INFORMATION BROCHURE FOR RIDER UNIVERSITY EXCHANGE STUDENTS IN 2010
Contact Information

Local Academic Advisor in Graz  
Mag. Heidrun Mörtl (Ms)  
Hochsteingasse 7 Top 2/8, 8010 Graz  
phone: +43 (0)650 28 22 730 (24-hr emergency contact)  
email: hmoertl@rider.edu  
skype: drueni

Office of International Relations  
Mag. Christa Grassauer (Ms)  
Universitätsplatz 3, 8010 Graz  
phone: +43 (0) 316 380-1254  
fax: +43 (0) 316 380-9156  
email: christa.grassauer@uni-graz.at  
office hours: Mon - Fri 10.00 am – 12.00 pm und Wed 01.00 pm – 03.00 pm

PRIOR TO ARRIVAL IN GRAZ...

Acceptance at Uni Graz  
Once your applications have been reviewed and the Office of International Relations has agreed to accept you as an exchange student within their program they will contact you first via email and then also send you a letter of acceptance. This letter states that you have been accepted at Uni Graz and mentions the exact dates of the semester you will be allowed to study at Uni Graz.

Visa / Permit of Residence

Stays less than 6 months  
Non EU- or EEA-citizens (e.g. USA, Mexico) staying in Austria for a time period of up to 6 months need a visa. Please contact the Austrian embassy/consulate in your country of residence to find out which application documents are required. You will receive a visa confirmation letter from the Austrian exchange coordinator which you can present at the embassy/consulate when applying for the visa. Please note that visas cannot be issued or extended in Austria. You must obtain a visa before coming to Austria.

Stays for more than 6 months  
Non EU- or EEA-citizens staying in Austria for more than 6 months need a residence permit (Aufenthaltswilligung). Citizens from certain countries (e.g. USA, Mexico) can apply for the ‘Aufenthaltswilligung’ after their arrival in Graz. For a complete list of countries check http://www.oead.ac.at/ english/austria/. (Entry and Residence Regulations > for ‘third countries’ > for Students at Austrian universities > ‘without a visa’)

To obtain a residence permit please bring along the following documents:

• Passport photo
• Copy of your birth certificate
• Criminal Record (if available)
• Proof of sufficient financial means
• Cost: € 110
**Housing**

Rider students are usually placed in the ÖAD Dorm in Neubaugasse [http://www.housing.oead.at/01_housing_folge.asp?RECORD_KEY[Housing]=id&id[Housing]=79]. Your local advisor will reserve a room for you ahead of time. Please sign-up at [http://www.housing.oead.at](http://www.housing.oead.at) in order for the ÖAD to be able to add you to their database. The landlord in this case is the Housing Office of the Austrian Exchange Service (ÖAD). Once you have registered in the database the ÖAD housing office will send you a message containing all relevant information regarding your dorm room (eg. how to pay the housing deposit of 600 EURO). Once they have received the payment from you they will send you the housing confirmation which you will need to apply for your visa. Please note that you have to contact the ÖAD housing office immediately after your arrival to sign your housing contract and receive the payment slips for

ÖAD Wohnraumverwaltungs GmbH (Mag. Claudia Arnez) Steyrergasse 3-5, 8010 Graz
email: claudia.arnez@oead.at
phone: +43 (0)316 31 87 84
fax: +43 (0)316 32 47 59
office hours: Mon – Fri 09.00 am – 12.00 pm, Tues and Thurs 02.00 pm – 04.00 pm

**German Courses**

treffpunkt sprachen

**Intensive German Courses** are offered in the last three weeks of the months September and February. The University of Graz funds participation in the course, and therefore, Rider students only pay € 150 instead of € 250. The date for the intensive German course before the summer semester 2010 is: February 03-25, 2010. Online sign-up for this course ends January 08, 2010.

All students must take a placement interview in order so that they are assigned the right course level.

**Courses offered during the semester:** Dates for these courses are available at the beginning of each semester. A two-hour class will probably cost € 50 per semester.

**FREMDSPRACHENZENTRUM "treffpunkt sprachen"**
Johann-Fux-Gasse 30/l, 8010 Graz
phone: +43 (0)316 380 2493
fax: +43 (0)316 380 9766
email: treffpunktsprachen@uni-graz.at
web: [http://www.uni-graz.at/treffpunktsprachen](http://www.uni-graz.at/treffpunktsprachen)

**VGU (Vorstudienlehrgang)**
Rider students interested in participating in intensive German instruction (12 – 18 units per week) throughout the semester should let the local advisor know that they would like to do so. Places for all incoming Rider students will be reserved in advance. Once the students arrive in Graz the local advisor will take them to the VGU secretary to sign up for the placement test (even students with no prior knowledge of the language have to take it) and fill out additional forms. Students will receive payment slips for the course cost of about € 350 and additional money for copies which they will have to pay before the start of the semester in Graz.

