



Country guide for new EPIET/EUPHEM fellows

[Österreichische Agentur für Gesundheit und Ernährungssicherheit

(AGES), Vienna]

[AUSTRIA]

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- Lukasz Henszel (EPIET)

Based on previous guidance by

- Adriana Cabal Rosel (EUPHEM), Patrick Keating (EPIET)

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<http://epietalumni.net/activities/countries-guide/>

Please note: This is a living document. If you find any information to be incorrect or out of date, or there is anything you wish to add, please amend the guide (and date it accordingly) and send the new version to your cohort representative for uploading onto the EAN country guides website. Thank you.

Inhalt

EARLY ON AND GETTING STARTED.....	4
1. Registration in Austria	4
Registration, incl. social security number/ID/Person number	4
Residence permit/card (if needed) & Visa (if needed).....	4
2. Finding accommodation.....	5
Areas to live.....	5
Type of housing	6
Terms – when looking for a flat.....	6
Necessary documents to get accommodation – contract	7
Amenities: Internet, Telephone, Television, Gas, Electricity, Water, Heating	7
Furniture and household goods	7
Useful websites	7
3. Reimbursement of expenses.....	8
4. Finances.....	8
Bank account	8
Taxes.....	8
5. Administration.....	9
Contract.....	9
Salary corrections	9
Pension (public/private)	9
6. Insurance	9
Health insurance.....	9
Travel insurance	10
7. Leaving the country	10
Unfortunately I have no list of any suggested removal companies or hints regarding the leaving.	10
AT WORK	10
8. The institute, Österreichische Agentur für Gesundheit und Ernährungssicherheit (AGES).....	10
Getting to & from the City/Institute	10
Your office space	10
Access card	10
Laptop and mobile.....	11
Remote Access	11
Holidays	11

Public Holidays	11
Working Time	11
Lunch	11
LIVING IN AUSTRIA	11
9. Culture (dos and don'ts).....	11
10. Public transport	11
11. Cycling in the city.....	12
12. Language schools.....	12
13. Recreational Activities, sports, worth visiting, meeting people.....	13
14. Supermarkets	14
SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS	15
15. Moving in with a family	15
CONTACT	15
16. Key contacts at your institute.....	15
Secretariat	15
HR	15
17. Contact information of current and previous fellows	15

EARLY ON AND GETTING STARTED

1. Registration in Austria

Registration, incl. social security number/ID/Person number

Firstly - do the residence registration (Meldezettel)

- Whether you take or give up lodgings in Austria you are required to register with the relevant authority or notify that authority of your departure from your current address. However, you normally need to do this within 3 days of moving to your apartment (although, it's generally not a problem if it's a bit late). As an EU citizen, you will only need your passport and the Meldezettel form completed and signed by your landlady/landlord. You have to go to any of the Registration Service Centres in Vienna (it doesn't have to be the centre in the district where your apartment is located). For detailed information, please follow this [link](#).

Getting a social security number

- There are various social security institutions; the competent insurance institution is determined by both the place of residence and occupation. Every person is assigned a social security number and a social security card (e-card) upon registration with the responsible social security institution. Your electronic health insurance card will be sent to you by the respective health insurance institution. In case of EPIET or EUPHEM follow the initiation of this process should be followed by the AGES Personnel Department (Personalmanagement) and eventually an e-card will be sent to you. For detailed information, please follow this [link](#).

Residence permit/card (if needed) & Visa (if needed)

As an EU-citizen, you have the right to live in any EU country if you work there. During the first 3 months of your stay, your host country cannot require you to register your residence. You can do so if you wish. After 3 months, your host country may require you to register your residence with local authorities, to show that you're working there and obtain a document confirming your right to stay.

