MODUL UNIVERSITY VIENNA

WKO WIEN PRIVATE UNIVERSITY

MU Student Guidebook

2017-2018

Preface

Dear Student,

Welcome to Vienna and congratulations on your choice of studying at MODUL University. You are about to embark upon an exciting adventure that will enrich your life on both academic and personal levels. Each semester, MODUL University Vienna (MU) welcomes students from all over the world to its BBA, BSc, MSc, and MBA programs as both full-time and exchange students. Our commitment to your education extends beyond the classroom; we are dedicated to providing you a high quality of student support and services, helping you grow MU into a vibrant community, and ensuring you feel comfortable and prepared to study and live in Vienna, a city that was recently named as having the #1 quality of life in the world.

Successful preparation for student life has been proven to result in academic success, and we hope that this guide helps you prepare in the best possible way. It offers information to lead you and your fellow students towards a smooth beginning as you transition to studying at MU and living in Vienna. It contains information about not only being new in town, but also being new at university. If some of the links lead you to German forms or German pages and you don't speak German, please ask the SSC for help. If you are from Vienna or Austria, we also hope you find this guide useful. There is information about arriving, getting settled, being a student, and exploring around town. Once you are familiar with the contents of this guide, keep it with you for future reference; yet remember that MU's Student Service Center is always here to assist you.

Whether you are Austrian or International, or a BBA, BSc, MSc, MBA or Exchange Student, we are delighted to have you with us and will do all we can to make your stay at MU both successful and memorable.

We wish you every success—in the classroom *and* out of it—at MODUL University Vienna.

Antonia Baumgartner, Glen Dalton and Darrah Lustig

Student Service Center

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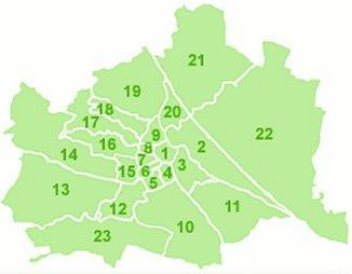
Introducing Vienna

Vienna is the capital of the Republic of Austria. It is the country's biggest city and seat of many international organizations (official UN seat, OECD headquarters). Around 1.7 million inhabitants live in a space of 414 square kilometers and within 23 districts which have a name and a number. You can tell easily by the postcode in which district an address is situated, the middle two digits give you the number of the district (for example, an address with 1010 would mean the 1st district). Each street sign in Vienna also displays the number of the district where it is situated before the street name.



Arriving in Vienna

Vienna has a very high quality public transportation system, so whether you arrive by train or plane, it shouldn't be too difficult to reach your final destination. If arriving at the Vienna International Airport, you can take the "fast train" (Schnellbahn or S-Bahn) to the city center or the Vienna City Airport Train (the CAT), which zips you into town in 16 minutes.

http://www.wienerlinien.at/ (Vienna's Public Transportation)
http://www.cityairporttrain.com/ (Vienna's City Airport Train)
http://www.oebb.at/en/ (Austrian Railway)

There is an airport taxi service which charges around €35 for the ride to town, but check www.airportservice.at as you might need to reserve ahead.

Settling Into Town

This section should help you during your first days and weeks after your arrival in Vienna. As always, do not hesitate to contact the Student Service Center (http://www.modul.ac.at/studentservicecenter) if you have questions.

Residence Registration and De-Registration (Anmelden)

Persons moving to Austria from other countries, persons changing residence within Austria, and persons changing their primary residence **all** need to register with the Municipal District Office within 3 working days of arriving. This is Austrian law.

For your convenience, forms are available from the Student Service Center. They can also be found online: https://www.help.gv.at/Portal.Node/hlpd/public/resources/documents/meldez.pdf. The form is in German, so if you require help with translation please come to the Student Service Center.

Students must register in person. You should go to the Municipal District Office in the district where you will be living. Exact addresses of the municipal district offices are available on the website: http://www.wien.gv.at/verwaltung/meldeservice/stellen.html

The confirmation of registration *(Meldebestätigung)* should be kept safe because you will need it for certain dealings with the authorities.

Please be aware that you are also required to de-register before you leave Austria, or re-register if you change addresses!

Health Insurance

It is important that you are insured for your whole stay in Austria. Usually EU- and EEA-citizens' insurance policies are recognized here, but if you need medical care you will normally have to pay for the treatment yourself and claim the reimbursement from your insurance company. If you are

insured in another country, you need to check with your insurance company if and how you are covered.

It is advisable to insure yourself here in Austria, as the rates for students are very favorable. If you are a regular student at an Austrian university with a regular residence in Austria (registration as a secondary resident is sufficient) you can apply for the students' insurance at the WGKK. Monthly rates are around €54 for full coverage. For more information, please visit www.wgkk.at.

Alternatively, check out Feelsafe who specialize in providing insurance for Students https://www.feelsafe.at/ .

E-card

A plastic insurance card, called the 'E-card', is issued by your health insurance company. The E- card proves that you are eligible for treatment by a medical doctor without additional payments. The E-card is valid as long as you have valid health insurance. You should contact your health insurance company if you lose your card.

Banking

Opening a Bank Account

In order to facilitate cashless transactions, which you will need to pay the tuition fees, it is necessary to open a bank account in Austria. Most banks offer especially attractive accounts exclusively for students up to the age of 30. MODUL University Vienna recommends that you review the student banking options and choose a bank conveniently located to you. Some common local banks:

- Bank Austria (http://www.bankaustria.at/en/index.html)
- Erste Bank (https://www.sparkasse.at/erstebank)
- Raiffeisen (http://www.raiffeisen.at)

Public Transportation

Vienna has a well-developed public transport network operated by 'Wiener Linien' (www.wienerlinien.at) with buses, trains, trams, and underground lines that will take you almost anywhere in the city.

Where to Buy a Ticket

Tickets can be used for all public transport in the core zone 100 (Vienna). Tickets are available at ticket machines at most underground stations. Small stores that sell tobacco products (called 'Tabak Trafik') also sell tickets. You may also purchase a ticket on board the bus or tram at an increased rate per ticket.