VGU (Mag. Ursula Schwab-Harich)
Neubaugasse 10, 1.Stock, 8020 Graz  
phone: +43 (0)316 83 14 96 or +43 (0)316 950 112  
fax: +43(0)316 950 111  
e-mail: office@vgu.at  
web: http://www.vgu.at/  
office hours: Mon - Thurs 09.00 am - 12.00 pm, 01.00 pm - 02.00 pm, Fri 09.00 am - 12.00 pm

Course Selection
Students participating in the VGU German course should take no more than 1-2 regular university classes at the same time. The VGU course counts for 12 Rider credits and it is important that students focus as much as possible on the course. Information on how to search for courses can be found at: http://www.uni-graz.at/bibwww_s_ugo_lvsuche_de-3.pdf  
Students should contact their academic advisor at Rider in order to arrange for the pre-course selection. Lists of courses offered in English are available at Rider’s CIE. The final selection of the courses will be made in Graz.

Facebook
Please join the Facebook group ‘Rider and WCC goes Graz’.

Student Union (ÖH) Mentoring Program
It is strongly advised that you sign up for the mentoring program prior to your arrival in Graz. For further information please refer to the section: ‘Living in Graz - Austrian National Union of Students’.

Banks/ Credit Cards
In order to keep the transaction fees for wiring money from the US as low as possible please ask your home bank which Austrian bank they are collaborating with. Most major banks have partners in European countries. Free student bank accounts can be signed up for at Raiffeisen Bank and Bank Austria. Please also ask about your withdraw limit at your home institution, most banks set it at about € 400 per day. Whereas the major stores in Austria now also accept credit cards (Visa, MasterCard, some American Express), smaller stores often do not accept them. Please note that it is also not customer to pay with credit cards at bars and cafes.

Students should also ask for information about inexpensive ways for international money transfers at their home bank. Usually, the IBAN and the BIC (also called SWIFT) code are necessary for international money transfers, therefore students should ask their home bank about these codes.

Arrival in Graz
Recommended arrival days for students in the summer semester depending on whether they sign up for the intensive German course are: February 1 or 2 or February 15 or 16. ! It is important that students arrive in time for the Registration Session at the University of Graz where they will be enrolled as a regular student: February 17, 2010  
For further information please refer to the section: ‘Let the Adventure begin - Welcome Week’  
Please send your travel itinerary to the local advisor as soon as you have booked your flight.
Please bring along
- A copy of your passport and other important documents in case you lose one of the original
- Passport photos for various IDs and applications
- International Student Card (ISC) which will get you low student airfares, discounts to museums and which serves as identification while you travel
- ATM card with PLUS or CIRRUS access (NON-EU/EEA countries) so that you can withdraw money from your home bank account while you are in Austria
- An adapter: if you want to use your own electrical devices here in Graz (the voltage in Austria is 230V)
- Of particular interest to US students: Try to avoid sending extra clothing, books etc. by mail, as parcels have been held up by customs before and students were required to pay a considerable customs fee.

Uni Graz

Christmas in Graz
WILLKOMMEN !!!

LET THE ADVENTURE BEGIN...

Arrival
Arrival at Graz Main Train Station – Graz Hauptbahnhof (http://www.oebb.at)
Quite a few buses as well as trams number 3 and 6 go from the main train station to the city center. Tickets can either be purchased from the driver or at the newspaper stands. A single ticket is currently € 1.80.

Arrival at Graz Airport – Flughafen Graz Thalerhof (http://www.flughafen-graz.at)
Graz Airport is situated about 19 km south of the city of Graz. Busses number 603 and 630 run between "Jakominiplatz" and the airport. From the main train station, you can reach the airport by S-Bahn (city train) number 5 (S 5). Timetables are listed at: http://www.flughafen-graz.at/home/an_abreise_uebersicht/fahrplan.php.

Arrival at Vienna Airport – Flughafen Wien Schwechat (http://www.viennaairport.com)
After having arrived at Vienna Airport, students can take the shuttle bus to the train station “Wien Meidling” (30 minutes, ticket € 6). Direct trains to get to Graz leave every hour.

Pick-Up-Service
Rider students’ pick-up at the airport or main train station in Graz will be arranged by the local advisor. Students will either be picked up directly or asked to sign up for pick-up by a mentor. More about the mentor program in the section – ‘Living in Graz - Austrian National Union of Students’. The person picking up the student will have the key to the dorm room.

Signing your Housing Contract and obtaining the Meldezettel at the ÖAD Housing Office
Within the first days after your arrival you are requested to go to the ÖAD Housing Office in Steyrergasse 3-5, 8010 Graz to sign your housing contract and receive the payment slips for your rent. Please refer to “Housing” for the contact information of their office. You should furthermore ask the ÖAD Housing Office to please sign the “Meldezettel” (confirmation of registration) which you will need for registration with the city of Graz. The form for the Meldezettel can be found online at: http://www.help.gov.at/Content.Node/documents/meldez.pdf. Please also notify the Office of International Relations of your address in Graz.

Travel Registration with the U.S. Department of State
It is a free service provided by the U.S. Government to U.S. citizens who are traveling to, or living in, a foreign country. Registration allows you to record information about your upcoming trip abroad that the Department of State can use to assist you in case of an emergency. Americans residing abroad can also get routine information from the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.
For possible cases of emergency WCC students are required to complete this registration https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/

Registration in Graz ("Anmeldung in Graz")
Notification of address in Graz
Within three days after moving in, every person in Austria is required to register, that is, to announce the place of living. An appointment to register will be arranged with the local
advisor.

