



Studying in Austria: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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Choice of field of study

How do I find the right course of study for me?

In order to find a suitable course of study, an interest test for **berufkompass.at** is recommended. Web pages from Germany can also be used (**hochschulkompass.de**, **studienwahl.de**, etc.), but the courses of study proposed there may differ from those in Austria. Furthermore, you can register at **studieren.at** or **studiversum.at** (official website of Austria). Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research) on various courses of study.

A ranking and information on subjects of study can be found at **uni.at**.

Some universities also offer information platforms for prospective students with compact presentations of the course content.

Do I have to commit to a course of study before starting my studies?

Yes, in the case of Austrian universities, you have to decide on a course of study at the time of application. Unfortunately, there is no orientation course at any of the universities if you are interested in more than one subject and would like to try out whether a subject suits you. On the other hand, the academic advisory service at the major Austrian universities is very well developed.

Is it possible to change my field of study during my studies?

Yes, it is possible to apply for a change of course of study or subject, which is usually unproblematic, especially if you stay at the same university. Certain deadlines must be met. Depending on whether the desired subject is subject to an entrance examination, the change requires prior application and admission.

Choice of university/college

Where can I find out about the current ranking of Austrian universities/colleges?

Worldwide: e.g. THE World University *Ranking*, *QS World University Rankings*

Austria: <https://www.uni.at/studium/uni-rankings-und-fh-rankings/>

Choosing the best university isn't just about rankings, it's also about what suits you and your expectations. When choosing a university, you should consider various aspects, e.g. the offer and size of the university, but also the size and cost of living of the city.

What types of universities are there?

In Austria, there are state and state-recognized universities, which are usually divided into universities, universities of applied sciences as well as art and music colleges. The majority of universities are financed by the state and are therefore state-funded. However, there are also universities that are run by the Protestant or Catholic Church and private universities that are state-recognized.

Read more: ***studieren.at***

What is the proportion of private universities?

There are currently 22 universities in Austria, compared to 18 private universities, of which one is a private university and 17 are private universities. They have very different emphases, ranging from social and economic sciences, law, medicine, theology to art and music. Federal funding is not provided for private universities, which is why private universities are mainly financed from the funds of their maintainers or owners as well as tuition fees.

The application process

What steps should I have already taken before starting the actual application process?

In the 10th/11th and at the beginning of the 12th grade, one should familiarize oneself with the Austrian higher education system and the different offers. For this purpose, the pages ***studium.at***, ***uni.at*** or ***studieren.at*** are particularly suitable to get an idea of the courses of study and the different types of universities. See also the interest test for ***berufkompass.at*** (already mentioned earlier in the text under Choice of field of study). Then you should inquire in good time about the application, admission criteria and documents to be submitted.

When are the application deadlines for Austrian universities?

Deadlines for nationals of an EU/EEA country and Switzerland:

Summer semester 2023:	9 January to 5 February 2023
Winter term 2023/24:	June to 5 September 2023
Summer semester 2024:	15 November 2023 to 5 February 2024

Deadlines for persons who are nationals of a non-EU/EEA country, regardless of where the school-leaving certificate was issued:

Summer semester 2023:	9 January to 5 February 2023
Winter term 2023/24:	15 June to 31 July 2023
Summer semester 2024:	15 November 2023 to 2 January 2024

How does my German International Abitur affect the application? Do I have to take anything into account?

The general German university entrance qualification or the German Abitur is equivalent to the Austrian Matura and is also valid in Austria as an entrance qualification for all universities and disciplines. You can apply for all courses in Austria with your German International Abitur. However, the general university entrance qualification is not fulfilled with a US High School Diploma (HSD)!

How do I find out about the application procedures at the different universities?

In order to find out the exact details of the individual universities, it is best to inform yourself on the websites of the universities. Procedures of admission vary from college to college. For example, there are not the same entrance exams everywhere.

Once you have found a course of study, you should find out whether you have to go through an application process – and if so, which one.

Some courses of study are restricted locally or throughout Austria. However, there are also many admission-free degree programs.

Some admission-free degree programs at certain universities require a prior aptitude test, an online self-test or an application/pre-registration with the responsible faculty. Participation is obligatory and timely. The evaluation criteria are very different. Therefore, you should inquire at the university of your choice whether, by when and how the application documents are to be submitted. Information can be found on the websites of the universities.

If it is a course of study at universities with restricted admission throughout Austria (e.g. Medicine), then the information portals of the universities in question should be viewed at an early stage.

If there is a local admission restriction for the subject of your choice, you must apply to the relevant subject by the deadline. For detailed information, please refer to the websites of the universities.

Can I apply for a specific course of study at several universities?

Yes, you can apply for a specific course of study at several universities at the same time.

In some cases, it is possible to apply for different courses of study at a university. In this case of multiple applications, however, there may be different restrictions on the maximum number of applications depending on the university. Therefore, inquire in advance at the university of your choice whether there is an upper limit on the number of application applications.

How are the study places allocated in the subjects with restricted admission throughout Austria?

In Austria, there is no central office for the allocation of study places, i.e. you always apply to one or more universities, regardless of the place you are looking for.

Where in Austria are there many locally restricted subjects (NC subjects) and where are they not?

In Austria, there is no numerus clausus, i.e. the Abitur grade is not decisive for obtaining a place at university. As a rule, aptitude tests are carried out by the universities.

Information on the housing situation

How do I apply for a place in a student dormitory?

The places in the dormitories of the Studentenwerke are very popular - and therefore always quickly assigned. It is recommended to contact the student union of the university town in good time and before the start of the semester. You apply directly to the local student union.

What are the options outside of student residences?

Since students are not guaranteed a place in a dormitory, you should be prepared for waiting times and look for a room or apartment on your own. Internet portals such as **stuwo.at**, which offer rooms in shared flats for students, are suitable for this purpose. On **www.studentenwerk.at** (Attention: is aimed at students in the province of Upper Austria!) there are also tips on finding accommodation on the open market and also on the websites of the universities.

Do you still have questions?

Klaus Himmelstein (career and study advisor at GISNY) will be happy to help you with any questions you may have about studying in German-speaking countries.

E-Mail: khimmelstein@gisny.org

HINT:

The contents of this study information are compiled with the greatest possible care. However, the provider assumes no liability for the accuracy, completeness and timeliness of the content provided and recommends that you access the current information on the respective pages of the universities and under hochschulstart.de and studienwahl.de.