Reduction for Students

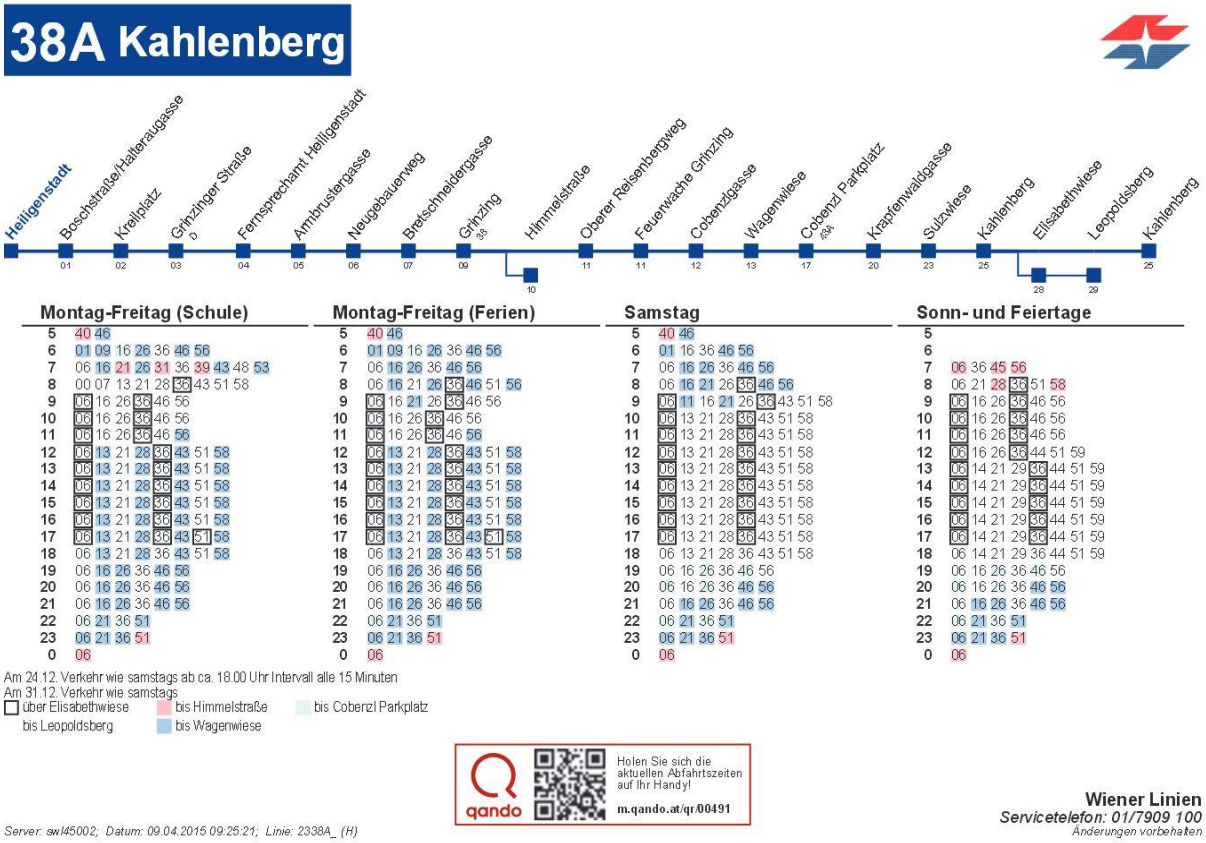
Semester tickets (valid for the whole semester) are available for regular degree program students under the age of 26. You will need to get it from the points of advance sale of the Wiener Linien or their Customer Service Center at Erdberg (U3-stop Erdberg) producing the following documents:

- Your MODUL University Student ID card
- A completed application form
- A proof of registration in Vienna (*Meldebestätigung*)

The ‘Wiener U-Bahn’ Map

The 38A: The Bus to MU

Many MODUL University students, staff, and faculty take the 38A bus up to Kahlenberg every day from the subway station Heiligenstadt on the line U4. Here are the schedules for the bus in both directions to help you plan.



38A Kahlenberg

Heiligenstadt – Boschstraße/Hahnengasse – Krellplatz – Grinzinger Straße D – Fernsprechamt Heiligenstadt – Armbrustergasse – Neugebauerweg – Bretschneidergasse – Grinzing 38 – Himmelstraße – Oberer Reisenbergweg – Feuerwache Grinzing – Cobenzlgasse – Wagenwiese – Cobenzl Parkplatz 40A – Kraftenwaldgasse – Sulzwiese – Kahlenberg – Elisabethwiese – Leopoldsberg – Kahlenberg

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Am 24.12. Verkehr wie samstags ab ca. 18.00 Uhr Intervall alle 15 Minuten
Am 31.12. Verkehr wie samstags

☐ über Elisabethwiese bis Leopoldsberg
bis Himmelstraße
bis Wagenwiese
bis Cobenzl Parkplatz

qando – Holen Sie sich die aktuellen Abfahrtszeiten auf Ihr Handy! m.qando.at/qr/00491