For registration students need the following documents:
• valid travel document
• filled-in "Meldezettel"

Students have to take these documents to one of the "Bezirksamter mit Meldeservice", to the "Servicestelle Stiftingtal", the "Servicestelle Andritz" or the "ServiceCenter der Stadt Graz" (http://www.graz.at/cms/ziel/313359/DE/). Because of shorter waiting periods, it is recommended to go to the "Servicestelle Stiftingtal".

Servicestelle Stiftingtal
Stiftingtalstraße 3, 8010 Graz
phone: +43 (0)316 87 26 60 9
office hours: Mon 07.00 am – 06.00 pm, Tues - Fri 07.00 am – 1.00 pm
How to get to the "Servicestelle Stiftingtal": tram number 7, last stop St. Leonhard/ LKH.

**German Course**
Please note that the intensive German course at *treffpunkt sprachen* starts on February 03, 2010. Placement interviews will be held on the first day. Please note that you will have to pay for the course within the first few course days. The course takes place every day from February 03 - 25, 2010 from 9.00 am - 12.15 pm.

**Welcome Events at the University of Graz**
In order to be able to study at the University of Graz as an exchange student, Rider students need to participate in the following sessions:

- **February 8, 2010**: 2.00 pm - 3.30 pm Orientation (HS 01.22/HS 01.15)
- **February 9, 2010**: 2.00 pm - 3.30 pm Health Insurance/ Visa/ Housing Contract (HS 15.01)
- **February 17, 2010**: 1.00 pm - 5.00 pm Registration (AULA/ Alter Senatssaal/HS 01.15/HS 01.22) -> pincode which is necessary for online registration
- **February 18, 2010**: 2.00 pm - 3.30 pm UniGrazonline (UGO)/ Course Registration (HS 01.22/HS 01.15)
- **February 19, 2010**: 8.00 am - 8.30 am or 10.00 am - 10.30 am USI (University Sports Institute - Sport class sign-up)

Further details will be sent out by the Office of International Relations and can also be found at: http://www.uni-graz.at/EN/print/bibwww/bibwww_students/bibwww_s-incoming/bibwww_s-in-welcome_woche.htm

**Academic Advising**
Rider students are required to arrange for an advising session with the local advisor shortly after arrival in Graz to discuss their course schedule prior to registering in the UGO system.
**LIVING IN GRAZ…**

**Graz – The City and its Surroundings**
Graz is Austria's second largest city with a total of about 255,354 inhabitants. The city is situated about 200 km south-west of Vienna. It attracts many visitors because of the good pairing of tradition and modernity. What should be especially highlighted is the historic quarter with its houses, which have continuously been inhabited since their construction dating back to the 12th century. There are many famous buildings such as the Opera House and the local theatre which contribute to the typical impression visitors get when strolling through Graz. There are several noteworthy museums, above all the Armoury, the largest collection of weaponry from the Middle Ages in Central Europe. Graz has four universities, namely the University of Graz (Karl-Franzens-Universität), Graz University of Technology, the Medical University of Graz, and the University of Music and Performing Arts, and two Universities of Applied Sciences as well as a University of Teacher Education with altogether a total of about 40,000 students. There are numerous opportunities to enjoy cabaret entertainment and there is a famous and lively jazz scene. With its small alleys, inner courts, arcades and passageways as well as a large pedestrian area, Graz gives the impression of a southern city with a southern atmosphere. The city is crowned by the "Schlossberg", a small hill in the heart of the city with its famous clock tower. From there, visitors have a great view of the city, the hills and the surrounding area. Because of its extensive forests, Styria is a favorite holiday destination for many people. The wonderful landscape, old sacred buildings, and the wine-region in southern Styria are good reasons to visit.

For further information please go to: [http://www.graz.at](http://www.graz.at) or [http://www.graztourismus.at](http://www.graztourismus.at)

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**Tourist Information**
The Tourist Information Office is located in the very center of the City, in "Herrengasse". There students can get free brochures and city maps, find more information on Graz and its surroundings, guided tours, trips, museums and exhibitions, festivals, Styrian culture, and much more.

**Tourist Information Office**
Herrengasse 16, 8010 Graz
phone: +43 (0)316 8075 0
fax: +43 (0)316 8075 15
email: info@graztourismus.at
[http://www.graztourismus.at](http://www.graztourismus.at)

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**Austrian National Union of Students**
The Austrian National Union of Students ("Österreichische Hochschülerschaft", short ÖH) is the official representative of all students in Austria. Each university comprises various sections of the ÖH. These sections cover all areas. One of them is the **Department for International Relations**.

