

GREENHEART TRAVEL High School Abroad

Austria

Curriculum Guidelines





OVERVIEW OF THE AUSTRIAN SCHOOL SYSTEM

The school year in Austria will begin for foreign students in mid-September. Austrian youth study eight years at high school (Gymnasium). Austria has different kinds of schools with different focuses: music, science, economics, tourism, handicraft, pedagogy and child development, and agriculture.

The first year of high school starts when the students are ten years old, and then goes on until the final examination (“Matura”) in the 8th grade. From here students are then ready to go on to university. Most exchange students are placed in 5th, 6th or 7th grade, depending on their previous knowledge of German. You can go to a Gymnasium if you have taken an intensive course in your home country. You can also take extra lessons in Austria during the first few weeks. Without an acceptable level of German it is not possible to get grades in the subjects that you will be taking.

Subjects in Austria

The required subjects for Austria are German, English, Mathematics, Biology, History, Physics, Chemistry, Sports, and Music. The most common subjects (basic subjects) are English, German, Mathematics, History, Biology, Sports, Music, Physics, Geography, French and Latin. You can substitute one or two of them. This means, that instead of Latin or French, you can take part in a lower grade in German, where they teach more grammar.

Students begin observing classes soon after arriving in Austria! After about 2 – 3 weeks, the area representative and the student sit together and discuss with the class teacher the subjects the student should enroll. It does not make sense that exchange students with no German do Latin classes, so in this case the student should go to lower grades in German classes for this time of the day

Schedule

In most cases you will go to school five days a week, except in some schools, where they have classes on Saturdays too. On the other hand, the school days are fairly short. Lessons start just before 8 o'clock in the morning and finish around an hour after lunch during weekdays and around 12 on Saturdays.

School Uniform

In Austria there are no school uniforms. These are mostly public schools, but some schools are private schools – with tuition costs – and those may require uniforms.

Transportation

There is also a fare to pay if you go to school by bus or train. Some students can walk or ride a bike to school.

Extra-Curricular Activities

In schools you can join many sport activities, and for students with an interest in music, different activities are also offered. Every school arranges trips either for sports or cultural activities. The trips are a lot of fun to take part in, but they not included in the program fee.

What Should I Do Next?

The best next step would be to meet with your high school guidance counselor or administration to discuss your interest in going abroad. Every school handles exchange students, transfer credits and going abroad differently, so there isn't an "average" process that you can be guided through.

You should bring this document with you to the meeting with your counselor so they can get a better idea of what types of classes you would be taking abroad. This helps create a plan for possible transfer credits. During your meeting, you should ask about what credits you need to graduate and if any of those can be fulfilled from transfer credit abroad.

Application Process with Greenheart Travel

We don't usually recommend starting the application process before meeting with your guidance counselor because we want to ensure that you receive sufficient credit from your time abroad. After you meet with them or have a better idea of your school's process, let us know! Our [application process is online](#) and happens in several steps, so it is pretty straightforward and we can help you start whenever you're ready.

In addition to completing an application, you will also be required to submit documents. You can be collecting the documents during the application process, but all documents will be due 14 days after you submit your deposit. The following documents will be required for all destinations:

- Letter of Recommendation (from a teacher, coach or guidance counselor)
- Transcript
- Dear Family Letter (one written by student, one by a parent)
- Parent Questionnaire
- Medical Form
- Copy of your passport

There may be additional paperwork required for specific destinations. Your program manager will inform you of what those documents are during the application process.