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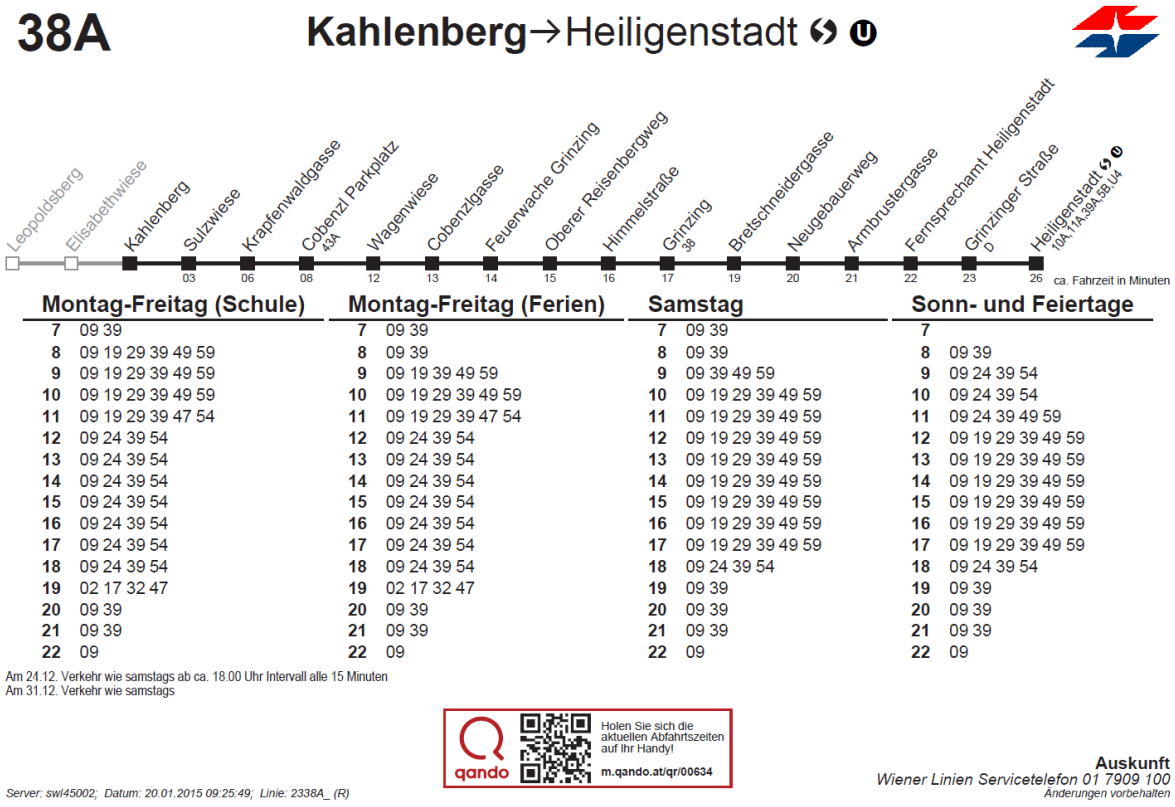
Wiener Linien
Servicetelefon: 01/7909 100
Änderungen vorbehalten



38A **Kahlenberg→Heiligenstadt**

Leopoldsberg – Elisabethwiese – Kahlenberg – Sulzwiese 03 – Krapfenwaldgasse 06 – Cobenzl Parkplatz 43A 08 – Wagenwiese 12 – Cobenzlgasse 13 – Feuerwache Grinzing 14 – Oberer Reisenbergweg 15 – Himmelstraße 16 – Grinzing 38 17 – Bretschneidergasse 19 – Neugebauerweg 20 – Armbrustergasse 21 – Fernsprechamt Heiligenstadt 22 – Grinzinger Straße D 23 – Heiligenstadt 10A,11A,38A,39,U4 26

ca. Fahrzeit in Minuten

Montag-Freitag (Schule)	Montag-Freitag (Ferien)	Samstag	Sonn- und Feiertage
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Am 24.12. Verkehr wie samstags ab ca. 18.00 Uhr Intervall alle 15 Minuten
Am 31.12. Verkehr wie samstags

qando Holen Sie sich die aktuellen Abfahrtszeiten auf Ihr Handy! m.qando.at/qr/00634

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Auskunft
Wiener Linien Servicetelefon 01 7909 100
Änderungen vorbehalten

Communication

Emergency numbers

Ambulance:	144
Doctors on call:	141 (night and weekend)
Police Department:	133
Fire Department:	122
Detoxification hotline:	406 43 43

In any case you can also dial the **European emergency number 112** from your mobile phone. You can enter that number at any time, even without a SIM-card, without contract or positive balance or even if the key-pad is blocked. The phone will choose the strongest network, even if it is not yours and the call is free of charge. Misuse on the other hand is severely punished.

International calls to and from Austria

The international dialing code for Austria is 0043. The outgoing code is 00 followed by the relevant country code (e.g. 0044 for the United Kingdom). The area code for Vienna is (0)1. Public telephone boxes can be used for direct dial calls within the country and overseas.

Accommodation

There are various accommodation options for students depending on individual needs and lifestyle. MODUL University Vienna helps arrange accommodation for students who do not wish to look for accommodation on their own. Our aim is to provide you with a high-quality, safe, affordable, and happy environment for both academic and social life.

Student Residences

As a guide, the cost for the student residences with which MODUL University cooperates ranges from ca. €300 to ca. €500 depending on the type of room and residence a student selects.

The SSC arranges accommodation for students through Wihast (http://www.wihast.at) and through Base 19 (http://www.base19.at/). Both residences are conveniently located close to public transport, the university, and the city center (ca. 30 minutes to the university and ca. 15 minutes to the inner city.)

For more information about the accommodation options that MODUL University can help you arrange, including whom to contact and how to reserve, please visit: http://www.modul.ac.at/admissions/getting-settled-in-vienna/housing/.

Finding your own Housing in Vienna

It is wise to start informing yourself about the housing market early on, and come prepared to begin your search. It is best to be located in Vienna while you are searching. You may want to stay in a hostel or hotel for that period. Through https://www.wien.info/en/travel-info/hotels-accommodations/youth-hostels-camping you can find short-term accommodation.

Private rentals

These are websites where you can search for a suitable place:

OeAD Housing: https://housing.oead.at/en/accommodation/wien-en
Bazar: http://www.bazar.at/ (in German only)
Luxbee : http://luxbee.com/ (in German only)
Jobwohnen: http://www.job-wohnen.at/ (in German only)
Willhaben: http://www.willhaben.at/ (in German only)
Immobilio: http://www.immobilo.at/ (in German only)
Room4rent: http://www.room4rent.at/

Helpful Websites

Here are a few online resources that will help you with information about life in Vienna

- Helpful information for English speakers new to Vienna: http://www.virtualvienna.net/main/
- Cool information about Vienna from locals: http://www.spottedbylocals.com/vienna/
- WienXtra jugendinfo: Cheap concert and event tickets, culture and life info, and counseling for youth at http://www.jugendinfowien.at/ (in German).
- City of Vienna website: http://www.wien.gv.at/english/
- Vienna Tourism Office site: http://www.vienna.info/en

Being a Student at MU and in Vienna

Reaching MODUL University

MODUL University Vienna is located on top of Kahlenberg, a scenic hill with an altitude of 484 meters. It offers a view over the entire city of Vienna. The address of MODUL University Vienna is: Am Kahlenberg 1, 1190 Vienna, Austria.