Relations Section and what does it do? The mission statement is to help incoming students from other countries at University of Graz. Therefore a **mentoring program** (buddy) has been created. Students from the University of Graz help incoming students with their first (and further) steps in Graz. This covers, for example, helping them select appropriate classes as well as providing an introduction to Graz' night life. This is an ideal opportunity not only for students from the University of Graz, but also for incomings to meet each other, to experience a complete cultural immersion and, on top of that, to improve language skills. More Information can be found online at: [http://www.uni-graz.at/bibwww_esn_handout-incomings_buddies.pdf](http://www.uni-graz.at/bibwww_esn_handout-incomings_buddies.pdf). Students who want to take part in this program can sign up for it online: [http://oehweb.uni-graz.at/international/mentorsystem](http://oehweb.uni-graz.at/international/mentorsystem). Moreover, a regular gathering in
a pub (called "regular's table") has been introduced. Also, the opportunity to attend trips (throughout Austria) is offered. One of the most popular trips is to the vineyards in the southern part of Austria. Further information for international students can be found at: http://oehweb.uni-graz.at/international/

Erasmus Student Network (ESN)
ESN is a student network that covers all of Europe. It has many small sections at universities throughout Europe. ESN helps exchange students not only on the international level, but also on the national and on the local level. ESN organizes and connects the various student services in Europe.

International Department ÖH Uni Graz
ESN Section Uni Graz
ÖH-Building
Schubertstrasse 6a/1st floor, 8010 Graz
web: http://oehweb.uni-graz.at/international
email: international@oeh.uni-graz.at
phone: +43 (0) 316 360 2963 (during office hours)
fax: +43 (0) 316 360 9200
skype: esunigraz (during office hours)
facebook: ESN Uni Graz
office hours: Tue: 6.30 pm – 8.00 pm, Fri 11.00 am-12.00 pm

Academic Calendar Summer Semester 2010
Beginning of semester 01.03.2010
End of semester 03.07.2010

Breaks
Semester break 01.02.2010 – 27.02.2010
Easter Break 29.03.2010 – 17.04.2010
Tuesday after Whitsun 25.05.2010
Rector’s day 04.06.2010
Summer break 05.07.2010 – 30.09.2010
Sundays and public holidays

Public Holidays (stores closed)
05.04.2010 Easter Monday
01.05.2010 Labor Day
13.05.2010 Ascension Day
24.05.2010 Whit Monday
03.06.2010 Corpus Christi

Counseling Service
The Counseling Service is an informal and confidential service staffed by professional, male and female counselors. The Service is free for all students in Graz and can also be used anonymously. Personal counseling gives support in an immediate crisis or long-standing problem. It aims to help people explore, define and discover better self-understanding, and enables clearer decision making.
The service is available all year at:

Psychologische StudentInnenberatung
Dreilackengasse 1, 8020 Graz
phone: +43(0)316 81 47 48 (Mon – Fri 8.00 am – 4.00 pm)
email: psych.ber@uni-graz.at
web: http://www.studentenberatung.at/graz/

Insurance
All exchange students are required to pay the student union fee, which is currently € 16.86, and which includes an accident and liability insurance (for accidents at Uni Graz and accidents that happen on the way to the university or back home). This insurance does not cover consulting a doctor.
NON-EU/EEA citizens have to purchase travel insurance for the first 2 weeks in Graz and get emergency evacuation and repatriation coverage for their whole exchange period. You are required to buy the Austrian student health insurance plan after your arrival in Graz.

Rider students are required to obtain medical insurance with "Steiermärkische Gebietskrankenkasse" (GKK) in Graz. The reduced monthly fee for students for the so-called Selbstversicherung is currently € 23.84. This insurance, though, can only be obtained after having registered with the university, i.e. after the Orientation for Exchange Students. Students who attend an intensive German course before the beginning of the semester might therefore need additional insurance cover for this time.

Attention: Students must observe the visa regulations. It might be necessary for students to contract insurance with the "Steiermärkische Gebietskrankenkasse".

Steiermärkische Gebietskrankenkasse (GKK) in Graz ([http://www.stgkk.at/](http://www.stgkk.at/))
Josef-Pongratz-Platz 1, 1st floor, Postfach 900, 8010 Graz
phone: +43 (0)316 80 35 0
office hours: Mon - Fri 07.00 am – 05.00 pm

In Case of Illness

A list of doctors in Graz can be found in every telephone directory. In addition, the "Ärztekammer" (medical association) provides an online search directory on their homepage ([http://www.aekstk.or.at/](http://www.aekstk.or.at/) – Link: Ärztesuche), where you can search for doctors according to different criteria such as location, specialty or insurance company.

Students should make sure that the doctor they are planning on consulting works with the Austrian insurance companies; as one has to pay for consulting a so called Wahl- or Privatarzt. The GKK has its own doctors too; it can happen, however, that one has to wait for an appointment for a rather long time. In order to be able to consult a doctor, students simply need to show their E-Card at the doctor’s office or hospital.

In case of an emergency, students are, of course, able to see a doctor or go to the hospital without proof of insurance (European Insurance Card or E-Card). However, both the doctor and the hospital will then ask for a deposit, which will be refunded as soon as the student shows proof of insurance.

