

Graz Summer 2009

The usefulness of this handbook depends on student input.
If you find erroneous information, please contact overseas@indiana.edu.



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THE PROGRAM

Each summer since 1981, IU's summer program in Graz has given students the opportunity to spend six weeks in one of Austria's most charming cities, residing with Austrian host families and immersing themselves in Austrian culture and the study of German language. An IU German Department professor and two advanced graduate students accompany the group to Graz, provide all instruction, and arrange a lively program of meetings with Austrians and trips throughout Austria.

INTRODUCTION

This booklet is a supplement to the *Getting Started* handbook received earlier. While it contains specific program information, *Getting Started* contains information relevant to all students on Indiana University Overseas Study programs. Both booklets should be used now as you prepare to leave and later while you are abroad. Since most student questions are addressed in these handbooks, please consult them before calling the Office of Overseas Study.

This handbook is also available on the web:

www.indiana.edu/~overseas/programs/handbooks/graz.pdf

Goals and Objectives for Studying Abroad

Indiana University's Overseas Study Program in Graz offers students who have attained at least an intermediate level of proficiency in German the opportunity for an intensive living and learning experience in Austria. All students are housed with families who live in or near Graz. By sharing in the daily lives of their host families, students typically make rapid progress in their ability to understand and use German in everyday situations, while gaining insights into the daily culture of Austria.

A language proficiency course helps students to improve their fluency and accuracy in German, and a course on Austrian culture taught in German equips students with the basis for conducting conversations aimed at deeper cross-cultural understanding with their host families and with residents of Graz representing a range of occupations and expertise. Classroom instruction also interacts with excursions to Salzburg, Vienna, and sites in Graz and other locations in Styria to develop a deeper appreciation for the breadth and depth of Austria's history and culture.

The Program in Graz

2009 CALENDAR

May 15.....	Arrive in Graz
May 16-17.....	Weekend with families
May 18.....	First day of classes
May 23-25.....	Trip to Salzburg
June 11.....	Fronleichnam
June 13-15.....	Trip to Vienna
June 26.....	Last class and end of program
June 27.....	Depart Graz

TRAVEL TO GRAZ

There is no group flight to Austria. You are responsible for arranging your own international travel so that your arrival in Graz is Friday, May 15.

By April 20, return the Arrival Form with your complete itinerary to Overseas Study so that we can inform your host family of your arrival time. Some families may be able to meet your train or plane. If your family cannot meet you, take a taxi to their home. It will be critical for Overseas Study to know how to reach you by e-mail the first two weeks of May to notify you of specific arrangements for meeting your family.

Don't hesitate to travel in Europe after the program just because you don't yet have a travel companion. You are likely to find a travel companion from among the group during the time in Graz.

ARRIVAL IN GRAZ

You will spend the first weekend with your host family, recuperating from the flight, getting oriented to your neighborhood and the city, and getting acquainted with your hosts. You will need a good city map.

GRAZ

Graz is a prosperous and thoroughly modern city of 250,000 (plus 40,000 students), capital of the southeastern Austrian state of Styria. It is a beautiful, comfortable and clean city with attractive green spaces, gardens, and parks. The historic downtown area is picturesque and charming, with Renaissance palaces, medieval walls, Baroque churches, and sidewalk cafes. Getting lost along the narrow old lanes that are closed to all but pedestrian traffic is remarkably easy, and often rewarding, since you can find scores of sidewalk cafes, bars, restaurants, little parks, and quiet places in the process. Bicycles and trams are widely used, and public transportation is excellent. Graz has a rich cultural life, with opera, theater, street musicians, and summer music festivals.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

In Graz you will take a German language course for which you will receive credit for G330, G400 or G495, and a culture course, G361, Contemporary Austria. Classes meet from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with two scheduled breaks. The program's academic pace is intense, with daily homework. You will have about as much free time as a six-credit load would permit during a summer session at home.