To reach the university building using public transportation: take the 38A line with "Kahlenberg" or "Leopoldsberg" written as the final destination from Heiligenstadt (U4) or from Grinzing (tram 38) and get off the bus at the Kahlenberg stop.

Working in Austria while you're a student

If you wish to work in Austria whilst studying, please make sure that you enquire about the legal regulations before commencing employment. Working in Austria illegally may lead to fines, prison sentences, or expulsion from the country. The type of gainful employment foreign students are allowed to take up in Austria depends on their nationality, level of education, and other factors. The work must not affect the students' progress with his/her studies and the studies have to be the primary purpose of staying in Austria.

As this information and the rules often change, MODUL University prefers that students check up on the current status at the source; namely, by checking the website of the **OeAD**, the Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research. They have a very helpful website regarding student employment that clearly outlines the regulations and procedures. The website may be accessed here: http://www.oead.at/welcome_to_austria/legal_practical_issues/working/EN/

Life in Vienna

Language

The official language of Austria is German, but each area of Austria has its own dialect - Vienna of course, too! "Wienerisch" is different from "Hochdeutsch" mainly in pronunciation, but also in its slightly more relaxed approach to the difficult German grammatical rules. Many Austrians speak English, but they are pleased (and generally more friendly) when foreign visitors make an attempt to learn and speak German. If you don't know German, we suggest that you make it a priority to at least learn the basics. It will make your time here much more enjoyable!

Religion

More than 80% of the population of Austria is Roman Catholic, while most of the remaining 20% are affiliated with other Christian denominations. In Vienna, however, there are a variety of religious organizations representing every major world religion who meet freely around the city. Check out http://www.virtualvienna.net/ to inform yourself.

General Attitudes and Greetings

The standard greeting in Austria and Vienna is "Grüss Gott" which literally means "greetings to God". You should always greet your neighbors and shopkeepers in this way, even if you do not know them

personally. In Vienna, as in most large cities, it is considered unusual to smile at or to greet total strangers. Friends and acquaintances always greet by shaking hands or by kissing each cheek once.

Kissing cheeks is as common among same sex friends as it is among opposite sex friends. You need to be aware of the importance of formality for Austrians, specifically the Viennese, and most specifically Viennese adults. The formal word for you **(Sie)** must be used in addressing a person in German until you are given permission to use the informal you **(du)** even if it is someone you feel that you know quite well.

Titles are also very important and should be used whenever addressing adults **(Herr, Frau, Dr.)**. Some foreigners mistakenly interpret the Austrian formality as unfriendliness. Please remember that it is simply different.

Opening Hours

Austria is notorious for having rather reduced opening hours, most shops are closed on. As a rule, it's best to check up on your intended destination's opening hours to avoid nasty surprises.

Safety

Vienna is one of the safest cities in the world. There are no slums or districts you should avoid. In general you can visit any part of the city at any time of the day without taking much risk. At nighttime, just use your common sense. It is wise to avoid parks, and to be prepared for some unsavory characters at big underground stations such as 'Praterstern' station and 'Schwedenplatz' station at night.

If you are a victim of a theft or any other crime, report it immediately to the police. If credit cards were taken, call the issuing store bank immediately, so that you will not be charged for the misuse of the card. Should your passport be stolen, call your country's consulate or contact the local police station (to file a report) immediately.

Finding a Doctor

In the event that you need a doctor and even a doctor who speaks your native language, Vienna has a helpful website to aid you on your search: http://www.praxisplan.at/ .

Pharmacies

Pharmacists in Austria are specialists and are prepared to make suitable recommendations for common minor illnesses (colds, cramps, headaches, etc.) Pharmacies (Apotheke) tend to be open daily until 6PM and also on Saturdays until noon. Pharmacies generally post the address and phone number of the nearest pharmacy that is on 24 hour call or on weekend service.

Vienna Day to Day

Food & Drink

You can find a variety of different foods in every town in Austria, for example, Italian, Greek, Chinese, Mexican, and fast food. Yet if you are looking for something traditional, it's important to understand what Vienna has on offer. There are three types of typical gastronomic establishments in Vienna: the 'coffee house', the 'Beisl', and the 'Heuriger'.

Coffee Houses and Cake Shops

The literature on the subject of Viennese coffee houses could fill whole libraries. Today you will find more than 500 of these oases scattered across the city, where you can sit for hours in peace over a 'Melange' and the obligatory glass of Viennese spring water. You will also be provided with a large selection of newspapers in a wide range of languages, and even chess boards, bridge cards, or billiard tables to help you while away the time. The classic 'Viennese breakfast' is served everywhere: a pot of coffee or tea plus bread rolls with butter, jam or honey, and a boiled egg. During the day, in addition to various cakes, many places serve snacks such as sausages, toasts, omelets, or goulash soup. Many of the larger more famous cafés in the city center are also full blown restaurants, serving excellent meals. To be precise, Viennese coffee houses offer you at least twelve variations of coffee. To start with, there's the small or large 'Schwarze' (mocha without milk) or 'Braune' (with milk). The 'Melange' is a coffee with 50% espresso and 50% frothed milk dusted with coffee, cinnamon, or cocoa powder. A 'Kaisermelange' has an egg yolk stirred in! The 'Fiaker' is a glass of mocha and the 'Einspänner' is a Fiaker with a portion of whipped cream. A coffee diluted with added water is a 'Verlängerter'. When the weather turns cold, get out and explore the various types!

- **Bräunerhof** Daily, 1st district, Stallburggasse 2
- **Café Central** Daily, 1st district, Herrengasse 14
- **Dommayer** Daily, 13th district, Dommayergasse 1
- **Café Diglas** Daily, 1st district, Wollzeile 10
- **Hawelka** Daily, 1st district, Dorotheergasse 6
- **Landtmann** Daily, 1st district, Dr.-Karl-Lueger-Ring 4
- **Café Alt Wien** Daily, 1st district, Bäckerstrasse 9

Restaurants

The second bastion of the Viennese way of life is the 'Beisl', the traditional inn, today more popular than ever thanks to the incredible rejuvenation process taking place in Viennese cuisine which combines Bohemian, Hungarian, Italian, Jewish, and other central European culinary traditions. For decades, the city of the 'Schnitzel', 'Tafelspitz', 'Beuschel dumplings', and 'Palatschinken' was criticized by gourmets for its high-calorie, high-fat fare, but recently a new generation of ambitious chefs has adapted the traditional dishes to modern-day eating habits. Several Viennese gourmet temples have even been awarded a 'chef's hat' or star by restaurant critics.