Source: https://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/residence/residence-rights/index_en.htm

In Austria, EU/EEA citizens do not require any special permit to enter and reside in Austria for up to three months. If citizens from the countries above stay in Austria for more than 3 months, they have get a document called "Certificate of Registration" (Anmeldebescheinigung). This is in addition to the residence registration" (Meldezettel) – see above! If a citizen of EU, EEA or Switzerland lives in Austria for more than 3 months without applying for the "Anmeldebescheinigung" the authorities can charge a penalty fee of 200 Euro. For detailed information, please follow this [link](#).

2. Finding accommodation

Areas to live

Firstly, welcome to Vienna! According to [the Economist ranking from 2018](#), Vienna is the world's most liveable city. You can notice it primarily on the example of public transport, which works perfectly. Vienna is divided up into 23 districts (Figure 1) and one of your first decisions will be to choose the district in which you'll live. I would suggest: choose the place with the short commuting time to AGES (up to 30 minutes).

AGES is based in the 9th district and close to Schottentor Universität underground station. However, the nearest are tram stops (Sensengasse, Spitalgasse or Schwarzspanierstraße) with the tram lines 37, 38, 40, 41 and 42. The University of Vienna is also found in this district and rents are a bit higher compared to other districts. In terms of accessibility to AGES you want to be looking at being near an underground line 2 or 6 (U2 and U6) but living in other parts of Vienna is also a good choice if the commuting time to AGES is not long.

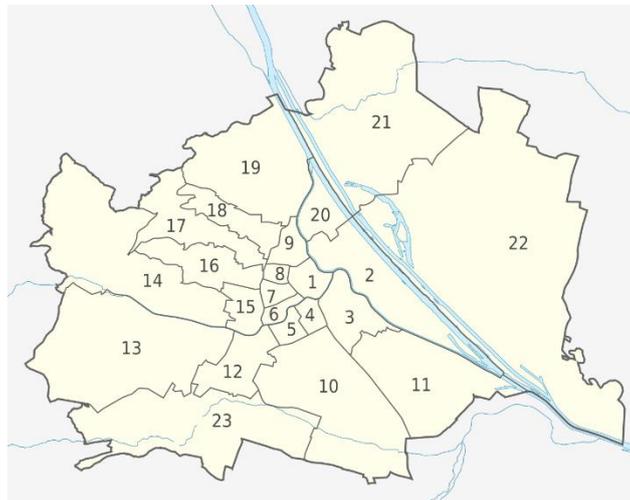


Figure 1. Vienna district locations. The source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Districts_of_Vienna

Here you can find the hints for living in individual districts of Vienna:

- **1st**: expensive, mostly for tourists
- **2nd**: a lot of green areas, well connected but relatively expensive
- **3rd**: pretty affordable but quite far from AGES
- **4th**: even Viennese has nothing to say about that
- **5th**: not highly recommended (still don't know why)
- **6th**: the district with Mariahilfer Str., so pretty crowded, a lot of tourists, good for shopping, but quite noisy for living
- **7th**: very nice, vibrant but pretty expensive
- **8th**: close but expensive
- **9th**: very nice, quite expensive, the University and AGES are here
- **10th**: it's cheaper, however it is not very representative for Vienna, also quite far from AGES
- **11th**: far away from AGES
- **12th**: not the nicest, but still worth to live but quite far away from AGES
- **13th**: a lot of green areas but really far away from AGES
- **14th**: nice green areas (Schönbrunn is here) but quite far from AGES

- **16th**: really cheap, best cheap market in the city, not for fans of posh places
- **17th**: pretty fine, pretty affordable, not for fans of vibrant areas
- **18th**: very nice, very close to AGES (perfect tram connection) and U6, pretty affordable in a few areas (however most of the parts are posh, expensive and with very limited access to the stores)
- **19th**: quieter district, a bit cheaper, with perfect public transport to AGES, but quite far from the city attractions
- **20th**: still close to work, with a nice park Augarten, a bit cheaper but some people don't recommend that (not for fans of posh places)
- **21st -23rd**: far away and not recommended.

