



# IMBA Dual Degree Report

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Country : Austria

School : Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU)

Department : Department of Strategy and Innovation

Program : Master in Strategy, Innovation and Management Control (SIMC)

Period : 2022.09 to 2023.09

## Introduction:

As one of the second batch of IMBA students embarking on the dual degree journey at WU, I am delighted to share insights and reflections on life in Vienna with my IMBA fellows who are considering this path. This report will be structured into the following sections:

- Residence Permit application and collection
- Accommodation
- Studying at WU
- Life in Vienna
- Conclusion



WU Go Global Day

End of Vienna Journey

## Residence Permit application and collection

To begin with, for staying in Austria more than 6 months , you are required to secure a Resident Permit.

### Application:

Holders of passports from EU visa-exemption countries can apply after entering Austria. However, due to the difficulty in preparing documents, it is recommended to apply at the Austrian embassy or consulate before departure.

In my case, the Austrian Immigration Authority (Municipal Department 35 - Immigration and Citizenship), also known as MA35, notified me of further procedures via email approximately 6 weeks after I submitted my documents to the Austrian representative office in Taiwan

Required documents for applying residence permit in 2022:

- Student residence permit application form
- Valid (and signed) passport and passport copy
- 1 recent passport-sized color photo
- Taiwan ID card
- English Taiwan household registration transcript (must be notarized)
- Birth certificate (must be notarized)
- Police Record Certificate (must be notarized)
- Austrian University Admission Permit
- A copy of your current university/school confirmation letter or student ID
- Schengen medical insurance
- Proof of funds (bank account statement)
- Proof of accommodation in Austria (housing contract)

Below are the details:

Resident Permit Application Form:

<https://www.bmi.gv.at/302/Formulare/>

[20180901/06\\_Aufenthaltsbewilligung\\_Student\\_NEU-Formular.pdf](#)

Instructions on how to complete the form correctly:

<https://www.bmi.gv.at/302/Formulare/>

[Erklaerungen 201908/06 Aufenthaltsbewilligung Student-  
Erklaerung EN 20190823.pdf](#)

#### Costs:

- Schengen Medical Insurance: NTD 3,700 (Cathay Insurance from Sep. 1, 2022 – Nov. 31, 2022)
- Austrian Representative Office Certification: EUR 120

After fulfilling the document supplementation request from MA35, I received an email notification from MA35 confirming the approval of my application. The remaining procedures will be carried out after entering Austria.

Sehr geehrter Herr Chin,

Ihr Antrag wurde bewilligt – die zuständige österreichische Botschaft wurde verständigt und wird sich mit Ihnen zwecks Ausstellung eines VISA D in Verbindung setzen.

Bitte melden sie sich unverzüglich nach Ihrer Einreise per Email bei der Behörde und senden folgende Unterlagen mit:

- Kopie Ihres Visa D samt Einreisestempel bzw. vollständige Kopie Ihres Reisepasses (alle Seiten)
- Studienblatt / Studienbestätigung
- Meldung im Bundesgebiet

Vielen Dank!

Dear Mr. Chin,

your application has been approved – the responsible Austrian Embassy has been informed and will get in touch with you for issuing a Visa D. Please contact the municipal authority immediately after entering Austria via E-Mail including following documents:

- Copy of your Visa D and entry stamp alternatively a complete copy of your passport ( all pages).
- Confirmation of enrolment
- Residence Registration

### Application Approval Notice from MA35

#### Collection:

After arriving in Austria, the office of my accommodation of stay provided me with the Residence Registration application form for signing. I then emailed it to the district office to obtain the Residence Registration (known in German as 'Meldezettel'). Next, I needed

to go to the WU library to register and obtain the Confirmation of Enrollment. Once I had obtained both, I sent them along with the passport page with the entry stamp to MA35.

MA35 sent a letter asking me to come at a specified time with the required documents prepared to pick up the residence permit.