Hospitals

Landeskrankenhaus Graz (LKH), 8036 Graz, Auenbrugger Platz 1, phone: +43 (0)316 385

How to get to the LKH: tram number 7, last stop St. Leonhard/ LKH.

Landeskrankenhaus Graz West (LKH Graz West), 8020 Graz, Göstingerstraße 22, phone: +43 (0)316 54 66 0

Unfallkrankenhaus Graz (UKH), 8021 Graz, Göstingerstraße 24, phone: +43 (0)316 505 0

How to get to the UKH and the LKH Graz West: tram number 1, last stop Eggenberg/ UKH.

Pharmacies

A list of all pharmacies in Graz can be found on [http://www.apotheker.or.at/](http://www.apotheker.or.at/) (Link: Apotheken – Ortsliste A-Z). Pharmacies generally are open from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm on weekdays, and from 8.00 am to 12.00 am on Saturdays. For emergencies occurring outside of regular business hours, some pharmacies have a 24h emergency service (additional fees apply!) – for pharmacies currently on call see: [http://www.info-graz.at/cms/17426/](http://www.info-graz.at/cms/17426/).

Many medicines are only available on prescription. Pharmacies charge a prescription fee of € 4.90 per package.

Emergency Numbers in Austria

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fire Brigade</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police</td>
<td>133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambulance</td>
<td>144</td>
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</tbody>
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Sports
The Sports Institute of the Graz universities (USI: http://www.uni-graz.at/us) offers inexpensive courses for students. The semester fees range from € 12 to € 48 per course. Students have to register during registration period; for incoming students, however, there is an extra date to sign up for sports classes.

Student Cafeteria's
Meals (plus beverage) in the student cafeteria (http://www.mensen.at/mensa_standort_graz.php) can be bought from € 2.90 up. Students receive the menus for a cheaper price if they have the Mensa discount stamp. Student cafeterias can be found at the following places:
• UNI-Mensa, Sonnenfelsplatz 1
• Universität Vorklinik, Harrachgasse 21
• KHG-Mensa, Leechgasse 24 (The student cafeteria of the Catholic Student Union serves meal at 11.45, 12.25, 1.05 und 1.45 o’clock. One meal costs € 4.40 (with Mensa discount stamp € 3.70), coupons for five meals are available for € 21 (with Mensa discount stamp for € 17.50). The meals are very good, but there is only limited seating; therefore students usually get in line 20 minutes before meals are served (http://www.khg-graz.at/).

Post Offices
The main mail (letters and packages) carrier in Austria is the "Österreichische Post AG". Post offices in the city center of Graz:
• 8016 Graz, Gleisdorfergasse 4
• 8018 Graz, Anzengrubergasse 6-8
• 8017 Graz, Moserhofgasse 46
• 8010 Graz, Neutorgasse 46
• 8035 Graz, Plüddemannngasse 51
• 8015 Graz, Humboldstraße 1
Post offices are generally open from 8.00 to 12.00 am and 2.00 to 5.30 pm Monday to Friday, and closed on weekends (there is no mail delivery on weekends!). Only the office at the main train station is open from 7.00 am to 10.00 pm during the week, from 8.00 am to 8.00 pm on Saturdays, and from 1.00 to 8.00 pm on Sundays. The "Österreichische Post AG" charges € 0.55 for a standard letter within Austria and € 0.65 for the rest of Europe. For letters with a destination outside Europe a fee of € 1.40 is being charged. National and international parcels can also be mailed from any post office; however, other carriers, such as for instance UPS and DHL, also offer similar services.

Banks
Numerous bank institutions offer their services to customers in Graz – "Raiffeisenbank", "Bank Austria", "Steiermärkische Sparkasse/ Erste Bank" and "BAWAG PSK". Students are advised to ask their home bank if they are in cooperation with a partner institution in Austria. If this is not the case, after their arrival, students should consult several banks in Graz to find out which one offers the best terms and conditions for them. The local advisor can help students set up a bank account – please inform her accordingly.

Exchanging cash is possible at any Austrian bank without special identification. If students want to cash travelers checks, they will have to bring along their passport for identification. All banks will accept these checks, but will charge an extra fee. The EC/ Maestro card allows students to withdraw money from their home bank account while being in Austria. Credit cards (Visa and Mastercard) are accepted at most major stores but not in all supermarkets. Please note that banks may charge fees for international money transfers and that you will only be able to withdraw a certain amount every day.
Currency
The Euro (€, EUR) is used in Austria. One Euro equals 100 Cent. Bills are available in denominations of 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200 and 500, coins in 1 und 2 Euro, and 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50 Cent. For latest rates, please check at: [http://www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com).

Electricity
Austrian electricity works on 220 volts and 50 cycles (Hz), alternating current. Connector plug/outlet generally correspond to the Euro-norm. If students are bringing their own electrical equipment, they have to make sure it can be used safely on this voltage or whether they will need an adaptor.

Time Zone
Austria is located in the Central European Time Zone (CET) – UTC +1. Central European Summer Time or daylight saving time (CET) is generally used in Austria during the summer months, which means that in this period the clocks have to be put one hour forward – UTC +2.