Type of housing

- You can share a flat. Vienna is a large University city so there are a lot of shared houses across the city. On websites search for an option **WG** = Wohngemeinschaft, which means a room in a shared apartment. The costs depend on the district, but they should not be higher than 550 including electricity, gas and internet.
- You can rent an entire apartment. On websites you search for an option **Wohnung mieten**.

Terms – when looking for a flat

The rent is fairly high in Vienna, especially in the inner districts (2nd – 9th) costing about 800 EUR per month for a studio with or without utilities. However, there are better deals to be found, particularly if you are willing to live outside of the inner districts in a studio paying <600 EUR or a flat with a separate bedroom paying <700 EUR or to share an apartment paying <500 EUR.

Things to look out for when looking for an apartment/flat share:

- **Kaution**= Deposit- unfortunately you have to have prepared for this purpose up to 4000 EUR (usually 2000-3000 EUR), however you can create the saving account book in your bank and have an insight if the landlord spends this money,
- **Ablöse**= Money you need to pay for the furniture the person moving out - this is weird and may only be in Austria, probably best avoided because people usually expect crazy amounts for really cheap things.
- **Provision**= this is the amount of money charged by the real state agencies (2 months + taxes)
- **Altbau/Neubau**= Altbau is the old buildings which are nice looking but have high ceilings and windows and need more heating (careful the 7th district is called Neubau - but this doesn't mean that the building is, just the name of the district)
- **Kalt/Warm**= Cold/Warm, refers to bills for gas electric - whether its included or not

In case you want to rent an entire apartment, you have to bear in mind that this is very difficult to find a flat without any provision. When searching you have to enter the option 'provisionfrei' or 'private'. Once you have found such an apartment, it is very difficult to get in touch with the owner of the apartment.

Also, you have to bear in mind that sometimes the accommodation contract says about the fees to pay by the tenant that in your country are usually on the side of the owner. For example, the tenant could be responsible for such things as the maintenance of the gas thermae once per year or paying

the home insurance. Therefore, before you sign the contract read it carefully or if you do not know German, let someone who knows the language read the contract and explain to you.

Necessary documents to get accommodation – contract

It depends but usually the owners ask about the document as a passport or ID and a pay-slip from the last month or last 3 months (in case of starting work probably other evidence confirming you work and earn).

Amenities: Internet, Telephone, Television, Gas, Electricity, Water, Heating

Telephone: to get an Austrian phone number the main providers are **T-mobile, A1, and 3. Hot** has really low prices and you can buy the sim card at Hofer supermarket. Afterwards just create an account and 10 euro will be deducted from your account every month (4Gb and 1000 minutes in calls EU).

Internet: there are a number of **Internet providers in Austria** including :

- A1
- T-mobile
- Drei
- UPC

Depending on where you live in Vienna, some internet providers will be better than others. UPC offers the fastest fibre internet but can take between 1-5 weeks to install depending on whether your apartment was previously connected or not. Cheaper rates are available if you sign a 12- or 24-month contract. If you do not want such a contract, many of the internet operators provide a pay-as-you go internet connection, however, it is more expensive and can be slower compared to the internet supplied by longer term contracts e.g Drei.

Gas: there are many companies, you can choose your gas supplier every year; the gas bills are pretty high because in Vienna there is mostly gas-fired heating

Electricity: there are many companies, you can choose your gas supplier every year

Water: the costs should be included in your rent

Heating: usually in Vienna the gas heating is applied, if you will find the apartment with central heating – you are lucky.

Furniture and household goods

Most flats are unfurnished, but when they are furnished, usually you have to pay the aforementioned 'Ablöse'.