Required documents for collecting residence permit in 2022:

- Appointment confirmation mail
- Valid passport
- Handling fee (depends on expiry date of residence permit)
- Residence Registration
- Current bank account statement (preferably from a local Austrian bank; mine was from Erste Bank of Austria)
- Medical insurance covering all risks in Austria for the entire duration of the applied residence permit (after my entry, I applied for Austrian social insurance, ÖGK)

**Bitte kommen Sie unbedingt pünktlich zum Termin am / Please keep your appointment and come on time**

14.10.2022, 09:00 Uhr / Time

**Ort / Place:** Dresdnerstraße 93, 1200 Wien

**Bitte bringen Sie alle Unterlagen in Original und Kopie zum Termin mit / Please bring following documents in original and in copy with you :**

- Diese Terminbestätigung/ This appointment confirmation
- Reisepass/ Passport
- Ca. EUR 80,- für Gebühren/ An amount of around EUR 80,- for handling fees
- Visum D oder Nachweis über ausreichend visumfreie Tage/ Visa D or enough visa free days if applicable
- Meldung im Bundesgebiet /Registration in the in federal territory
- Aktueller Kontoauszug (**nicht älter als 3 Tage**) mit einem Guthaben von **mind. EUR 16.144,08** für die gesamte beantragte Dauer des Aufenthaltstitels./ Current account statement (not older than 3 days)
- **Aktuelle Bestätigung** (nicht älter als 2 Wochen) eines alle Risiken abdeckenden in Österreich leistungspflichtigen Krankenversicherungsschutzes für die gesamte beantragte Dauer des Aufenthaltstitels. Bitte beachten Sie, dass die Krankenversicherung erst **14 Tage NACH** Abschluss gültig ist./ Current confirmation of a health insurance covering all risks in Austria for the whole period of the applied residence permit. Please note that your insurance will only be accepted 14 days after the conclusion of your contract!  
[Überblick über mögliche Krankenversicherungen: 839 KB PDF](#)/ Potential Insurances (bei Studentinnen und Studenten ist auch eine Selbstversicherung bei der ÖGK möglich) / Students and Pupils may insure themselves at ÖGK as well

## Residence Permit Collection Appointment from MA35

## Accommodation

While WU itself does not provide dormitories, the university's website offers recommended housing options.

<https://www.wu.ac.at/en/programs/incoming-students/exchange-semester/your-semester-at-wu-from-start-to-finish/accommodation/>

Due to the large number of international students, accommodation often falls short of demand. I arranged for two different lodgings for the winter and summer semesters through the OeAD website.

Below are the details of my accommodations:

OeAD website: <https://www.oeadstudenthousing.at/en/oead-student-housing/>

Winter Semester Building Name: [Guesthouse Molkereistrasse](#)

Google Maps: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/2zdLKnJrD3eUKSGr8>

### Costs:

- Studio rent: EUR 560/month
- Washer Fee: EUR 2/use
- Dryer Fee: EUR 1/use
- Water, electricity, heating, Wi-Fi: included in monthly rent

### Pros:

- Excellent location. Supermarket Billa is located on the ground floor. It's an 8-minute walk to WU and a 5-minute walk to the Messe Prater metro station
- Equipped with a free gym
- Rooms are equipped with a kitchen and kitchen utensils.

### Cons:

- No air conditioning in unit

Note: This accommodation is the top choice for most international students at WU, and it typically gets fully booked three months before the semester starts. Moreover, it is directly managed by OeAD. Maintenance requests, move-out procedures, and document requirements can be handled through the OeAD website. Additionally, rent can be paid online using a credit card.

Summer Semester Building Name: [Josef-Baumann-Gasse](#) (Studenten-Apartmenthaus VetMed)

Google Maps: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/QaA2gSVqNadk5TgN7>

#### Costs:

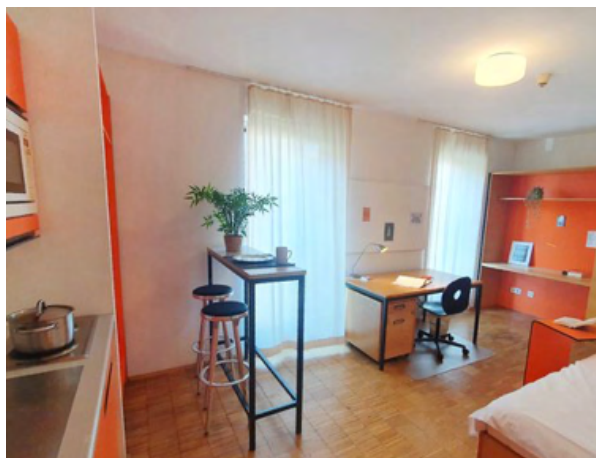
- Studio rent: EUR 430/month
- Washer Fee: EUR 1.2/50 minutes
- Dryer Fee: EUR 1.2/use
- Water, electricity, heating, Wi-Fi: included in monthly rent