Summer Time 2010: March 28 – October 31

Climate
The climate in Graz is continental, which means that there are cold winters (lows are -10 to -15°C) and hot summers (around 30°C). For the winter months students should bring a warm winter coat, gloves, a scarf, a warm hat and winter boots or a pair of shoes with thermal insoles.

Water
The tap water in Austria is of very good quality and safe to drink.

Cost of Living
The cost of living in Graz depends on the housing situation and whether students eat out a lot or cook at home, like most Austrian students do. To be on the safe side, students should put aside € 800 a month for rent, food, and personal expenses ([http://www.oead.at/_english/austria/accomodation/fb_140.html](http://www.oead.at/_english/austria/accomodation/fb_140.html)).

Eating Out
An average meal including beverages will cost at least between € 7.50 – € 10. A 10% tip is already included in the prices of all meals or drinks. Most guests, however, will give an extra tip.

Hints for Vegetarians
Nearly all restaurants in Austria offer vegetarian meals. Additionally, there are two well-liked and established vegetarian restaurants in Graz:

- **Mangolds Vollwertrestaurant**
  8020 Graz, Grieskai 10/ Griesgasse 11(open Mon – Fri, 11.00 am – 07.00 pm; Sat 11.00 am – 04.00 pm). (after 5.00 pm a 30% discount is offered for all meals)
- **Ginko**
  8010 Graz, Grazbachgasse 33/ corner of Klosterwiesgasse (open Mon – Fri, 11.30 am – 09.00 pm, Saturdays 11.30 am – 06.00 pm).

Shopping in Graz
Grocery stores which can be found in Graz and other places in Austria are **Billa, Spar** (Interspar, Eurospar), **Merkur, Zelpunkt, Plus, ADEG, Hornig Feinkost, Hofer and Lidl**. Hofer and
Lidl offer good quality for low prices. Toiletry items are sold in grocery stores as well as at dm, Bipa and Schlecker, which sell only toiletry articles and cosmetics at inexpensive prices. Students should compare prices and look out for special offers. Kastner & Öhler is a big department store in Graz that offers a wide range of items. Shopping streets such as Herrengasse and Annenstraße, as well as Shopping Centers (City Park, Murpark, Shopping Center West, Shopping Nord and Shopping City Seiersberg) can be reached by using public transport. Stores that sell electronic devices are Saturn, Media Markt and Cosmos; Libro and Pagro are stores that are specialised in office supplies and books.

Opening Hours
Most stores are open Monday to Friday 09.00 am – 06.00 pm, and Saturdays 09.00 am – 05.00 pm. Shopping Centers are open to 07.30 pm during the week, Saturdays to 06.00 pm. Grocery stores are usually open Monday to Friday 08.00 am – 07.00 or 07.30 pm, Saturdays to 06.00 pm. Spar in Hans-Sachs-Gasse is open Monday to Saturday to 09.00 pm. Nearly all stores are closed on Sundays, yet Spar at the main train station (which is open daily from 06.00 am – 10.00 pm) is also open on Sundays, as well as shops at gas stations and some small grocery stores (charging higher prices!).

Public Transportation
Buses and trams in Graz run 04.30 am – 11.30 pm. Schedules can be found at http://www.gvb.at or http://www.busbahn.bim.at. Tickets can either be purchased from the driver, at newspaper stands or at the

GVB-Zeitkartenbüro
8010 Graz, Jakominsstraße 1
opening hours: Mon – Fri 8.00 am – 6.00 pm, Saturday 9.00 am – 1.00 pm
phone: +43 (0)316 887 8804
fax: +43 (0)316 887 8816
email: mobilitaetszentrum@graz.at
The Graz Nightline runs Fridays, Saturdays, and before public holidays from 12.00 am to 03.00 am. Further information and schedules can be found at http://www.gvb.at (Linienübersichtspläne – Linienetzplan Nightlines).

Current Ticket Prices:
• 24-Stunden-Karte € 3.80 (Zone 101) valid for 24 hours
• Graz-3-Tages-Ticket € 9.90 (Zone 101) valid for 3 days
• Wochenkarte € 10.60 (Zone 101) valid for a week
• Monatskarte € 34.00 (Zone 101) valid for a month
• Halbjahreskarte € 175.00 (Zone 101) valid for 6 months, photo needed
• Jahreskarte € 316.00 (Zone 101) valid for 12 months, photo needed
• 10-Zonenkarte € 15.70 (Zone 101) Strip card valid for 10 single rides valid for 1 hour;
• with this card it is possible to pass up to 10 zones.

"Verbundlinie" (http://www.verbundlinie.at) does not only run in Graz, but also throughout all of Styria. The transport network is divided into zones, and the price of the ticket depends on how many zones are passed from the first to the last stop. Graz is one zone, zone 101. Incoming students cannot receive special student discounts for tram and bus tickets, as these discounts are reserved to students who are recipients of an Austrian family allowance. However, it is possible for incoming students (up to 26 years old) to purchase the VORTEILScard<26, which makes travelling by train (http://www.oebb.at – "Österreichische Bundesbahnen") within Austria up to 50% cheaper. Students simply need to go to the main train station with a photo and an ID, and order the VORTEILScard<26, which is valid for one year (from issuing date onwards). It currently costs € 19.90.