- **Hietzinger Bräu** Daily, 13th district, Auhofstrasse 1
- **Schnitzelwirt** Daily except Sunday, 7th district, Neubaugasse 52
- **Schweizerhaus** Mid-March–October: daily, 2nd district, Prater 116
- **Centimeter**

  This Viennese chain of restaurants is for everyone with big stomachs and low budgets, i.e. students. There are 4 restaurants around town offering basic foods in big portions for a reasonable price.

Centimeter I	8th district	Lenaugasse 11
Centimeter II	7th district	Stiftgasse 4 / Siebensterngasse 16a
Centimeter VI	18th district	Gersthoferstrasse 58 / Herbeckstrasse 1
Centimeter VII	18th district	Währinger Gürtel 1 /Jörgerstrasse 2

Heuriger

The third Viennese institution enjoys undiminished popularity: the 'Heuriger'. These traditional wine taverns, mostly with picturesque vaulted ceilings, courtyards, and gardens, in which you can savor the new wines and good home cooking – often to the sound of live Viennese music – are to be found concentrated in the old wine-making villages on the outskirts of the Vienna Woods in the northwest of the city. Just as popular are those in the quieter wine-growing regions such as Strebersdorf and Stammersdorf right up in the north on the other side of the Danube, or, close to the southern city boundary, in the district of Mauer. The genuine Heuriger, also known as a 'Buschenschank', can be recognized by the 'Föhrenbusch', the sprig of Scots pine and the sign saying 'Ausg'steckt' by the entrance.

Vienna restaurants work mainly on cash, but most restaurants today will accept credit cards. It is customary to add a 10% tip when you pay your waitress/ waiter. (You usually have to ask for the bill ('zahlen') when you are ready to go. Waiters/waitresses in simple restaurants still add the bill up at the table. You add the tip and tell them what the total is.

Vienna Specialties

- **Apfelstrudel -** A dream of a dessert, consisting of grated apple, chopped nuts, sultanas, flavored with cinnamon and sugar, in wafer-thin flaky pastry.
- **Beuschel -** Small pieces of innards (mostly heart and lung) in a spicy sauce.
- **Buchteln -** Yeast-risen pastry, shaped like dumplings, filled with jam and often served with vanilla sauce.
- **Frankfurter -** The sausages, which are otherwise known as 'Wiener Würstchen', surprisingly enough.
- **Frittaten -** Egg pancakes, fried in fat and cut into thin strips. Served in clear, beef bouillon.
- **Powidltascherl -** Bohemian pastry dish, a sweet specialty consisting of potato pastry cases filled with stewed plum.
- **Kaiserschmarrn -** Dessert made of torn or shredded pancakes, sprinkled with sultanas and sugar and covered in stewed plum sauce.
- **Nockerln -** Not unlike Italian gnocchi – these dumplings, made with semolina or butter, find their way into soups, or with whisked egg become the legendary 'Salzburger Nockerln'.

- **Palatschinken -** Sweet pancakes, filled, in the classic style, with apricot jam ('Marillen-marmelade'). There are also widely-available variations which are filled with quark ('Topfen'), chocolate sauce, or ice-cream.
- **Sachertorte -** Addictive substance for chocaholics: the ultimate gateau, made from egg yolk, sugar, a little flour, and stiffly beaten egg whites, sandwiched together with apricot jam and covered with a layer of chocolate.
- **Stelze -** Grilled lower leg of pork or veal, typically served with sauerkraut and bread dumplings.
- **Tafelspitz mit G'röstel -** Prime piece of boiled beef, thickly sliced and generally accompanied by chive sauce, fried potatoes, and apple or bread sauce with horseradish.
- **Wiener Schnitzel -** The classic veal cutlet, coated in breadcrumbs and fried golden brown. Ideal accompaniment: potato salad.

Beer

Beer is generally sold in the following sizes: 0.2 litre (a 'Pfiff'), 0.3 litre (a 'Seidel' or 'kleines Bier'), and 0.5 litre (a 'Krügerl', 'Halbe', or 'großes Bier'). The most popular types of beer are pale 'lager', naturally cloudy 'Zwicklbier', and 'wheat beer'. During holidays like Christmas and Easter 'bock' beer is also available.

Wine

Wine is principally cultivated in the east of Austria. The most important wine-producing areas are in Vienna, Lower Austria, Burgenland, and Styria.

Other Alcoholic Drinks

In Upper Austria, Lower Austria, Styria, and Carinthia, 'Most', a type of cider, is widely produced, whilst 'Sturm', a semi-fermented grape-juice, is drunk after the grape harvest.

Towards the end of a meal, 'Schnapps' or fruit brandy is drunk, which in Austria is made from a variety of fruits (for example apricots), as well as rowanberries, gentian roots, or various herbs. The produce of small private Schnapps distilleries, of which there are around 20,000 in Austria, is known as 'Selberbrennter' or 'Hausbrand'.

Fast Food

The traditional Viennese fast food is sausage. You can buy hot sausages and hot dogs at snack bars called 'Würstelstand' all over town, at almost any time as there are quite a few 'Würstelstände' open 24hrs a day. The famous 'Wiener Würstel' is mostly known as the 'Frankfurter' in Vienna, but most inhabitants prefer 'Burenwurst' and 'Käsekrainer' (sausage filled with melted cheese).

A relatively new addition to the local snack culture is 'Döner Kebap', sandwiches of Turkish origin with roasted meat, salad, and yogurt sauce. Places that sell kebap often sell take-away pizza, too. Good kebaps can be bought at the 'Naschmarkt'; the lower end of the 'Naschmarkt' (furthest away from Karlsplatz or city Center) is cheaper than the upper end. Another good place to find snacks (especially while going out) is 'Schwedenplatz'.