#### Pros:

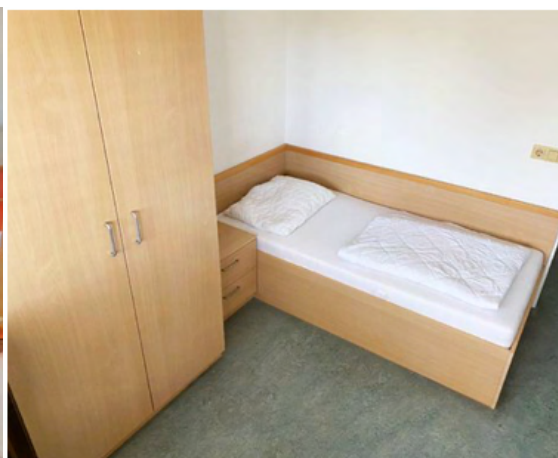
- Grocery shopping is convenient, with Billa, Hofer, Eurospar, and Penny all within a 5-minute walking distance.
- Equipped with a free gym
- Rooms are equipped with a kitchen

#### Cons:

- No air conditioning in unit
- No Wi-Fi signal inside the rooms
- No Kitchen utensils provided
- The location is a bit distant. The commute time is approximately 40 minutes to WU by taking a tram or bus and then transferring to the metro



Studio at Molkereistrasse



Studio at Josef-Baumann-Gasse

Note: This accommodation serves as the student dormitory for the University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna. It is not directly managed by OeAD. Maintenance requests, move-out procedures, and document requirements could only be arranged by the dormitory office during working hours. Rent could only be paid through bank account or in cash directly.

## Studying at WU

At WU, the academic year is divided into the winter and summer semesters. The winter semester starts every October, while the summer semester begins every March.

### Pre-semester:

The university organizes a pre-semester [Orientation and Cultural Program](#) as well as a German course specifically for exchange students and those in the dual degree program. Both of these activities commence in mid-September and run for two weeks. Participation in both is optional.



During the two-week Orientation and Cultural Program, there is a day each week where students can take transportation arranged by the school to visit wine cellar and historical



Visit Wine Cellar

Boat Tour on Lake Neusiedl

sites in the suburbs of Vienna. The rest of the time is spent in the city for guided tours of local attractions. The German course is scheduled for the mornings during the Orientation and Cultural Program. After the semester begins, there are also optional language courses available for a fee.

**Costs:**

- Orientation and Cultural Program: EUR 270
- Pre-semester German Course: EUR 40
- Semester Language Course: EUR 207

**Courses:**

Based on the credits I completed at NCCU, the WU SIMC program coordinator informed me via email about the number of courses I still need to complete at WU. They also directly selected courses based on my response. Below are the courses I've chosen over the two semesters.

1. Thesis Seminar
  - [Thesis Seminar](#)
2. Business Project
  - [Business Project – starting up](#)
3. Personal Skills
  - [Personal Skills – Visual Thinking](#)
  - [Personal Skills - Company Building](#)
4. Electives:
  - [Value Creation and Value Capture in a Digital Age](#)
  - [Machine Learning for Business Analytics](#)
  - [Artificial Intelligence](#)
  - [Pursuing Sustainability: Navigating and Managing Complex Social Systems](#)
  - [Strategic Alliances](#)

#### Thesis Writing:

The curriculum design for the NCCU-WU dual degree program requires students to write a thesis for both institutions. For WU, the thesis must be academic in nature. Students can opt to write a single thesis, but it needs to be adjusted to meet the different formats required by the two universities. Once a thesis is completed at NCCU, a defense is required, whereas at WU, students only need to upload their thesis for professorial feedback, and no defense is needed.

At WU, after completing the thesis seminar, students can approach professors with their research topics from the research institutions affiliated with the [Department of Strategy and Innovation](#). Alternatively, they can search for topics of interest on the websites of these research institutions.

Each research institution has its own specific procedures, and the overall communication process can be time-consuming. I began reaching out to professors a

month before the start of the summer semester. It took roughly two months to formally confirm the topic and supervisory professor, after which I notified the SIMC program coordinator.