Bikes
The main mode of transportation for most students in Graz is the bike. Graz is a safe city to ride your bike and bike paths lead to all major places in the city e.g. from the dorm in Neubaugasse to the University. Please be careful when riding your bike across tram tracks as they can be slippery in the rain and you might get caught in the tracks.
Used bikes can be bought at:
• Caritas, Grabenstraße 88, phone: +43(0) 316 673942 338, opening hours: Mon - Wed 07.30 am - 12.30 pm & 01:00 pm – 04.00 pm, price: starting from € 30
• Rebikl, Keplerstraße 55 (orange house, 1. floor), phone: +43(0) 676 5019 070, email: rebikel@gmx.net, opening hours: arrange a time (email, tel.), price: starting from € 50
• Draheisel, Schönaugasse 43, phone: +43(0) 650 5612350, opening hours: Mon - Fri: 09.00 am -06.00 pm; Sat 09.00 am – 12.00 pm
• Bicycle, Körösistraße 5 (close by the Keplerbrücke), phone: +43(0) 316 688645, opening hours: Mon - Fri 7.00 am 01.00 pm & 02.00 pm – 06.00 pm, price: starting from € 50
• Evolution Sports, Rösselmühlgasse 26, phone: +43(0) 316 720720, email: shop@evolutionsports.net, opening hours: Mon - Fri 9.30 am – 12.00 pm & 02:00 pm - 06:00 pm, price: starting from € 70, bikes to rent: € 60 per semester, note: bikes might not always be available so it is advisable to phone ahead of time

**Cell Phones**

Please note that receiving calls in Austria is free. If you have an Austrian cell phone your parents and friends can call you on it and you do not have to pay for the incoming calls. International calls on cell phones are rather expensive. I would recommend calling internationally via skype.

There are multiple cell phone providers in Austria who offer prepaid phone cards.
• A1 (http://www.a1.net/privat/telefonierenwertkarte)
• BOB (http://www.bob.at)
• C-Cube Mobile (http://www.cardsville.com)
• Eety (http://www.eety.at/start.php?language=en)
• Tele.ring – Mücke (http://www.telering.at/Content.Node2/tarife/muecke.php)
• T-Mobile – Klax (http://www.t-mobile.at/privat/Klax_Wertkarte/klax_tarife/index.html)
• One (http://www.one.at)
• Yesss! (http://www.yesss.at/home.php)
• 3 – 3Reload (http://www.drei.at)

The Austrian National Union of Students (ÖH) always tries to get a special agreement with one of the Austrian network providers especially for international students, providing a relatively cheap opportunity to call their home country. Further information can also be found at: http://oehweb.uni-graz.at/international/SIMcard.

Usually mobile phones are SIM locked by your provider. When you want to use an Austrian SIM card, you should unlock your mobile phone. If you have a Nokia mobile phone, you can try to unlock it at the following link for FREE. Just follow the instructions: http://www.entsperren.at/

If you have another mobile phone, the unlocking will cost about € 10 - 30.
Handyman Griesplatz 35, opening hours: Mon - Fri 10.00 am – 06.00 pm, Sat 10.00 am – 01.00 pm, phone: +43(0)0676 9530379 or +43(0)316 722451, email: handyman.graz@utanet.at

A used mobile phone you'll get from € 30 upwards.

**Skype**

The cheapest way to call the U.S. is via the internet using the program Skype. In order to use the program your computer either needs to have a built-in microphone and speakers or you need to buys a headset. You can either call form computer to computer for free or regular phones at a relatively low cost. Please note that calling U.S. landlines is cheaper than calling U.S. cell phones. The software can be downloaded for free at: http://www.skype.com

**Movie Theaters**

The current movie showtimes can be found at: http://www.uncut.at/graz/kinos.php.
• Cineplex, 8010 Graz, Alte Poststraße 470, phone: +43(0)3162909
• KIZ RoyalKino, 8010 Graz, Conrad von Hützendorfstraße 10, phone: +43(0)316821186
• Filmzentrum im Rechbauerkino, 8010 Graz, Rechbauerstraße 6, phone: +43 (0)316830508
• Geidorf Kunstkino, 8010 Graz, Geidorfplatz 1, phone: +43(0)316321003
• Schubertkino, 8010 Graz, Mehlplatz 2, phone: +43(0)3168290810
• UCI Kinowelt Annenhof, 8020 Graz, Annenstraße 29, phone: +43(0)3167277

Theater and Opera
The current "Bühnen Graz" (theater, opera etc.) repertoire and showtimes can be found at http://www.buehnen-graz.com. This season The Sound of Music will be one of the productions shown at the opera. Graz has a lively theatre scene and also a lot of smaller theatres. The current program can be found in the daily newspapers, as e.g. online: http://www.kleinezeitung.at.

Public Library and Media Library
The Public Library and Media Library Graz provide a good opportunity to borrow German literature, magazines or reference books, as well as DVDs and CDs. The student library card costs € 5 a year – in order to get it, students need a valid identification card and their Meldezettel.