By far the cheapest way to get a fast food meal in Austria (and probably the only meal available for about 1 €) is buying an Austrian sandwich (bread roll + ham/cheese + gherkin) from a supermarket.

Besides these Austrian 'solutions' most international fast food chains have restaurants in Vienna.

Cultural Life

Vienna is one of the main cultural capitals of Europe, or even the world. All kinds of cultural expressions find their stage in Vienna. Here we can only mention a few, but please check www.wien.info for further up-to-date information. The main Tourist Information Office at the Albertinaplatz (right behind the State Opera) offers a monthly program.

Concert Halls and Theatres

- **Burgtheater** (www.burgtheater.at)
- **Conservatory Vienna** (www.konservatorium-wien.ac.at)
- **Musikverein a.k.a. Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde in Wien** (www.musikverein.at)
- **Raimund Theater** (www.musicalvienna.at)
- **Theater an der Wien** (www.theater-wien.at)
- **Vienna State Opera** (www.staatsoper.at)
- **Vienna's English Theatre** (www.englishtheatre.at)
- **Volksoper** (www.volksoper.at)
- **Wiener Konzerthaus** (www.konzerthaus.at)

Reductions for Students

Most opera houses and theatres, especially the state-run ones, offer very good deals. 15 minutes before the start of the performance, left-over tickets are sold to students at €10-17, but if you don't mind standing you can get one of the standing room tickets. They are only sold from about 45 minutes before the show and cost between €1-3. For sold-out shows, you might need to be there fairly early to get one as they are sold on a first come, first served basis where one person can only buy one ticket and they are available to anybody. Don't forget your student I.D.!

Performance of Past, Present, and Future

Vienna's art scene is legendary. In addition to established museums ('Kunst-HausWien', 'MAK', and others), spectacular new openings have garnered strong praise during the past few years. One of those has been the transformation of the former imperial-royal stable into the 'MuseumsQuartier (MQ)'. Behind this baroque facade, one of the largest cultural complexes in Europe is located. In addition to the three huge museums – 'Museum of Modern Art' ('MUMOK'), 'Kunsthalle', and 'Leopold Museum' – 'quartier21' is a hot tip offering workshops and presentation areas for young artists and designers. And of course, there are many gastronomic delights at the 'MQ': an interesting ambiance for a short culinary pause is the 'Café Leopold'. Different from the 'MQ', the 'Albertina' offers a unique contrast: a modern museum in a historic palace with art exhibitions (graphic arts, paintings, and photos) from the Renaissance era to the present day. Only a few minutes away, near the 'Secession', the most exciting galleries of the city are to be found. The list of more 'classical'

museums is very long, but the most important ones with great collections and constantly changing temporary exhibitions are definitely the 'Kunsthistorisches Museum' (Museum of Fine Arts), the 'Naturhistorisches Museum' (Museum of Natural History), and the Belvedere.

- **KunstHausWien** (www.kunsthauswien.at)
- **MAK** (www.mak.at)
- **Museumsquartier Wien** (www.mqw.at)
- **Albertina** (www.albertina.at)
- **Secession** (www.secession.at)
- **Café Leopold** (www.cafe-leopold.at)
- **Österreichische Galerie Belvedere** (www.belvedere.at)
- **Kunsthistorisches Museum** (www.khm.at)
- **Naturhistorisches Museum** (www.nhm-wien.ac.at)

Cinemas

Normally films are shown in German. There are, however, a number of cinemas in Vienna showing films in English or in their original language. To find the right version, look out for the following abbreviations in the cinema program: OV (original version), OU (original version with subtitles), and OmeU (original version with English subtitles).

There are also cinemas which show films exclusively or mainly in English. These include:

- **English Cinema Haydn** http://www.haydnkino.at
- **Burgkino** http://www.burgkino.at/
- **Artis International** http://www.film.at/artis_international/

In the summer, there are open-air screens for cinema enthusiasts to enjoy their favorite films. Vienna's biggest annual open air film festival is held in front of the City Hall (1st district, 'Rathausplatz'). This is a good place to watch classical music films or concerts.

Reductions for Students

Be sure to always ask at movie theaters if a student reduction is possible; many offer great discounts!

Big Events

Vienna is famous for its **ball-season** which runs from November to February (sometimes March) every year. Instead of celebrating carnival out in the streets with masks, the Viennese dance to the waltz. Maria Theresia prohibited the use of masks in public so carnival moved inside and over the years became the ball-season. There are around 280 balls every year and that for all tastes and budgets. Further information is available at: www.ballkalender.at.

Everyone knows the world famous **'Vienna Opera Ball'** as the epitome of glamour and tradition. Around this highlight of the Viennese carnival, a culture of alternative counter-events has developed over the years. From shrill to trendy – everything is represented. If one looks for glamour and glitz but doesn't want to be part of the Opera Ball, there is a great alternative: the **'Life Ball'** in May. Every year, for a day, Vienna's City Hall is transformed into a backdrop for the most strident and successful charity event. The proceeds from this spectacle go exclusively to organizations that help combat AIDS/HIV. If you don't obtain one of the much-desired tickets, you can watch a grand fashion show on the square in front of the City Hall – free of charge!

Like the 'Life Ball', the **'Rainbow Parade'** has become a symbol for free and open society; it is a parade along the Ring Boulevard for gays, lesbians, and transgender persons – but not exclusively.

The biggest party, not only of the city but in all of central Europe, however, is the **'Danube Island Festival'**: for four days in June, hundreds of bands, cabaret artists, and other performers draw millions of visitors to the Danube Island – and there's no admission charge! Further information: www.donauinselfest.at.

The '**Film Festival' at Rathausplatz (City Hall Square)**, during the summer months, turns the square in front of City Hall into a stage for classical music films, ranging from Mozart to musicals and is open to everyone for free. The big culinary market, where local restaurants set up temporary stands, also pops up at this time and can be more interesting than the films themselves.

New Year's Eve is a huge event in Vienna, when many people from surrounding countries travel into the city to join in the party. At the turn of the year, the New Year's Eve Trail transforms the entire city center into a giant party location, and at the Prater, snowboarders meet at the Giant Ferris Wheel at **'Soul City'**.