G330 Deutsch: Mittelstufe II Advanced oral and written communication. Study of selected advanced grammatical topics. Reading of primarily non-literary texts. Grade determined by class work, quizzes, essays, homework and a final exam. IU students may count this course toward a major or minor in German. 3 credit hours.

G400 Deutsch: Oberstufe Reading, discussion, and analysis (structural and grammatical) of advanced non-literary texts (academic essays, scientific articles, journals, newspaper articles, interviews, etc.) Development of writing skills. IU students may count this course toward a major or minor in German. 3 credit hours.

G495 Individual Readings in Germanic Literatures Note that despite the title, the course is not restricted to the study of literature. For IUB students, this course counts towards the minor or major in German, by permission. 3 credit hours.

G361 Contemporary Austria The purpose of this course is to introduce students to contemporary Austria, including an examination of geography, history, politics, economy, national identity, family, sexuality, religion, holidays, leisure, cuisine, education, culture and media, language, literature and art. Classroom discussions will focus on readings in the course textbook and experiential learning that will take place on site. Every effort will be made to incorporate interaction with Austrians into the course.

The primary language of classroom instruction will be German. Stress will be placed on discussion and active learning, rather than lecture. The course grade will be based on the following criteria: daily class participation (including two brief in-class presentations); three quizzes; one exam; and one essay.

For IUB students this course counts toward the following COLL requirements: Social & Historical Studies/Culture Studies List B and the German minor (and by permission, for the German major).

TEXTBOOKS

Before leaving the United States, you should acquire the following textbooks:

(1) Bill Dodd; Christine Eckhard-Black; John Klapper; Ruth Whittle. *Modern German Grammar: A Practical Guide*. SECOND EDITION. New York: Routledge, 2003. ISBN: 0-415-27300-05.

(2) Heidi Zojer; Bill Dodd; Christine Eckhard-Black; John Klapper; Ruth Whittle. *Modern German Grammar: Workbook*. SECOND EDITION. New York: Routledge, 2003. ISBN: 0-415-27302-1.

Once in Graz, you will need to purchase two additional books which will be much less expensive in Austrian than in the United States. The program will order the books for the group. Please be prepared to cover the cost of about €50 in cash.

EXCURSIONS

The program arranges trips of several days each to Salzburg and Vienna, group attendance at occasional plays or musical events in Graz, and afternoon visits to attractions nearby. In recent years the program visits have included the Eggenberg castle, Graz's remarkable armory, the horse farm in Piber, the ultra-modern museum in Leoben, and the Hundertwasserkirche at Baernbach. The program also hosts two traditional parties with the families—one at the beginning of the program and one at its conclusion.

The excursions form part of the instructional program and are integrated into the courses. Participation is therefore important and counts as class attendance.

Please be aware that you will have to cover the cost of your meals during the excursions out of pocket.

Life in Graz

HOUSING

Each program student will live with one of the Austrian families selected by Volker Horn, professor emeritus of modern British culture and civilization, and the program's on-site coordinator. Overseas Study will match students to the families with which we think you will be most compatible. Whenever possible, housing assignments will be based on your preferences as indicated on the housing questionnaire.

You will learn your host family's name, address, and phone number just a few days before you leave for Graz. You will share breakfast, supper and sometimes lunch (usually the larger meal) with your family.

Living with a family may mean a substantial change in your living habits as well as cultural differences. Go into Austrian family life with an open mind. Do not be judgmental. Be honest, considerate and communicative. Make an effort to get to know the family that has accepted you into their home. Find out whether or not there are family rules you are expected to follow, such as cleaning your room, being on time for meals, etc. **Talk to your family right away about paying for your telephone calls.**

Let your family know your plans for the day so that they don't have to wait for you in vain with a warm meal. Show your host mother how much you appreciate her help by buying her a bunch of flowers occasionally. Flowers are inexpensive in Austria and she will appreciate the gesture.

