schools.

The [University Preparation Programmes](#) offer intensive German language courses for foreign applicants for a place at university to prepare them for supplementary examinations prescribed by the universities. *Attention:* Only students who have been admitted by an Austrian tertiary education institution can attend these courses.



12 Accommodation – Housing

General information concerning housing, regarding ownership, rentals, grants and financing can be found online at the Austrian Government HELP Service. Furthermore, the OeAD Housing Office provides accommodation in flats and student halls of residence for recipients of OeAD grants, for Erasmus+ students, visiting lecturers, foreign researchers and guests in the city of Vienna and in the federal provinces.

General information on housing in Austria can be found in the publication "[Living and working in Austria](#)" of the Public Employment Service Austria (Arbeitsmarktservice Österreich – AMS) on pages 11f.

Further information

Austrian Government HELP Service:

www.help.gv.at

OeAD Housing Office: www.housing.oead.at

Publication "[Living and working in Austria](#)" (Arbeitsmarktservice Österreich – AMS/EURES)



13 Childcare

For the coordination of family life and work different childcare facilities are provided mainly by regional bodies (municipalities) or private institutions.

At most Austrian universities childcare facilities are offered for university staff (UniKid Childcare facilities for university staff; www.unikid.at)

Further information on different facilities (e.g. children's groups, day nurseries, daycare homes)

Austrian Government HELP Service:

www.help.gv.at

Childcare facilities: www.kinderbetreuung.at (mainly in German)



14 EURAXESS – Researchers in Motion

EURAXESS – Researchers in Motion www.euraxess.org is a pan-European web portal that provides access to a wide range of information and support services for researchers wishing to pursue research careers in Europe.

EURAXESS encompasses the following areas:

- **Jobs & Funding**
 - Database with job vacancies and funding opportunities for researchers throughout Europe
 - Information on initiatives concerning the rights and duties of researchers and their employers (European Charter & Code)
 - Support regarding career development of researchers

- **Information & Assistance**

Support for researchers and their families regarding their stay in a foreign country

- **Partnering**

Connecting individual researchers and organisations to facilitate collaboration

- **Science4Refugees**

Internships, part-time and full-time jobs, access to the European Research Community and research buddies for refugee researchers and students

- **EURAXESS Worldwide**

A networking tool for European researchers working outside Europe (ASEAN, China, India, Japan, Latin America and Caribbean States, North America)

14.1 EURAXESS Austria

EURAXESS Austria www.euraxess.at represents a national extension of the EURAXESS – Researchers in Motion web portal. EURAXESS Austria provides access to comprehensive and up-to-date information on all matters that are essential for the career development and mobility of researchers and their families.

Information on the following areas is available:

- Research funding
- Research job opportunities
- Legal issues (entry and residency conditions, work permits, social security, tax issues)
- Administrative and cultural issues (housing, language courses, childcare, ...)
- Career development
- Austrian research landscape (wide scope of research institutions and activities across Austria)
- Women in science (promotion of women, strategic information, activities, databases)
- Access to EURAXESS portals of other countries
- Contact details of EURAXESS Service Centres



14.2 EURAXESS Jobs – posts from Austria

Companies, universities and research organisations can post vacancies and search actively for research personnel and the CVs of international researchers. Since 1 October 2009 (the date when an amendment of the 2002 Austrian University Act came into force) universities have to publish research job vacancies internationally or at least throughout the EU. EURAXESS Jobs is mentioned in the legal notes as a possible cost-free tool to post jobs internationally and almost all Austrian universities are taking advantage of this possibility. As of February 2018 478 Austrian organisations are registered in EURAXESS Jobs and the number of job publications has risen from 1050 in 2014 to 1611 in 2017.

14.3 The Network of EURAXESS Service Centres

The mission of EURAXESS Services is to provide comprehensive and up-to-date information and personalised assistance for all researchers and their families seeking advice in issues relating to their relocation across borders. EURAXESS Service Centres provide information and assistance in matters such as entry conditions, visas, work permits, recognition of diplomas, job opportunities, salaries, taxation, pension rights, healthcare, social security, accommodation, childcare, schooling and language courses. There are currently more than 500 Service Centres in 40 European countries.