Useful websites

The websites useful if you are looking for shared apartments as well as private:

<https://www.willhaben.at/iad/immobilien/>

<http://www.jobwohnen.at/>

<http://www.immobilienscout24.at/>

<http://www.immowelt.at/>

The website with many shared apartments and they are mostly added directly by the tenants. There is usually a detailed description of the apartment, the flatmates and the type of flatmate they are looking for:

<https://www.wg-gesucht.de/wg-zimmer-in-Wien.163.0.0.2.html>

If you do not find an accommodation, there is a temporary solution, more expensive:

<http://www.room4rent.at/en.html> (minimum stay 2 months)

<https://linked-living.com/en/locations/vienna/> (minimum stay 6 months)

There are multiple groups on Facebook where you can place ads and view ads for housing. Some popular ones include:

- Wohnung Frei in Wien
- Wohnungen und Zimmer in Wien/Rooms and Appartements in Vienna

3. Reimbursement of expenses

There is a budget you have available for moving your furniture at the beginning and end of your fellowship. In case you move alone, you have 4000€ available in total - for example you can budget 1000€ at the beginning and 3000€ for the end of your fellowship. If you move with family, you have 6000€ available in total. Then you need to submit the invoice for moving your things within 3 months after the start of the fellowship, and then 3 months after the end of your fellowship.

All fellowship module travels are reimbursed by ECDC.

All fellowship travels for modules are reimbursed by ECDC.

You have also a budget for the language course – See below in chapter 12.

4. Finances

Bank account

Current and previous EPIETs have opened accounts with [Erste Bank](#), and it is possible to open a bank account with them online. All you'll need is a scanned photo of your passport and an Austrian mobile number. Account fees with this account are €15/quarter.

[Bank of Austria](#) offers multiple accounts with various fees depending on how you use their services - online (cheaper) or at the branch (more expensive).

Ing DIBA: online banking, 75 euro extra when opening your account if a friend recommends you. No commissions for money redrawal. <https://www.ing-diba.at/>

Taxes

Austrian law states that several taxes have to be paid directly on a monthly payroll basis. Besides social insurance you also have to pay income tax. Income Tax has to be paid by both employees and employers. This is automatically deducted from your monthly salary.

5. Administration

Contract

You sign the AGES contract prepared by the Personnel Department. The contact person from this department is Petra Tüchler-Suppan.

Salary corrections

You can check your salary correction with the ECDC Fellowship Office. As an indication, check the 2016 correction factor here, around page 16:

https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/6939681/7070380/5189298_annual_report.pdf

Pension (public/private)

All AGES employees participate in the employer's company pension scheme in accordance with the respectively valid Company Agreement. Thus means after one year of employment AGES pays a monthly fee (1,53 % of monthly salary) in a pension scheme for every employee. After retirement employees get therefore an extra pension in addition to the state pension.

6. Insurance

Health insurance

Social insurance contributions have to be paid by both employees and employers (exception: accident insurance is only paid by employers). This is automatically deducted from your monthly salary and directly transferred to the insurance company.

NB: In order to **get your health card (e-card)**, which allows you to access medical/dental services, you will need to

- Register your apartment in your district
- Inform someone from the department (your fellowship contact point) that you have done this
 - They will arrange for your e-card to be sent to your new address (takes about a week).

Dentists in Vienna

There are many dentists in Vienna, but a very convenient place is the dentistry school opposite AGES. Once you have your e-card, you will be able to access services there.

NB: The first time you go, you can only go between 8:30am-1pm (emergency area). Once registered, you can book appointments. Final year dental students carry out procedures in the Dental school but their work is under supervision of a senior Dentist.

Travel clinics

When you go on an international mission, you may need to get some vaccinations/malaria prophylaxis. One option is to visit the following address:

Die Tropenordination
Am Heumarkt 3/1/11
1030 Wien

Tel: 01 3070 666
www.dietropenordination.at

Travel insurance

Information about ECDC Travel Insurance

ECDC travel insurance is provided by Cigna International Health Services. All staff and sponsored meeting delegates travelling on behalf of ECDC are covered by this insurance. The insurance takes effect as from the time one leaves their home/office for the meeting/mission and ends upon return to home/office. Times outside this period, including durations with private deviations, are not covered.