Some of the most common adjustments regard how much you should eat at meals (Austrian mothers complain that Americans hardly touch their food, while the Americans feel that they are almost being force fed), how to divide time between academic demands and your family's appeals to join them for an outing or expedition, sensitivity to the extremely high cost of electricity in Europe, and the need to work out such basics as shower schedules. Graz public schools are still in session during the program, and everyone in the family may need to be out of the house early. Austrians are fastidious about never putting

their shoes or feet on furniture, train seats, etc. Most families leave their shoes at the door and wear slippers in the house.

Most of the families that accept program students are educated, middle-class professionals. They are motivated less by the money they receive than by the chance for them or their children to practice English. Host families have been asked to speak German with you at least half the time, but you may have to make an effort to keep the balance at least 50-50. You may also find that the balance shifts toward German over the course of the six weeks.

If you want to master German, read German-language newspapers and magazines. Make new friends and make your old friends and your family speak German with you. Force yourself to think in German. Listen carefully to native speakers and your teachers, but above all, try speaking German. Trying to speak is not only good practice; it makes you listen more carefully, too. Don't hesitate to ask people to speak more slowly and/or repeat what they said.

MEDICAL CARE

If you become ill in Graz, the on-site coordinator will help you get medical attention. The resident director will provide the forms that your physician must complete in order for you to submit an insurance reimbursement claim under the IU policy.

MONEY

The European Union monetary unit is the Euro (€). The euro functions similarly to the U.S. dollar in that it is subdivided into 100 cents. There are eight euro coins denominated in 2 and 1 euros, then 50, 20, 10, 5, 2, and 1 cents. Each euro coin has a common European face and a face designed by each monetary member state. All coins can be used in every monetary member country.

There are seven euro notes which are differently sized and colored, and come in denominations of 500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10, and 5. The notes, unlike the coins, do not have national sides and are completely uniform.

For more information on the euro and related topics, locate the Web site: <http://europa.eu.int/euro/entry.html>. Also see *Getting Started* for more information regarding money matters.

E-MAIL

You can use the cybercafes in Graz for e-mail and Internet access for reasonable hourly fees.

MAIL

Have mail sent to your host family's address. Little yellow boxes bolted on to buildings at elbow level are mail boxes.

TELEPHONES

Telephone calls from Austria to the United States are more expensive than the same calls placed from the United States. One way to handle transatlantic calls is to obtain a calling card from your U.S. telephone carrier before you leave home. With it you can call collect or have a call charged to your card at the best European rates.

Increasingly, however, students also use pre-paid telephone cards purchased in Europe. Rely on your U.S. calling card or a pre-paid telephone card for calling home. In the absence of either card, go to the main post office (*Hauptpostamt* at Neutorgasse 46) where you can pay for your call in advance, or to the Postamt at the train station. Both are open 24 hours a day.

In your homestay, always offer to pay and keep your calls brief. Telephone calls are very expensive, and even local calls are metered.

TIME

Local time in most of Indiana (Eastern Daylight Time) will be six hours behind Central European Daylight Time in Graz, so at noon in Indianapolis, it will be 6 p.m. in Graz.

Written expressions of time in Europe use the 24-hour clock, but colloquial expressions of time do not. Most Germans and Austrians say *acht Uhr* to indicate 8 p.m. or 20.00 hours. In Austria, you're likely to hear *Viertel elf* instead of *Viertel nach zehn* for 10:15. Other interesting variations to watch out for are *drei Viertel elf* for 10:45 a.m. and *halb elf* for 10:30.

WEATHER

Early summer weather in Graz is hard to predict. It may be cool and rainy, much like Indiana in mid-April, but you may also encounter the heat and humidity of a Midwestern summer. Be prepared for quite a range of temperatures.

EATING OUT

To learn a restaurant's most economical meal, ask the waiter what the *Menü* (daily special) is. Remember what you eat, because you will be expected to recount it to the server when the time comes to pay your bill. Include any bread or rolls. At most places you call the server over when you are finished, and pay at the table.

