

AUSTRIA ART SURVIVAL GUIDE

March 2026

A Practical Guide for
Displaced Ukrainian Artists
and Cultural Workers

Office Ukraine was founded in March 2022 on the initiative of the Federal Ministry of Arts, Culture, Civil Service and Sport and the Austrian art scene. Its aim is to support artists and cultural workers who have fled Ukraine following the Russian invasion. The teams at the three offices in Vienna, Graz and Innsbruck provide advice, networking opportunities and practical support.

Over the years, similar questions have repeatedly arisen and comparable issues have emerged that were essential for the people who approached us. We have therefore attempted to create a Guide with this manual to help navigate the jungle of the Austrian bureaucratic system. In addition, it is intended to provide information on all conceivable areas of everyday life – here, too, we have tried to answer a multitude of questions that have been brought to our attention.

This has resulted in this Guide, which we currently consider to be up to date. We are aware that the situation for people coming to Austria can change constantly, whether for political or economic reasons. We will try to keep this information tool up to date, but we already know that time will always overtake us.

That is why it is important for us to point out that Office Ukraine continues to exist and that you can always contact us with any questions that we cannot answer with this manual. Nevertheless, we hope that this Guide has made some things clearer!

P.S.

Also please check out this [Manual for Ukrainian Artists in Austria](#) released earlier by Office Ukraine Vienna!

Office Ukraine - Support for Ukrainian Artists

www.artistshelp-ukraine.at

Office Vienna

c/o tranzit.at

Museumsplatz 1, 1070 Wien

office@artistshelp-ukraine.at

Office Graz

c/o < rotor > Centre for Contemporary Art

Volksgartenstrasse 6a, 8020 Graz

office.graz@artistshelp-ukraine.at

Office Innsbruck

c/o Künstler*innenhaus Büchsenhausen

Weiherburggasse 13, 6020 Innsbruck

office.innsbruck@artistshelp-ukraine.at

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Arrival in Austria

Before you arrive

Before arriving in Austria to begin the process of your registration as a *Vertriebene Person* (Forcibly Displaced Person), you need to find a permanent or temporary accommodation.

Option A: First Arrival Centers and Emergency Shelters

SALZBURG:

Caritas Clearing Center - First Arrival

Bergerbräuhofstraße 27, 5020 Salzburg

+43 676 848210 262

hilfe.ukraine@caritas-salzburg.at

www.caritas-salzburg.at

STYRIA:

Caritas Sozialzentrum Marianum

Mariengasse 24, 8020 Graz

erstkontakt@caritas-steiermark.at

www.caritas-steiermark.at

TIROL:

Arrival centre Hotel Europa

Südtiroler Platz 2, 6020 Innsbruck

[Other registration points](#)

VORARLBERG:

Erstaufnahmezentrum Nenzing

Blumeneggstraße 37, 6710 Nenzing

nenz.infopoint@orsservice.at

VIENNA:

*For people who are in transit
and do not wish to stay in Vienna:*

NQ Schlossberg

Schlossbergg. 8, 1130 Vienna

+43 676 8784 4790 (available 24/7)

For people who want to stay in Vienna:

Austria Center Vienna

Bruno-Kreisisky-Platz 1, 1220 Vienna

Opening hours: Mo-Fri, 8:00 - 18:00

Option B: Hotels and longer-term accommodations

In every Austrian city, hotels, hostels or apartments can be found via such services as [Booking.com](https://www.booking.com) or [AirBnB.com](https://www.airbnb.com). For longer stays or permanent residence, check out the Estate section on [Willhaben.at](https://www.willhaben.at) (in German only).

For more information go to [Housing & Living](#) section of the Guide.



ATTENTION: Human Trafficking!

To stay safe and successfully arrive at your destination, please read this instruction beforehand.



Multilingual Hotline

+43 1 2676 870 9460

Please contact if you are in urgent need of assistance or if you have any legal questions.

Available in English, German and Ukrainian.

Monday & Wednesday 9:00 - 12:00 / 14:00 - 16:00

Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 - 11:00 / 13:00 - 16:00

Friday 9:00 - 13:00

Doesn't work on state holidays

Registration

To complete your registration process in Austria, you will need the following documents:

ID card for Displaced Persons (*Ausweis für Vertriebene / Blue Card*)

Displaced persons from Ukraine have a temporary right of residence in Austria. This right of residence has been extended again at the European level and is currently valid until March 4, 2027. The document proving your temporary right of residence is called *Ausweis für Vertriebene* (ID card for displaced persons, also known as *Blue Card*). It is valid throughout the Schengen area and also gives you access to health insurance and job market.

