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**Degree Program at TAU: Bachelor in Accounting & Business Management**

**Host University: WU- Vienna University of Economics and Business**

**Exchange term: 4/9/18-30/1/19**

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### Exchange Experience

**About the country and city-** Vienna is one of the prettiest cities in Europe! The OCED has chosen Vienna as the most livable cities in the world. Vienna is the biggest city in Austria with almost 2 million habitants. The weather is European, which means it's colder than the Israeli winter, but it doesn't rain much. Vienna is located in central Europe, which means it's pretty easy to travel around (Prague - 4 hours ride, Budapest – 3 hours, Berlin – 9 hours). Austria is also one of the best destinations for skiing during the winter.

**About the Host University –** WU is one of the best business schools in Europe with more than 23,500 students, international students from all around the globe and with more than 1,000 exchange students per year!

**Courses and professors-** WU offers about 180 courses which are taught in English and the variety is really big. In order to register for the “more recommended” courses, there is a [website which rates the professors](#). In addition, I recommend asking through the Facebook groups about the different courses/professors, in order to get the full picture, and hear some feedbacks from past students. The courses are taught in small groups of up to 30 students, and the classes are interactive and requires participation in class. There mainly 2 types of courses- [PI](#) and [LV](#).

Most of the exchange students study in PI courses, I did one LV course and I would definitely recommend to take the PI courses in which there're more exchange students and are easier than LV courses (at least for B.A students).

**Accommodation-** The most common accommodation solution is the Oead's guests houses which cost between 345 Euros per month to 700 Euros. Most of the exchange students live in these houses, I lived in Molkoeirestrasse which is 10 mins walk from the campus (cost of 480 Euro), and it's about 10 mins with the metro to the city center. The main advantage of the dormitory is the socializing, as it's really

easy to make friends there, as “everyone” lives there. The disadvantage is that there’re several rules you have to follow, and the apartment isn’t well-equipped. (there’s no oven, you can’t make noise between 10pm to 5am etc.). If you can do it, I would recommend to rent a flat with housemates which can be much cheaper, in a better location which might feel more like “home” and not like a dormitory.

**Visa-** Non-European citizens must have a visa for a period longer than 90 days and less than 180 days = visa D. For more than 180 days you should apply for resident permit. I applied for Visa D, and the process was really quick and simple. All the process is through the Austrian embassy in Ramat-Gan.

**Transportation-** Vienna has one of the best public transport systems in the world, you pay 78 Euros for 5 months, and it includes all the public transport in the city (the only problem is that during the weekdays if you want to go out at night, the public transport doesn’t run, and the night buses aren’t so good.)

**Insurance and Health Services-** There’s an option to buy public insurance which cost 57 Euros per month. I did my insurance with private company, which cost in total 300 USD. There’re no medical clinics as we have in Israel, but there’re several doctors around the city (specifically I would ask for advice from the EBN- the Erasmus Buddy Network- the department in the students union which deals with exchange students).

**Living expenses-** Rent is about 480 Euros as I mentioned above, the public transport is 78 Euros, and groceries shopping is about 100 Euros per month, gym can cost up to 40 Euros per month, cell phone bill 10 Euros, but the main question regarding the cost of living is how much fun you want to do on exchange, if you travel a lot, eat outside a lot and hang out a lot, the total experience can cost up to 8,000 euros.

I was entitled to the Erasmus scholarship which helped me a lot. The total amount was €3760. I receive around 80% at the beginning of the semester (in September) and the rest towards the end of the semester (in late December-January). The scholarship helps a lot, but unfortunately it’s not enough for the entire semester, and it mostly covers the accommodation costs, the groceries costs and the travel costs, so you should be prepared to bring money “from home” (around €3,500).

**Food-** Austria and Vienna especially is known for its schnitzels which are quite good, but in general I think the Austrian cuisine is a bit tasteless, as it mainly lacks spices. The prices of the food are about 20-40% off than in Israel, in the restaurants, and you don’t have to tip the waiters. The weekly groceries shopping is about 25 Euros in the cheapest supermarkets (Lidl, Hofer or pennymate, not Spar and Billa), but it’s really up to you, how much you buy and what you buy.

**Night life-** Vienna is not very known for its night-life, but the clubs are good, and the alcohol is cheap. In addition, the EBN (Erasmus Buddy Network which is part of the students union) organizes parties every Monday and Wednesday.

**Tips** – Make friends since day-1, and enjoy every moment in this amazing experience, because it only happens once.

**General experience-** I really enjoyed this experience and had the best 5 months in my life, and I really couldn't choose a better place for my exchange.

