

**Host university: University of Art and Design Linz, Austria (Kunstuniversität Linz) – Painting and Graphics**

### **Report ERASMUS+**

My semester abroad in Linz was an incredibly rewarding experience. I decided to go there because I am interested in the culture and history of Austria and studying in Linz gave me the opportunity to delve deeper into these topics. In addition, the Linz University of Art offered a wide range of courses in my field, so that I was able to continue my studies professionally.

Linz is the third largest city in Austria and is located in the north of the country. The city is known for its beautiful old town and has many cultural attractions.

I was lucky enough to study at the Linz University of Art in the Fine Arts Department on Domgasse, which is known for its excellent training in artistic fields. The lectures were challenging but also very interesting and I learned a lot.

I came to the University because a semester abroad sounded very exciting to me and it was listed in the partner institutions of the HfK Bremen, my university. As required by the HfK, I registered for the stay abroad in December of 2021 within the given time frame and some time later I had to submit a letter of motivation with a CV and a multi-page portfolio of my previous projects. After a few weeks, I was accepted by the University of Art and Design Linz, or UfG for short, in the summer and started looking for an apartment.

I searched for a room in a shared apartment using the “WG-Gesucht” app and various Facebook portals, but without success. I was drawn to a shared apartment because I believed I would find the quickest connection to people from Linz there. The search for one-room apartments was also unsuccessful because it was probably not ideal that I could only stay in Linz for 4 months.

So I ended up in the student dormitories, to be more precise in the Europahaus near the main train station. In retrospect, I was very happy about my living situation because I lived in the dormitory with other international students and we always supported and helped each other. We also undertook a lot of activities together and explored the city.

I had to re-register in Austria within the first three weeks, which was very easy. I did not open a bank account because I could pay with the German EC card everywhere and I took cash with me, which I spent on event entries, Christmas and flea markets.

I was also able to see doctors with my European health card, although it was difficult to find one who would examine and admit patients with statutory health insurance. Although I had to pay in advance afterwards and have the amount reimbursed by the health insurance company, this was also manageable.

The ERASMUS contacts were also very communicative and easy to reach when I needed help.

The other employees at the University were also great. In the classes and courses there was an open and friendly atmosphere between the teachers and the students. I had many instructive conversations and gained new perspectives on artistic creation, exhibitions and life as an artist. Many questions, wishes and fears were shared openly, which strengthened the already strong cohesion and community among the students.

In addition to studying, I also had the opportunity to take part in various activities and events offered by the university. This included attending performances, university parties, trips to Vienna, but also to the art and cultural institutions in Linz. I particularly liked the exhibition “What the Fem?\*” at Nordico. After our visit the curator was invited to the gender studies course.

One of my highlights in Linz was the nightlife. The city has many bars and clubs that offer something for every taste. I met lots of new friends from all over the world and we were able to dance the night away.

Two other nice experiences were traveling with my semester abroad friends from Taiwan, Portugal, Spain, Colombia, Estonia and Turkey to Hallstatt and Prague.

Hallstatt is just a two-hour train ride from Linz and is located in the Austrian Salzkammergut. We stayed in an Airbnb a few kilometres outside of Hallstatt in nature surrounded by mountains and meadows. But also visited the market town, a tourist destination.

We even went to Prague with the FlixBus in a larger group and took a friend from Wels with us who knew someone there who showed us around the city. We stayed in a hostel with three-story bunk beds and met new people. We explored the city together and visited places like the Alfons Mucha Museum or the St. Nicholas Church.

I learned a lot about the culture and people in Austria and have countless memories that I will keep forever. I would recommend everyone to do a semester abroad as it is a great way to discover the world and gain new experiences.

Below: Hallstadt in December 2022