Coverage includes, among others, medical expenses as well as costs for repatriation in case of personal accident and/or serious illness, theft, riots etc. For medical expenses, the travel insurance is a complimentary insurance. Any costs or damages that are not covered by the primary insurance (private, national or corporate) will be supplemented by the travel insurance upon a written declaration that such expense had not been covered.

Please note that the ECDC Travel Insurance is only a "top-up" insurance and everyone are expected to have a travel insurance (professional or private) already.

It is recommended to always bring your European Health Insurance Card when travelling in Europe.

Source: ECDC EVA

7. Leaving the country

Unfortunately I have no list of any suggested removal companies or hints regarding the leaving.

AT WORK

8. The institute, Österreichische Agentur für Gesundheit und Ernährungssicherheit (AGES)

Getting to & from the City/Institute

AGES is based in the 9th district and close to Schottentor Universität underground station. However, the nearest are tram stops (Sensengasse, Spitalgasse or Schwarzspanierstraße) with the tram lines 37, 38, 40, 41 and 42.

Your office space

You will be assigned a workstation with a computer in the department: Klinische Molekularbiologie (EUPHEM) or Surveillance und Infektionsepidemiologie (EPIET) in the AGES at Währingerstrasse 25a, 1090 Vienna.

Access card

You will get the AGES access card within a few days as you start working. You will get the information from the employee of the Personnel Department.

Laptop and mobile

The EPIET and EUPHEM fellows do not receive a service phone or a service laptop.

Remote Access

If you do not receive a service phone or a service laptop you have no remote access to your AGES mailbox.

Holidays

There are 25 days per year.

Public Holidays

The information about public holidays in Austria you will find in [here](#).

Working Time

The working time for 1 day is calculated as 7.70 hour.

Lunch

Unfortunately there is no canteen where you can have lunch. There is one at the university campus but EPIET or EUPHEM fellows have no access to that. Most people have lunch around 12:00 meeting together in the kitchen/dining room.

LIVING IN AUSTRIA

9. Culture (dos and don'ts)

Hey, you are in Vienna, you will find thousands of possibilities for example [here](#) or [here](#).

10. Public transport

Vienna

All public transport in the area around Vienna has joined the fare union Verkehrsverbund Ost-Region (VOR). This means that any ticket bearing the VOR symbol can be used on every means of public transport in the area. You can use the same ticket for a journey that involves trips by bus, tram, metro and/or train, and you can change as often as you have to without having to buy a new ticket

Ticket	Cost
Single journey	€2.20
Weekly	€16.20*
8 day ticket	€38.40**
Monthly	€48.20
Yearly	€365***

*The weekly ticket is ONLY valid Monday-Sunday (best not to buy this on a Saturday :)).

** 8 day ticket allows you to choose the 8 days you want to have access to the transport system (cheaper than 8*24 hour tickets)

***A passport photo is required for this ticket and it must be ordered from the Vienna Transport head office.

The following apps are very helpful

- **Qando Wien**-suggests routes and estimated times for specific journeys. **Highly recommended!**
- **VOR AnachB** - **Highly recommended!**
- **U-bahn Wien**-which shows you the map of the U-bahn

Austria

Rail

If you plan on using trains a lot during your time in Austria, then the Vorteils card could be worth the while. It costs €19/year for those under 26 and €99/year for those 26 and over but there are significant reductions for national and international rail journeys as shown [here](#)

Bus

Companies with whom you can travel by bus in Austria and abroad include:

- [West bus](#)
- [Eurolines](#)
- [Flixbus](#)

11. Cycling in the city

You have many options to rent a bike, some information you can find [here](#).

If you already have a bicycle, it is good to know that you have to use [specially designated routes for bicycles](#).

If you buy a bicycle buy also a very strong lock.

12. Language schools

Very important: Your language budget is spread across two periods of the fellowship - you will have 750 euro to spend in **the first 6 months of the fellowship**- any money not spent during this period will be lost. The remaining 750 euro **must be spent before December of your 2nd year** of the fellowship.