Vienna's major film festival '**Viennale'** took place for the first time in 1960. Since then it has aimed to present international and Austrian films of high-quality and is proud of its international reputation. Venues are spread over Vienna's historic center. Usually, about 200 films, documentaries, and short films are broadcast and attract more than 70,000 visitors! First screenings, tributes, retrospectives, and various theme-specific shows offer diverse and fascinating insights into contemporary and past achievements of movie making! Further information: http://viennale.at.

During the advent season leading up to Christmas, Vienna offers a great number of so-called '**Christkindlmärkte'**. They offer all sorts of traditionally crafted items, modern knick-knacks, and a wide variety of food and drink. 'Glühwein' (mulled wine) and 'Punsch' are a very popular way to warm up in the cold days. The biggest, and most touristy, market is held at the Rathausplatz, but there are many other smaller and more unusual markets to be found all around the city. For more information see: www.vienna4u.at/christmasmarket.html.

Apart from these 'Big Events', there are too many other events to list (e.g. the Wiener Festwochen, Summer Stage, etc.). Check the programs at the Tourist Office (Albertinaplatz or www.wien.info).

Shopping

This metropolis on the Danube is pricey, especially when it comes to international brand-name accessories and fashions. More interesting are the local, traditional products – items in gold, silver,

or enamel, 'Tracht' (traditional costumes), 'Loden' wear, fine glassware, wines, made-to measure suits and shoes, Biedermeier or Art-Nouveau materials. For a classic souvenir, take a look at Augarten porcelain, petit point embroidery, and the legendary 'Sachertorte'. The pawnbroker's and auctioneer's Dorotheum never ceases to amaze, a place where you can browse for hours to your heart's content. The so-called 'Antiques Quarter', between the Hofburg and St. Stephan's Cathedral, is a collector's paradise. More than two dozen shops sell a wide range of items, including everything from Gothic angels and Baroque cupboards down to affordable, second-hand gifts.

A surprising number of small and unusual shops are to be found in the side streets, most notably in the 8th, 7th, and 6th districts. The major shopping streets in the city center are 'Graben', 'Kohlmarkt', and 'Kärntner Strasse', and then there are of course the pedestrian zones. Here you will find most of the old, traditional top addresses which still bear the title 'K. & K. Hof' (Royal and Imperial Court) or even 'Kammerlieferant' (Purveyor to the Sovereign) on their company plaque. Their wonderfully old-fashioned elegance in itself makes them worth a visit.

Less aristocratic – but consequently a lot cheaper – are the shops on the bigger shopping streets, such as the far end of 'Favoritenstrasse' and 'Landstrasser Hauptstrasse' and most importantly 'Mariahilfer Strasse'. Here you will find typical High-Street store such as H&M, Zara, and Mango as well as other Austrian brands and department stores such as Gerngross. Other department stores worth checking out are 'Steffl' and the 'Ringstrassengalarien' arcade in the first district.

At the subway station Kagran on the U1 line, you will be able to find the shopping mall "Donau Zentrum", where you can find clothing stores, restaurants, and movie theaters all in one location.

Many shops are open until 7 or 8PM on weekdays, on Saturday's doors close at 6PM at the latest.

Department Stores

- **Gerngross**, 6th district, Mariahilfer Strasse 28–48
- **Ringstrassengalerien**, 1st district, Kärntner Ring 5–7
- **Steffl**, 1st district, Kärntner Strasse 19
- **Peek and Cloppenburg**, Mariahilfer Str. 26-30 or Kärntner Str. 29

Markets and Flea Markets

- **Flea Market**

  Every Saturday, the 'Fetzentandler', as the second-hand dealers are called in Vienna, set up their stalls near the U-Bahn station Kettenbrückengasse. Rummaging around here is a favorite Saturday pastime for many Viennese. 5th district, Kettenbrückengasse

- **Naschmarkt**

  Quintessentially Viennese with a smattering of the Balkans thrown in! The largest and probably most attractive food market in the city, stretching over 500 m – a feast for all the senses. The market offers mainly Austrian cuisine but there is also a great range of products from more exotic places like India and China. It is also a trendy meeting place and you will

often have to fight for a table in one of the many bars and restaurants during the evenings. Along the 'Wienzeile', between 'Kettenbrückengasse 'and Karlsplatz.

Supermarkets

In Austria (as is generally the case in Central Europe) even the cheapest supermarkets sell food of exceptionally high quality. Perhaps most remarkable for people visiting from outside of Europe is Austria's strong affinity for organically grown food. You can buy organic products almost anywhere (look out for items labeled 'Bio'), and often at the same price as non-organic products. Furthermore, every product that claims to be organic is rigorously controlled by independent organizations.

Most stores in Vienna are open from around 7:30AM until 7:30PM, Monday through Friday. Most stores close around 5PM on Saturdays, sometimes 6PM. A few are open on Sundays (e.g. 'Billa' at 'Praterstern' (2nd district), 'Billa' at the Franz Josefs-Bahnhof (9th district) and the grocery stores at 'Westbahnhof' and 'Südbahnhof').

How to Shop

There are a few points to remember when shopping in an Austrian supermarket. First of all, you must bring your own bags, as you will have to pay for them if you forget. Secondly, you have to weigh your produce at small scales throughout the shop and attach a sticker from the scale's printing machine that has the food's price. Thirdly, you have to pack your own grocery bags at a rather rapid pace, so be ready.

Well-known supermarket chains are: Billa, Spar, Merkur and Hofer. Hofer is also known as Aldi in other parts of the world. It is a very cheap supermarket chain and carries primarily generic brands of very good quality in a warehouse-like atmosphere.

Whilst the major supermarket chains stock most of the food you could wish for, other British and American foodstuffs can be found at 'Bobby's Foodstore' www.bobbys.at, and International food can be found at 'Prosi supermarket' www.prosi.at .

Drugstores

The two main drugstore chains are BIPA and DM. Be aware that Austrian drugstores generally carry more toiletries than pharmaceuticals. For most pharmaceuticals (including common over-the-counter drugs such as ibuprofen) you have to go to a pharmacy ('Apotheke').