The **Austrian EURAXESS Services network** consists of

two Bridgehead Organisations, which also act as Service Centres

- Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research (OeAD-GmbH), info@oead.at, www.oead.at

The OeAD is the contact point for detailed questions concerning legal issues, entry, residency and work permits as well as the Austrian Database for Scholarships and Research Grants www.grants.at.

- Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG), research_career_eu@ffg.at, www.ffg.at

The FFG is responsible for detailed information concerning social security rights and taxation.

and EURAXESS Service Centres

These are a number of research support units and international offices at Austrian universities and universities of applied sciences as well as regional consultancy and information offices which provide support for regional and practical requests. Contact persons and addresses can be found at www.euraxess.at/austria/austria-network/network-members.



14.4 Charter & Code – Austrian organisations

Promotion of the "**European Charter for Researchers**" & "**Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers**" and broad implementation of their principles at Austrian universities has been part of the performance agreements with universities since 2010. In Austria 38 institutions including universities, funding organisations, an enterprise, research organisations, universities of applied sciences, a private university, umbrella organisations and the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research have signed the "Charter & Code".

The Medical University of Graz, the Austrian Science Fund (FWF), the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), the University of Salzburg and the University of Applied Sciences Technikum Wien received the HRS4R (Human Resources Strategy for Researchers) acknowledgement from the European Commission and the HR Logo.



HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

Further information:

The European Charter & Code for Researchers: www.euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/charter

The Human Resources Strategy for Researchers: www.euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/hrs4r



15 Contact

OeAD (Österreichische Austauschdienst)-Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung – Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research (OeAD-GmbH)

Ebendorferstraße 7, 1010 Wien, Austria

T +43 1 534 08-252; F +43 1 534 08-999

info@oead.at

Österreichische Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft mbH (FFG)

Sensengasse 1, 1090 Wien, Austria

T +43 5 7755-0; F +43 5 7755-97900

research_career_eu@ffg.at



16 Annex

16.1 Required documents

a) Registration (for everybody) see [chapter 4.3 After entry](#)

To register you need:

- Travel document
- Birth certificate
- Marriage certificate as applicable
- Academic titles as applicable
- Registration form ([Meldezettel](#)), available from the registration office; this has to be signed both by the landlord/landlady and by the tenant.
- Costs: The registration is free of charge.

b) Confirmation of Registration (for EU/EEA nationals)

For this registration the following documents are necessary:

- Filled in and signed application form
- Valid identification card or passport
- Proof of a health insurance covering all necessary costs (e.g. European Health Insurance Card)
- Proof of sufficient financial means

This registration is necessary in addition to the registration according to the registration act (see above)! A fine may be imposed in case of non-compliance with this regulation.

c) Residence visa (Visa D "Erwerb")

To apply you have to provide the following documents:

- Fully completed and signed application form
- An ICAO-fitting colour photo (size 3.5 x 4.5 cm)
- Valid travel document which must be valid at least three months longer than the visa applied for and which must contain at least two empty pages and have been issued within the last ten years.
- Proof of accommodation in Austria: e.g. tenancy contract, accommodation contract of a student hall of residence or OeAD Housing confirmation, Accommodation Agreement
- Proof of a health insurance that is valid in the whole Schengen area for the period of stay, covering all risks (and covering costs of at least EUR 30,000)
- Proof of your activities and of funding for your stay in Austria: e.g. employment contract with the university; invitation letter
- Proof of family/business ties
- Reservation of flight, bus or train ticket



Visas are free of charge for teachers, scholarship holders, lecturers and researchers, or if an application for a residence permit has been submitted.

d) "Residence permit – Student"

You need:

- Completed and signed application form for a "Residence permit – Student" ("Aufenthaltsbewilligung – Studierender")
- 2 ICAO-fitting colour photos (size 3.5 x 4.5 cm)
- Valid passport
- Birth certificate
- Notification of admission from an Austrian university, university of applied sciences or other educational institution (Zulassungsbescheid, Aufnahmebestätigung)

Proof of sufficient financial means to finance your stay [2018]:

- Students up to the age of 24: EUR 502.24/month
- Students aged 24 and older: EUR 909.42/month (for a maximum period of 12 months in advance)
- If the accommodation costs exceed EUR 288.87/month, you have to prove additional funds.
- Proof of accommodation: e.g. rental contract, private accommodation agreement or confirmation of reservation from the OeAD Housing Office
- Proof of health insurance that must be valid from the moment of entering Austria to the beginning of your studies in Austria or the beginning of your student self-insurance. If you do not have student self-insurance, you have to prove having a private health insurance covering all risks. You have to show the application for the student self-insurance with the Austrian national health insurance provider (Gebietskrankenkasse) or the private health insurance policy to the Austrian residence authority upon request.
- Police clearance certificate (where available)

e) "Residence permit – Special cases of gainful employment" ("Aufenthaltsbewilligung – Sonderfälle unselbständiger Erwerbstätigkeit")

To apply you have to provide the following documents:

- Fully completed and signed application form (only available in German) for a "Residence permit – Special cases of gainful employment" ("Aufenthaltsbewilligung – Sonderfälle unselbständiger Erwerbstätigkeit")
- 2 ICAO-fitting colour photos (size 3.5 x 4.5 cm)
- Valid passport
- Birth certificate
- Proof of your employment in Austria, e.g. by employment contract with an Austrian university or university of applied sciences (Fachhochschule)
- Proof of accommodation in Austria: e.g. tenancy contract, accommodation contract of a student hall of residence or OeAD Housing confirmation, Accommodation Agreement
- Police record/certificate of good conduct.



Proof of health insurance covering all risks, unless the employment is subject to compulsory health insurance (in this case you have to provide proof of such insurance before entry to Austria in addition to the travel health insurance, e.g. by means of a preliminary insurance contract or an insurance policy)

f) "Settlement permit – Researcher" ("Niederlassungsbewilligung – Forscher")

To apply you have to provide the following documents:

- Fully completed and signed application form (only available in German) for a "Residence permit – researcher" ("Niederlassungsbewilligung – Forscher")
- 2 ICAO-fitting colour photos (size 3.5 x 4.5 cm)
- Valid passport
- Birth certificate
- Employment contract and hosting agreement
- Proof of accommodation in Austria: e.g. tenancy contract, accommodation contract of a student hall of residence or OeAD Housing confirmation, Accommodation Agreement
- Police record/certificate of good conduct.
- Proof of health insurance covering all risks unless the employment is subject to compulsory health insurance (in this case you have to provide proof of such insurance before entry to Austria in addition to the travel health insurance, e.g. by means of a preliminary insurance contract or an insurance policy)

All documents have to be submitted in the original and in photocopy. Foreign documents have to be legalised and documents in languages other than German have to be submitted together with a legalised German translation. An additional work permit or a confirmation of assignment (Entsendebestätigung) is not required.

g) "Red-White-Red Card" (Rot-Weiß-Rot-Karte)

Admission criteria for **highly qualified persons**:

- Special qualifications and abilities:
 - University graduation in a course with four years minimum duration or
 - Last year's gross salary of more than Euro 50,000/year in a senior management position with a company listed on the stock exchange or a company for whose activities or field of trade the competent foreign trade office has issued a positive report
 - Research and innovation activity (patent applications, publications) or
 - Awards (approved prize winner)
- Work experience (per year), language skills (German or English) and age

You will find more information here: www.migration.gv.at/en/types-of-immigration/permanent-immigration/very-highly-qualified-workers



Admission criteria for **key workers**:

- Qualifications:
 - Completed professional education or special knowledge and abilities regarding the intended occupation or
 - Graduation from a university course of studies with a minimum duration of three years
- Minimum income:
 - under 30 years of age: EUR 2,565.00/month [2018]
 - over 30 years of age: EUR 3,078.00/month [2018]
- Professional experience adequate to education, language skills (German or English), age

You will find more information here: www.migration.gv.at/en/types-of-immigration/permanent-immigration/other-key-workers

In both cases the "Red-White-Red Card" will only be issued if the employment is adequate to the applicant's education.



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EURAXESS – Researchers in Motion

www.euraxess.org

EURAXESS Austria

www.euraxess.at

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