In restaurants the tip is up to 10% and it is paid directly to servers when they collect what you owe for your meal. They will not expect a separate tip left at the table and will be insulted if you pay them only the exact price of the meal. Once the server tallies up the food bill and announces what is due, even though a service charge is included in the price, state the amount you are giving him for food and tip together.

Introduce yourself to the excellent coffee in Austria. In Austria, there is no such thing as just "*Kaffee, bitte.*" Specify what kind. *Ich hätte gern einen...*

- *Verlängerten*--about half milk and half coffee, not bad for starters.
- *großen Braunen*--Your basic coffee in a cup, without as much milk as above.
- *kleinen Schwarzen*-- strong black coffee. Replacing *Kleinen* with *Grossen* gets you a big one. Adding *mit Schlagobers, bitte* or *cappuccino* gets you whipped cream on top.

GETTING AROUND GRAZ

Trams

Most host families live in Graz's handsome and widely separated suburban areas, not downtown, and you will use Graz's extensive public transportation system to commute to the city center where classes are held. Your program fee includes tram/bus passes.

The procedure for riding the *Strassenbahn* is this: At the more populated stops, the door will open automatically; hop on. Otherwise, push the button beside the door and keep pushing until the door opens. Once on, stick the unstamped end or side of your ticket into the convenient *Entwerter* box. The weekly and monthly passes provided by the program are stamped only once.

Just before your arrival at your destination, push the button on one of the uprights near the door. If you don't think you'll be able to recognize the stop the first few times, the conductor will be glad to help. State where you want to get off, and the conductor will show you out at the appropriate stop.

Learn to read tram and bus schedules, posted at most stops (*Haltestellen*). Be especially careful to note the different schedules for weekdays, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. The schedule, like all other printed times in Europe, uses the 24-hour clock (i.e. 1 p.m. = 13.00 *Uhr*). Public transportation does not run as late as student social life sometimes does. Late at night, your best hope is an inexpensive group taxi.

Taxis

Taxis are available at any hour of the day or night. They don't cruise (although you may manage to flag one down on its way back from somewhere), but are located at taxi stands throughout the city. You can call for one, or just show up at any of the following places: Geidorfplatz, tel. 62 2 36; Griesplatz, tel. 91 12 33; Hauptbahnhof, tel. 91 122 77; Kaiserfeldgasse/Herrengasse, tel. 72 2 00; Landeskrankenhaus, tel. 32 3 04; Parkhotel, tel. 32 1 01; Sudtirolerplatz, tel. 91 41 14; Schmiedgasse/Hauptplatz, tel. 79 0 43.

Inexpensive group taxis should be reserved by phone: tel. 22 1 01, or 31 5 55, or even 36 3 11.

Walking

By far one of the most enjoyable things to do in Graz is just wander. It is usually safe even for women alone. The jumble of building facades along the *Altstadt* is fascinating. Through the archways on these streets you will find everything from blind alleys and trash cans to interesting examples of architecture.

The Stadtpark is a good place to eat a sack lunch, feed the pigeons, study or play Frisbee. With the help of your street map and a reproduction of an old map of the city you can mentally reconstruct the inner and outer defenses of the Schlossberg, remnants of which are still visible to the trained eye of the incorrigible brown-bagger. At the Hilmteich one can rent a rowboat for an hour or two.

For the inept rower, there's a forest full of footpaths behind the pond. In fact, one of these paths leads out to Wallfahrtskirche Mariatrost, a lovely old Baroque church on the outskirts of town. A beautiful running path, marked for up to half of a marathon, is laid out in the same forest. If it gets late and you're getting tired, hop on tram number 1 for the journey back downtown.

THINGS TO DO

Seeking out these places is a great way to get to know Graz.

Museums

Neue Galerie, Palais Herberstein, Sackstr. 16/II: This Baroque city palace of the dukes of Eggenberg (of 1602) has a fine staircase, a gallery of mirrors, and a suite of stately, graceful rooms with stucco and carvings in pastel colors, tiled stoves and chandeliers.