Books

There are several English-language bookstores in Vienna:

- **British Bookshop,** 1st district, Weihburggasse 24 http://www.britishbookshop.at/
- **Shakespeare & Company Booksellers,** 1st district, Sterngasse 2 http://www.shakespeare.co.at/

You will also find a range of English books in the bigger Austrian bookstores. Thalia on Mariahilferstrasse is one example.

For school textbooks, MU recommends that you shop with Amazon (either Amazon.com or Amazon.de for the best prices!).

Parks

Approximately 50% of Vienna (about 200 square kilometers) is green! Many of these green areas are free for public use. Check the opening hours though, as many parks close at night.

Internationally renowned (formerly imperial) parks in Vienna such as Schönbrunn, Belvedere, Burggarten, Volksgarten, and Augarten have been administered by the Republic of Austria since 1918.

For more details check http://www.wien.gv.at/umwelt/parks/anlagen/index.html.

Public Baths in Vienna

Thousands of people throng to the public pools in the summer to cool off and enjoy the season. There are plenty of sports activities for those who do not want to laze about in the sun. Football, beach volleyball, and mini-golf are yours to enjoy. Or train your brain with outdoor chess.

No need to wait for the summer to visit our pools. There is plenty to choose from in the winter, too. Wellness areas and saunas for a good dose of relaxation are available on a cold winter day. For more info see http://www.wien.gv.at/freizeit/baden/.

Sports

Running in Vienna

More than 25,000 runners from 80 nations participate in the Vienna City Marathon, Austria's biggest running event. Apart from the Prater Park with its popular running mile, the long Hauptallee, there are numerous other routes and tracks in and around Vienna. A recent addition to running comfort in Vienna are well-signposted running tracks complete with useful information and milestones.

Cycling

Bicycles will get you from A to B quicker than anything else in the city (especially for distances up to 5km). They have many advantages over cars. Environmentally friendly (no exhaust fumes, no noise) they are a good way of keeping fit as well. They require little space so traffic jams are never a problem. No need to look out for parking space either. Over 1000kms of bike paths are already completed and there are more to come.

Bicycles are allowed on the underground from 9AM to 3PM and after 6PM on weekdays, and all day Saturday and Sunday. Half-price tickets are required for their transport.

City Bike Vienna

The 'City Bikes Wien' introduced in 2003 is among the most modern free city bike systems worldwide. There are several bike terminals throughout the city. To use a City Bike you need a Bankomat (cashpoint) card, a credit card, or a Citybike-Card. You need to register at one of the terminals or on their website before the first use. The first hour is free with prices rising progressively from there on (minimum 1 Euro from the second hour). If you do not return the bike to one of the stations within 120 hours (i.e. 5 days), you will be charged the cost of the bike (800 Euro). All terminals are equipped with touch screens, which also give access to Vienna's internet pages. For more information, terminal locations and registration see www.citybikewien.at.

Mountain Biking

Adventurous bikers really get their fill in the Vienna Woods. There are many sign-posted mountain bike routes for average and advanced bikers. The routes are between 10 and 42 kilometers long.

Bike Rentals

- **Bike Rental Hochschaubahn**, 2nd district, Prater 113
  www.radverleih-hochschaubahn.com
- **Bike Rental Pedal Power**, 2nd district, Ausstellungsstraße 3 (right by the Prater)
  www.pedalpower.at
- **Radsport Nußdorf**, 19th district, Donaupromenade/on the bike route
  www.donau-fritzi.at

  Rad- und Skaterverleih Copa Cagrana, 22nd district, Am Damm 1(Reichsbrücke/Neue Donau) www.fahrradverleih.at

Traffic Rules for Bikers

- **Right-of-way**

  Bikers have right of way on all areas reserved for them, such as cycle paths, combined pedestrian and cycle paths, cycle lanes and multi-purpose lanes, street crossings for cyclists. They must yield their right of way once they leave the above areas to pedestrians.
- **Pedestrian (a.k.a. Zebra) crossings**

  Cyclists must not endanger pedestrians when using a pedestrian crossing. Pedestrians have right of way on pedestrian crossings.
- **Cycling against a one-way street**

  Cyclists may ride in the opposite direction on a one-way street, when indicated by the opposite traffic sign; they may generally do so in residential areas.

Street crossings for cyclists

There is a speed limit of ten KM/h for cyclists on crossings not controlled by traffic lights or manual signals. Trams and service cars have right of way.

Inline Skating

There are numerous skating events in Vienna. Friday Night skating on Heldenplatz every Friday at 9PM from May to September. The 'Austria Skate Marathon' in summer and the 'Vienna Inline Marathon' in autumn.

The Skatelab in the old Remise (old coach house, Engerthstraße 160-178, 1020 Vienna) is equipped with mini ramps, half pipes, and fun boxes and offers training courses for skateboarders and inline skaters.

The Austrian Inline-Skater Club offers many activities that are geared more towards a sporting environment than a relaxed recreational activity. For more information, see their website: www.oeisc.at.

Important for inline-skaters in the city: usually inline-skaters can use the bike-paths, but there are many exceptions, especially on important streets or thoroughfares.

Ice Skating, Downhill, and Cross-Country Skiing

The 'Wiener Eistraum' (Vienna Dream on Ice) is a popular attraction for people of all ages from the end of January till the beginning of March. Here you can dance to waltz melodies and disco sounds on an ice rink set up on the Rathausplatz right in front of the Rathaus covering a total of over 2,000 m^2 (skate hire is possible). For details see: www.wienereistraum.com.

Skiers can hone their 'wedel'-technique on the slopes at Hohe Wand Wiese (U4: Hütteldorf, bus 249). And cross-country skiers can join the trail at Cobenzl. Further information: www.wien.gv.at/freizeit/sportamt/arten/winter/index.html.

Close to Vienna you will also find lots of more interesting ski-resorts that are easy to reach by public transport.

Reductions for Students

There are various reductions for students interested in sports. A wide range of sports activities and courses are offered for students, alumni, and staff of Vienna's universities. The sports department of the Austrian Students' Union organizes camps for students (skiing, tennis, wind surfing, sailing, horse riding, etc.; see www.oeh.at). It's also a good idea to check out the Vienna University Sports Institute for their generous offer of courses and programs: http://www.univie.ac.at/USI-Wien/.

We are looking forward to seeing you!