Until you receive Blue Card you are allowed to stay in Austria without registration within 90 days (as per EU-Ukraine visa-free regime).

To apply for the Blue Card you need:

- Your Foreign Passport (Travel document) and your Ukrainian National ID (Inner Passport)
- To make a *Termin* (appointment) at *Landespolizeidirektion* (Police Department).

In Styria: Burggasse 9, 8010 Graz, online via [this link](#)

The card will be sent to your residence address by post within 2 weeks. After your card expires, and if the right of residence for Ukrainians is extended, you will receive an ID card with the new validity date also by post - no extra steps required.

More information on the Blue Card can be found [here](#).

IMPORTANT!

As of 2026, Blue Card is prolonged until March 2027. It is uncertain if it will be prolonged further.

For information on longer residency permission and other visa options, go to the [Legal Status](#) section of the Guide.

Registration of the Place of Residence (*Meldezettel*)

Meldezettel is an official registration document used to register, deregister or re-register your place of residence (*Wohnsitz*).

The *Mietvertrag* (Rental Agreement) signed by the accommodation provider/landlord is required for the registration form. For more information on finding an accommodation, go to the [Housing & Living](#) section.

To receive the *Meldezettel*:

- Make a *Termin* (appointment) for *Wohnsitz - An-, Ab- und Ummeldung* (registration, re- and de-registration of a place of residence) at your local Servicestelle (Service Point).

Service Points in the cities: Vienna, [Graz](#), Salzburg, Innsbruck, Linz, Klagenfurt.

- Bring your Blue Card and filled registration form (in German - available for download [here](#)). Your accommodation provider/landlord needs to sign this form too.

General information on *Meldezettel* can be found [here](#).

Health Insurance (*Krankenversicherung*)

Since May 31, 2025 displaced Ukrainians are no longer automatically provided with health insurance. This means that to access medical services, hospital care, remedies, etc., they need to obtain health insurance.

The type of insurance depends on the individual's life situation (form of employment, studies, receipt of basic social security benefits, etc.). In certain cases, such as employment, compulsory insurance is automatically (by law, without application) available to the individual concerned. If this is not the case, an application for self-insurance can be submitted.

For information on Health Insurance options, go to the Health section of the Guide.

General information on Health Insurance can be found via [this link](#).

Attention: Displaced Ukrainians receiving the Basic Care (*Grundversorgung*) are still provided with health insurance. For more information about Basic Care go to the next page.

Basic Care (*Grundversorgung*)

Grundversorgung (Basic care) is a benefit for displaced persons and refugees who are in need of assistance. For the displaced persons from Ukraine, it means providing accommodation, food, social, medical and psychological support, daily necessities and small financial allowance.

General information on Basic Care can be found [here](#).

Apply for the Basic Care in different regions:

BURGENLAND:

post.a6-asyl@bgld.gv.at
+43 2682 600 0

CARINTHIA:

abt13.flw@ktn.gv.at
+43 50 536 33007

LOWER AUSTRIA:

post.ivw2fluechtlingshilfe@noel.gv.at
+43 2742 9005 15672

SALZBURG:

grundversorgung@salzburg.gv.at
+43 662 8042 5602

STYRIA:

grundversorgung@stmk.gv.at
+43 316 877 5458

TIROL:

soziales@tirol.gv.at, office@tsd.gv.at
+43 512 508 2592

UPPER AUSTRIA:

gvs.so.post@ooe.gv.at
+43 732 77 20 152 21

VIENNA:

gvs@fsw.at
+43 1 24 5 24

VORARLBERG:

grundversorgung@vorarlberg.at
+43 5574 511 24105

Accommodation under Basic Care services can be provided in organized quarters run by basic welfare services providers (federal or state) or in private accommodation. The following services and the associated maximum cost rates currently apply to accommodation, although different regulations and amounts may apply in the respective federal states.