Künstlerhaus, Burgring, Kulturhaus der Stadt Graz, Elisabethstr. 30: Both these galleries feature paintings (and sometimes graphics and sculpture) of "classic" modernism, and some contemporary art. The Künstlerhaus is a 1950s building overlooking the Stadtpark while the Kulturhaus is an ancient *palais*.

Stadtmuseum, Sackstr. 18: Archduke Franz Ferdinand, whose assassination precipitated World War I, was born here. Three-dimensional models, maps and pictures of the city of Graz are on view at the former *palais* Schrattenbach-Kuhenburg.

Landesmuseum Joanneum, Neutorgasse 45 and Raubergasse 10: Incorporating collections of Archduke Johann of Austria, this is the country's oldest museum (founded 1811). Medieval and Baroque art are well represented in this collection. In a separate historic building, the departments of zoology, botany, mineralogy and paleontology are housed, including the rare *dinotherium gigantium*.

Landeszeughaus, Herrengasse 16: A world-famous collection of 30,000 suits of armor, halberds, flintlock, matchlock and wheellock guns, and powder horns.

Schloss Eggenberg, Terminus (west) of street car 1: This large, beautifully proportioned Baroque palace with extensive grounds is located on the western edge of the city. The dukes of Eggenberg were successful generals in the wars against the Turks, and numbered Wallenstein and Spanish nobles among their friends. Now owned by the Land Steiermark, the palace houses historical collections (Roman antiquities, coins, prehistoric finds), a hunting museum, and state rooms.

Forum Stadtpark: A lively center of contemporary and avant-garde literature, art and music, beautifully situated in the middle of the Stadtpark. Writers Peter Handke and Wolfgang Bauer gave the Forum international recognition, and many others — including Gerhard Roth, H.C. Artmann, Gert Jonke — consider it their cultural home. Poetry and prose readings, jazz, modern art exhibitions, informal atmosphere.

Ruins

If you take the G bus from the train station out as far as it goes (Schlossplatz Gosting), you will be within 40 minutes walking distance of the castle ruins of Gosting. And from here it's only 10 more minutes to Jungfernsprung, a high cliff from which you can see a good stretch of the Mur Valley.

Shopping

Graz teems with tiny specialty shops, whose shopkeepers greet you, ask you what you'd like, and know their products. As a result, shopping in Graz is different from shopping in the U.S., except at Kastner & Öhler's, which has escalators, modern decor and a wide variety of merchandise. The store offers a good sports and camping equipment section, and you can make photocopies on the ground floor.

Business hours in Graz vary. Make sure you know the hours of an establishment you plan to visit. On Saturday, most shops are open only in the morning. All shops and banks are closed on Sunday.

Performances

Haus der Jugend, (also called Orpheum), Orpheumgasse 8, street car stop Roseggerhaus, near train station: A center of popular, contemporary culture, staging multimedia shows, pop groups and films.

Opera, Theater, and Concert Tickets: Theater and Konzertkasse, Landhausgasse 7, tel. 72 4 55. Other tickets: Zentralkartenbüro, Herrengasse 7 (Passage) tel. 30 2 55. Ask for the student discount. These tickets are very reasonable compared to American prices.

Movies

There are numerous *Kinos*, or movie theaters, in Graz. You pay according to where you choose to sit. The front is well-suited for the thrifty, and the seats get gradually more expensive as you move toward the back. Check the diagram at the box office window to figure out what you can afford. Rechbauer Film Zentrum (Rechbauerstr., just off the Glacis) features a new film almost every day. Newspapers give daily film listings.

Radio

There are three official radio stations in Austria. One features excellent classical music, another is set up more along the lines of a pop rock FM station in the U.S., and the third plays everything else.

Television

There are two official stations where commercials aren't shown in the middle of programs. Most families have cable access and numerous other stations.

