

Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg  
ERASMUS Report 2016/17

Personal Information	
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Host university:	Karl-Franzens University of Graz
Host country:	Austria
Study programme at host university:	Business Administration
Duration in semester (WS, SS or whole year):	WS
May the report be published?	(Delete what is <b>NOT</b> applicable) YES
If yes, may name and e-mail be published?	(Delete what is <b>NOT</b> applicable) YES to both

## 1. Preparation (organization, application at the host university)

The preparation was quite easy after choosing the destination. I got an email with the paperwork that needed to be emailed to the host university and also a contact person from the host university in case of any questions.

## 2. Arrival / Visa (flight, train)

From Nürnberg to Graz, the connection is not the best although it is not that far. The best option is by car as by bus or train or plane you must go through Vienna. However from Vienna to Graz there are some easy connections with flibus.

For me, as I am not a European, I needed to get a Visa at the Munich consulate of Austria. This procedure needs to be done a few months before departure. You need to write to the consulate in Munich and they will then give you an appointment which enables you to go there and show the appropriate paperwork:

- Passport
- Financial means
- Proof of residence in Graz
- Acceptance letter of the University in Graz
- 100 euros
- They will tell you all the documents to bring.

They will then process the information (takes a few hours) and then you can get your passport back with the Visa printed in it.

### 3. Accommodation (student residence hall, private apartment)

I lived in a student dorm close to the university. This dorm was a little bit old and needed some refreshing. I would recommend staying at the OECD dorms because it is quite simple with them. The only inconvenient part is the large (almost 1000 euros) deposit needed. Graz is much more of a dorm city and most students live in dorms. However, some people did live in WG apartments which is also possible to find and probably cheaper than the dorms which are not that cheap.

### 4. Study at the host university (Courses / Language Courses / Timetable)

I first started of my semester with the intensive German language course and this was quite a good course. It is good to meet people and also improve your German if you are a foreigner like me. The course cost 160 euros for Erasmus student. If you want to take courses during the semester, the fee per language course is 60 euros (for 3 ECTS). I also took the semester course but was not really impressed by the mere 1.5 hour per week (not enough to improve a language). For the language courses, it is important to be aware of the deadlines to apply (you should get this information from the host university).

As for the regular courses, the ones I took were quite good. I was able to take all my courses in English as they have quite a large selection. The only problem for me was to find courses as most of their classes are only 4 ECTS and the system of my home university is normally 5 ECTS courses. This really makes choosing courses hard.

I was able to manage my timetable without overlapping courses.

### 5. Support service at the host university (International Office, Department)

The international office is very helpful when you have any questions but the only downside is that their office is only open in the morning. You are therefore better off emailing them.

### 6. Facilities at the host university (library, computer pool, etc.)

I did not really use the library as it was under construction and the temporary one was quite full. There were some computer rooms, printers are also available.

The university of Graz offers really good (and cheap) sports classes. It is worth having a look at what they offer.

### 7. Spare time activities (sight seeking, bank, mobile phone, jobs)

If you are into hiking, then Graz is a really good place for that. There is also some sightseeing around and in Graz, although not that much. The location of Graz does make it easy to travel to eastern European countries.

Bank: I had a bank account with Hello Bank, which was easy to open. There are also other banks available. You actually need an Austrian bank account for the quick card (for doing laundry).

Mobile phone: you can get an Erasmus SIM card which gives you some benefits such as a free month and top up bonuses (see with ESN for getting this SIM).

#### 8. Finances (cost of living, grant)

I receive the Erasmus grant which is of course not enough to support you financially as the normal rent in a dorm is around 400 euros for a private room and then you need to account for food and going out.

#### 9. Conclusion (best and worse experience)

The best part about Graz is that it is quite easy to get around, it is really a bike friendly city and I would recommend getting a bike from the beginning. It is also possible to ride for free on the tram for the stops in the city center.

It is a nice city although small for being the second biggest city in Austria. For me, it was a little too small as there is a limited number of good places to go out. The worst part for me was the fact that I did not really get to practice my German as you do not really get a chance to meet Austrians. Apart from that, Graz is a nice cozy city.

#### 10. Important contact persons and links

Ostir-Schein, Monika (monika.ostir-schein@uni-graz.at)

Also, if you simply google University of Graz exchange student, you can find plenty of information on the website from the university (different links to important information).

<https://www.uni-graz.at/en/studying/for-prospective-students/international-students/>