The following maximum cost rates apply to private or individual accommodation. Unlike organized accommodation, you receive the support for rent and meals yourself:

- Up to **€ 165.00** per person per month for rent for a single person;
- Up to **€ 330.00** per family per month for rent for families (2 or more people);
- Up to **€ 260.00** per person per month for meals for adults;
- Up to **€ 145.00** per person per month for meals for children.

Attention! The amount of Basic Care allowance may vary depending on the region. Please check it with your local authority.

IMPORTANT!

If people who get Basic Care work and therefore have an income, they must report this to the authorities and if this income exceeds a certain level, the Basic Care support is reduced or canceled.

If you leave the region in which you receive your Basic Care, you must inform the Basic Care authority, so that for the period of your absence the Basic Care will be reduced or lifted. This may affect also your accommodation, if you receive it in frames of the Basic Care service. If you fail to inform the authority, you may be charged with a fine.

Family Allowance (*Familienbeihilfe*)

Persons who have right for a temporary residence in Austria are entitled to Family Allowance (*Familienbeihilfe*) for their children who have also been granted temporary residence. The right to receive a family subsidy ends on the date of termination of the temporary right of residence.

How much is the Family Allowance?

The Family Allowance is granted per child per month in the amounts depending on the child's age:

- 0-3 years old: **€ 132.30**;
- 3-10 years old: **€ 121.90**;
- 10-19 years old: **€ 141.50**;
- 19-24 years old: **€ 191.60**.

If you have more than one child, the monthly amount for each child increases as follows:

- 2 children: increase of **€ 7.10** per child;
- 3 children: increase of **€ 17.40** per child;
- 4 children: increase of **€ 26.50** per child;
- 5 children: increase of **€ 32.00** per child;
- 6 children: increase of **€ 35.70** per child;
- 7 children and more: increase of **€ 52.00** per child.

In September, each child between the ages of 6 and 15 receives a school allowance of **€ 100**. The school start allowance is automatically paid together with the family allowance for September, so no separate application is required.

In general, Family Allowance can be received for a child up to the age of 24. If your child is over 18, you are entitled to Family Allowance if the child is getting a professional education (e.g. university). Children over 19 are entitled to Family Allowance if they earn no more than € 15,000 per year.

If you have a child with special needs (degree of disability of at least 50%), an additional amount of **€ 180.90** per month per child is paid.

How to apply for the Family Allowance?

You can submit your application to the Austrian Tax Office (*Finanzamt*) online via [this link](#).

You fill in the application form (*Antragsformular*) which can be downloaded [here](#). In it, choose the category “valid residence permit” (*gültiger Aufenthaltstitel*).

It is recommended to attach documents (if available), such as birth certificates of children to establish family ties, as well as proof of education of children who have reached the age of majority.

IMPORTANT!

It is possible to receive the Family Allowance simultaneously with Basic Care (*Grundversorgung*). Within the framework of Basic Care, the Family Allowance is not considered an additional source of income.

Childcare Allowance (*Kinderbetreuungsgeld*)

Ukrainians with a Blue Card (*Ausweis für Vertriebene*) are entitled to financial Childcare Allowance (*Kinderbetreuungsgeld*). One parent is entitled to the Childcare Allowance after the child is born. Only one parent can receive the Allowance.

You can apply for childcare allowance if you:

- Live with your child in the same house, and
- receive family allowance for your child in Austria, and
- during the period of receipt of childcare allowance, your income does not exceed € 18,000.

There are two models for receiving childcare benefits:

- Bank account for financial assistance for childcare. The period of receipt of benefits can be selected from 365 to 851 days (counting from the birth of the child). The amount of daily benefits is determined automatically based on the period you choose. In the shortest option (365 days), the total amount of childcare benefits is **€ 35.85/day**, in the longest option (851 days) - **€ 15.38/day**.
- Income-related childcare benefits. The amount is 80% of the income received before the birth of the child. In addition, if you have worked continuously in Austria for 182 days before the birth of your child, namely before the start of your maternity leave (*Mutterschutz*), you can also apply for childcare allowance based on your salary (max. **€ 69.83/day**, additional income must not exceed **€ 7,600/year**). You can apply no later than 365 days after the birth of your child.

How to apply for the Childcare Allowance?