For More Information

Visit the Fremdenverkehrsbüro, Kaiserfeldgasse 25, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. Here you can pick up useful literature about Graz, most of it free. A helpful little pamphlet is the *Stadtanzeiger* for the current month. More or less a "What's Happening in Graz This Month," the *Anzeiger* can inform you about current gallery exhibitions, what's playing at the opera, etc.

HEALTH & SAFETY PRECAUTION

Tick-Borne Encephalitis (TBE)

Please be aware that ticks that are carriers of the TBE virus are common in Austria in May and June. You could be exposed to ticks while biking, hiking or walking in grassy or wooded areas. No TBE vaccines are available in the U.S. Vaccination is available in Austria, but they are given in a series (1-3 shots) and typically do not reach fully efficacy for a number of weeks. You are strongly encouraged to take precautions by wearing long-sleeved shirts, trousers rather than shorts, socks and shoes rather than sandals, and to closely examine yourself for bites and shower after potential exposure.

Should you develop symptoms of TBE (several days of fever, fatigue, headache and muscle pain), seek medical assistance.

For further information, including a more detailed explanation and additional recommendations, please see information on the CDC Web site: <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/yellowBookCh4-Tickborne.aspx>

VACATION TRAVEL

For vacation travel after the program ends, a Eurail pass is highly recommended. It gives you the freedom to roam about as you wish, without stopping to purchase a new ticket for every leg of your trip. There are several types of Eurail passes, all of which must be purchased in the U.S. For information on the various options consult any travel agent.

Don't plan to use your Eurail pass during the six weeks in Graz; you won't have enough free weekends to get your money's worth. The trips to Vienna and Salzburg take up two of the five weekends. Often students travel to Slovenia or Croatia on one of the remaining weekends.

For vacation travel, bring a guidebook to the places you plan to visit. *Let's Go: Europe* and the *Lonely Planet* volume on Western Europe are excellent guides for student travelers, but neither has the space to give information in depth about any single place. If you are going to travel mainly in one country, bring the separate guide to that country. Travel in France and Italy is expensive, Slovenia and Hungary much more affordable.

PACKING

Pack light. This is the consistent advice from former program participants. A small, well-coordinated wardrobe is more practical than a large one. Bring wash and wear garments you will be happy wearing a lot. Few families have clothes dryers, so bring clothing that doesn't require tumble drying to look sharp. Jeans are as popular in Austria as they are in the U.S. Clothing is expensive in Europe.

Pack the following:

- raincoat, umbrella, warm jacket
- one nice outfit
- sturdy, comfortable shoes
- two warm sweaters or sweatshirts
- aspirin, antihistamines, vitamins, cold medication, and other nonprescription drugs you sometimes use
- prescription drugs in their original container to last the entire program; clearly printed copy of your prescription in generic, not brand name, terms
- extra pair of glasses or contact lenses and a typewritten copy of your prescription
- contact lens solution
- pocket knife, corkscrew
- travel alarm clock
- large knapsack for traveling, small knapsack for books
- MP3 player or Discman, CDs, batteries
- good map of Europe
- diary and address book with emergency telephone numbers
- photos of home and family
- Let's Go: Europe, Lonely Planet*, or other student travel guide
- gift for Austrian family
- camera, plenty of film
- textbooks, notebooks, classroom supplies

PREDEPARTURE READING

Begin now to read about Austrian history, culture and politics. Do you know what Austria's form of government is like and who the head of state is? What is the primary religion? Where is Graz in relation to Vienna, Venice, or Budapest? No Austrian would come to the U.S. without some basic knowledge of its geography, politics and history.

Read the introductory pages of the *Lonely Planet: Austria* guidebook for practical and general cultural information, as well as historical information. You may also find *Culture Shock! Austria* by Susan Roraff and Julie Krejci useful and informative. Finally, *Insight Guides* have beautifully illustrated and detailed guidebooks to Austria and Vienna.