Hauptbibliothek Zanklhoﬁf
Belgiergasse/Feuerbachgasse, 8020 Graz
Phone: +43 (0)316 872 4970
Fax: +43 (0)316 872 4969
Email: stadtbibliothek.zankhof@stadt.graz.at
http://stadtbibliothek.graz.at/

Swimming Pools in Graz
Indoor Pools
• ATG-Schwimmhalle, 8010 Graz, Kastellfeldgasse 8, phone: +43 (0)316 82 43 45
• Bad zur Sonne, 8020 Graz, Feuerbachgasse 11-13, phone: +43 (0)316 887 13 52
• Union Schwimmhalle, 8010 Graz, Gabriel-Seidl-Gasse, phone: +43 (0)316 32 44 30 78

Outdoor Pools (http://www.freizeitgraz.at):
• Augarten, 8020 Graz, Schönaugürtel 1, phone: +43 (0)316 887 792
• Freibad Straßgarg, 8054 Graz, Martinshofstraße 3, phone: +43 (0)316 28 18 97
• Margarethenbad, 8011 Graz, Grillparzerstraße 10, phone: +43 (0)316 32 40 67
• Ragnitzbad, 8047 Graz, Pesendorferweg 7, phone: +43 (0)316 30 17 77
• Stukitzbad, 8045 Graz, Andritzer Reichsstraße 250, phone: +43 (0)316 887 1348

Natural Ponds
• Schwarzi Freizeitzentrum Unterpremstätten, 8141 Unterpremstätten, Thalerhofstraße 85, phone: +43 (0)313 55 35 77 0
• Copacabana, 8401 Kalsdorf, Copacabana 1, phone: +43(0)3135 55385
• Thalersee, 8051 Thal bei Graz, phone: +43 (0)316 58 23 90

Drugs and Cigarettes
The use and abuse of drugs (hash, marijuana, designer drugs etc.) is illegal and forbidden by law in Austria. Smoking cigarettes is allowed in most bars, pubs and restaurants, however, please be respectful to your fellow people, especially in restaurants that do not have designated non smoking areas.
BEFORE LEAVING GRAZ...

Rider students need to take care of a few things before leaving Graz.

- **Departure date:** Please inform your local study abroad advisor about your departure date.

- **Early departure:** should you have to leave Graz prior to the end of the official semester, please notify your advisor. It is advisable to contact your professors at the beginning of the semester and to let them know that you will be leaving early. In many cases it will be possible to take the exam earlier.

- **De-register:** The day before you leave Graz you need to de-register at the Meldeamt (take your passport along!). Fill in the form you find here [http://www.graz.at/cms/dokumente/10024916/e05a999a/Meldezettel.pdf](http://www.graz.at/cms/dokumente/10024916/e05a999a/Meldezettel.pdf) (ZMR-Zahl = number on your Meldezettel, “Abmeldung in der Unterkunft in...” “Sie verziehen ins Ausland” – ja!) Be there at least 30 minutes before they close!

- **Transcript of records:** Students will receive a transcript of records stating all courses successfully completed at the University of Graz. Most students will not be able to take the transcript of records home with them as it is very likely that some grades will not yet have been posted at the time of departure. The Office of International Relations will therefore send out the transcript of records via mail as soon as all the grades have been posted online. Students need to check their online account regularly and inform the Office of International Relations when all your grades are registered. Please download the transcript verification form on the website of the Office of International Relations (services > forms > incoming > Joint Study/ISEP etc.) and fill in the **English** course title, the teacher’s name, the course number, the semester credits, the ECTS credits (click on the course title and choose the highest ECTS number) and the grade. Please send the form to [christa.grassauer@uni-graz.at](mailto:christa.grassauer@uni-graz.at).

  Bear in mind that grades for courses that require seminar papers will take longer. No transcript will be issued unless the transcript verification form has been received by the BIB!

  Separate Transcripts from VGU and courses taken at other universities will be sent to Rider by the local advisor.

- **Housing**

  Let the central housing office and us know NOW when you are planning to depart and arrange a time for a room-check, otherwise you won’t get the deposit back. Let them know how you want the deposit back (cash, on your account …)

- **Confirmation of stay (if required by home university):** Please ask your home university if a designated form for your confirmation of stay is available, or if the confirmation issued by Uni Graz is sufficient.

- **Cancel the bank account:** Canceilling the bank account is not for free; however, fees might vary from bank to bank. Therefore, before opening a bank account, students should also ask about how much it will cost to cancel the account.

- **Insurance:** You need to de-register from the insurance: Please write a note giving them the date when you would like to cancel the insurance. It is best if you take the note to the insurance company yourself (GKK, Josef-Pongratz-Platz 1).

- **Library:** Please return all books to the library.
ENJOY YOUR STAY IN GRAZ !!!

Willkommen in Graz

Welcome Dinner in Graz

Brianna Kuhl and Kirsten McDowell @ Lurgrotte

Rider students celebrating Halloween

Brianna Kuhl, Kirsten McDowell and friends at Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving @ Neubaugasse