The University of Vienna offers multiple German courses (morning/evening). **NB:** You would need to register and attend a placement test for these courses prior to starting. Major advantage of these classes is that **they take place very close to AGES**.

IKI, in front of the Oper, offers good grammar courses, 4 hours per week. It costs 405 euro per trimester including books

There are also more [intensive courses](#) where you can complete a level (e.g A1.1) in one month. For these courses, you would have classes 3 hours per day 5 days a week.

13.Recreational Activities, sports, worth visiting, meeting people

Gyms

There are several gyms in Vienna and prices vary from 20 euro to 120 euro. Normally you have to sign up for 1 year (or even 2 year contract).

- The cheapest ones, offering only workout and fitness machines are: Fittinn, MCfit
- ClubDanube: between 55 and 65 euro per month includes as well group lessons such as spinning, Zumba, step or boxing. There are several locations in Vienna.
- Holmes Place: the fanciest and one of the most expensive but offers as well indoor swimmingpool, spa and sauna. There are 4 locations in Vienna.

Running in Vienna

The best places for running are Prater park and Schonbrun palace.

Leisure

www.internations.org

There are a number of very active groups and it's a great way to meet a lot of international people in Vienna

- Hiking
- City tours
- Food groups
- Volunteering and more
- Escape rooms
- Bouldering

www.facebook.com -there are numerous interesting groups here

- Badminton Wien
- Squash Vienna and other sports
- New in Vienna
- Foreign in Vienna
- Foreign in Vienna 2
- International Friends of Vienna
- Sports buddies Vienna
- Girl Gone International Vienna
- Women of Vienna (Wov)

University sports groups that are open to the public-you'll see a large variety of activities [here](#)

- Martial arts

- Dance
- Sport and more

www.meetup.com-there are many fun meetups in Vienna such as:

- **Internationals in Wien**-large variety of events from meetings in bars, museums, outings, running clubs and more. Events are also quite frequent with several events every week.
- **Language groups**-Table de français, Speaking cultures, and more
- **Vienna boardgamers**
- **Dance and fitness groups** and more

<http://www.stationwien.org/projekte/sprachencaf.html>-more language exchange opportunities, but here there are many different languages being exchanged and drinks and snacks are cheap and delicious

Cultural centres

- [Institut Français](#)
- [Cervantes centre](#)

Both of these centres have language courses, cinemas, exhibitions and various shows.

14. Supermarkets

Most shops are open 9am-6pm and the majority are closed on Sundays. Most supermarkets are open until 8:00 pm.

Useful shops for day-to-day living include:

- Spar
- Billa
- DM
- Hofer (one of the cheapest)
- Lidl (one of the cheapest)
- Merkur
- Penny (the cheapest)

Supermarkets are open late at train stations such as Praterstern (until 10pm everyday), Landstraße and Franzosephsbahnhof and some of these are also open on Sundays.

Pharmacies (Apotheken) rotate within districts for out of hours service (so you can always find at least one pharmacy at night and on Sundays) - these cost extra though.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

15. Moving in with a family

If you move to Austria with family, you have 6000€ available in total for your travel and moving costs.

CONTACT

16. Key contacts at your institute

Secretariat

Maier Sabine, sabine.maier@ages.at; +43 50 555-37100 (only German)

HR

Tüchler-Suppan Petra, petra.tuechler-suppan@ages.at, +43 50 555-25825, +43(664) 88475497

Host site supervisor EPIET

Daniela Schmid - daniela.schmid@ages.at

Host site supervisor EUPHEM

Werner Ruppitsch - werner.ruppitsch@ages.at

17. Contact information of current and previous fellows

Feel free to contact the current fellows. They have lots of additional information that they are happy to share with you.

Name	Cohort	Email	Nationality, moved from→to	Moved with partner/family
Lukasz Henszel	2018	henszel.lukasz@gmail.com	Polish, Poland -> Austria	-
Adriana Cabal Rosel	2017	adacabal@gmail.com	Spanish, Spain -> Austria	-