During the thesis writing process, I am grateful to my NCCU advisor, Professor Jason Tsai, and my WU advisor, Dr. Jan Fell, for their suggestions regarding format and research methods. Beyond that, I didn't encounter significant issues. Additionally, NCCU can arrange for dual degree students to have an online oral examination. For this, I also appreciate the arrangements made by the IMBA office.

### SIMConnect:

The Student Council is called SIMConnect, and below are its various departments.

- Partners & Alumni
- Get2Gether & Sports
- Communications
- Social Responsibility
- Entrepreneurship Avenue
- NIMS
- FIT



P&G Workshop



Partners & Alumni Info Session

I signed up for the "Partners & Alumni" department, which primarily organizes workshops. The main function of the Partners & Alumni department is to maintain contact with partner companies and alumni. They organize workshops, an annual company trip, the company summer summit, and sport tournaments. Many SIMC alumni hold positions in major management firms and startups. The SIMC program has become a target program for major consulting and FMCG companies. Firms like BCG, Bain, and P&G all offer workshops for SIMC, hoping to recruit fresh talent. Our department also charges fees to companies that conduct workshops, which contributes to the overall operational costs of SIMConnect.

## Life in Vienna

Vienna is the capital of Austria, located at the crossroads of Central and Eastern Europe. It's only a 1-2 hour by train to the Czech, Slovakia, and Hungary. The cost of living sits between that of Western and Eastern Europe. Due to the influx of international visitors, communicating in English in the city is not a problem.

It's essential to note that Austria is predominantly a Catholic country. By law, most shops, including supermarkets, are closed on Sundays and public holidays. Moreover, they often close early on Saturdays. However, shops located within train stations typically remain open on Sundays.

## Bank:

The first bank account I opened was with Erste Bank, which is the closest to WU. Generally, there's no need to make an appointment to open an account. Erste Bank offers a waiver of the annual fee for the first year for students, with the usual annual fee being around EUR 17. Within Austria, there are no withdrawal fees at any ATM, and transfers within the SEPA zone also don't incur any transaction fees.

However, I'd recommend closing the account before leaving the country to avoid incurring the annual fee.

### Transportation:

Vienna's public transportation system, apart from single ride tickets, offers standard annual passes, monthly tickets, and 7-day tickets. Students under the age of 26 are eligible for a student annual pass. The standard annual pass costs EUR 365 and covers Vienna's city buses, trams, metros, and trains (ÖBB). On Fridays and Saturdays, the metro operates 24 hours. There are also nighttime buses available as alternatives during the weekdays.

The Vienna Airport is located in Lower Austria and is not covered by the annual pass. If you have an annual pass, you'll need to purchase an additional ticket for EUR 1.9 either at the city train stations or via the ÖBB app to travel to or from the airport.

### Mobile:

In Austria, to get a mobile number, you need to register with proper identification; hence, it's not possible to apply for it before arriving in the country. Before leaving Taiwan, I obtained a SIM card intended for EU travel. Later on, I switched to a data plan offered by the educational organization, [educom](#). The plan costs EUR 55 per semester and provides 55GB of data within Austria and 9GB of data within the EU each month.

WU's student association, EBN, provides new students with an educom SIM card at the start of the semester. Alternatively, you can visit an educom store in the city center to get it directly.

Educom Store Google Maps: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/ibB8RtTRo6XmHjoQ7>

## Conclusion

My academic year in Vienna has been an extraordinary chapter of my life, offering a profound blend of academic rigor and cultural immersion. This enriching journey underscored the importance of embracing diverse perspectives and the significance of international exposure in one's educational path.

Starting the SIMC program alongside first-year students, I often found myself sharing classrooms with second-year students or exchange participants. Interestingly, out of the 60 individuals in our SIMC cohort, only 10-15 remained in Vienna for their third semester, with most venturing to different countries for exchange programs or pursuing dual degrees. It was only in the final semester that the majority of the second-year students returned to WU.

The depth of corporate interest in the SIMC program truly amazed me. As previously highlighted, its standing as a 'target program' for top consulting firms, FMCGs, and start-ups demonstrates the program's esteemed reputation in the business world. The access to industry resources and extracurricular opportunities this program offers is unparalleled, eclipsing even what the top business schools in Taiwan can provide.

While companies in Vienna do place a significant emphasis on German-speaking talents and EU passport holders, the overall experience and community that the SIMC program offers make it invaluable. I wholeheartedly recommend this program to anyone eager to amplify their educational journey and be a part of an exceptional global community.