- To receive the full amount of childcare benefit, you must undergo **10 medical examinations** as part of the *Mutter-Kind-Pass* program (5 examinations for the expectant mother, 5 examinations for the child). Otherwise, the childcare benefit is reduced by € 1,300 for the parent who is claiming the benefit.
- The original application must be submitted to the insurance company with which you are insured from the day the child is born. You can download the application [here](#).
- An application for childcare benefit can be submitted up to 182 days after the birth.

- Parents can take turns receiving childcare benefit no more than twice. If each parent has received an almost equal share of childcare benefit (at least 124 days each), they can also apply for a partnership bonus for a total of € 1,000. Each parent must submit their own application for the partnership bonus and will receive € 500.
- Single parents (with an annual income of less than € 7,600) or low-income parents (one parent earns less than € 7,600/year and the other parent earns less than € 16,200/year) who receive general Childcare Allowance can also apply for additional benefits (this is not possible for the Income-related Childcare Allowance). You can find the relevant application [here](#).

IMPORTANT!

Receiving Childcare Allowance (*Kinderbetreuungsgeld*) affects the entitlement to Basic Care.

Unlike Family Allowance (*Familienbeihilfe*), Childcare Allowance is considered as income.

Depending on the chosen Childcare Allowance payment model and the composition of the family, you can still receive Basic Care, but in some cases it may be canceled and/or repayment may be required. If you receive Basic Care, it is recommended that you consult a social worker before applying for Childcare Allowance.

Legal Status

As of 2026, Ukrainian nationals can stay and work in Austria with the Blue Card (*Ausweis für Vertriebene*) until March 2027. Here we list other visa options that will be available when/if the Blue Cards are not prolonged. Additionally, you can check the article at the Office Ukraine website [here](#).

Rot-Weiß-Rot-Karte Plus

What is RWR Card+?

- The *Rot-Weiß-Rot-Karte Plus* is a temporary, renewable residence permit.
- It allows the holder to stay and work in Austria (self-employed or employed). No additional work permit is required.
- The residence permit is valid for a limited period (generally one year), but can be extended upon application.

RWR Card+ vs Blue Card

- RWR Card+ allows you to work in Austria, same as with the Blue Card.
- RWR Card+ is valid for 1 year from the issue date. After 2 years of stay, and if you meet the requirements as per Module 1 of the Integration Agreement, the residency permit can be prolonged for 3 more years. The Blue Card, on the contrary, has validity period of 1 year for all its holders.
- Stay with RWR Card+ is considered a permanent residency permit. This means that after 5 years and if you meet the necessary requirements, you can apply for “Permanent residency permit - EU” (*Dau- eraufenthalt – EU*), which can’t be done with only the Blue Card.

- RWR Card+ gives the opportunity for the family reunion (for example, also for the persons who don't have or cannot receive a Blue Card).
- With RWR Card+ you have a certain idea about whether you are allowed to stay in Austria even after the Blue Card validity period has ended.
- For RWR Card+ you need to pay a 160€ fee. On the contrary, the Blue Card is free of charge.
- You can not receive Basic Care (Grundversorgung) if you want to apply for RWR Card+ (unlike with the Blue Card).
- You can not receive any social help with RWR Card+.
- RWR Card+ can be prolonged only by application. The application has to be submitted before the residency permit expiration date (no earlier than 3 months before it). On the contrary, the Blue Card is automatically renewed with the residency permit prolongation.

What are the requirements for RWR Card+?

- 1) You need to have a **valid Blue Card**.
- 2) You must have a **valid travel document** (passport).
- 3) You must have **sufficient means of subsistence** (savings or income) so as not to constitute a financial burden on Austria.

How to understand if your means of subsistence are sufficient?

- Calculate your average monthly net income, which is the amount left after deduction of all taxes and social insurance contributions. For spouses and registered partners, your partner's income counts as well.
- Calculate your savings - they might also include money on foreign accounts (you will need to provide a proof that you have access to those accounts in Austria at any time), real estate you own in another country (proof of ownership will be required).
- From the income and savings amount, deduct your regular monthly expenses, such as rent or loan payments. If the total of your monthly expenses is less than € 386.43, you do not

deduct expenses from your monthly income. In this case, your entire monthly income is considered. If the total of all regular expenses is more, first deduct € 386.43 from these expenses. Then deduct the remaining amount of expenses from your monthly income.

- To be considered sufficient means of subsistence the monthly amount you calculate should be no less than:
 - € 1.308,39 for singles;
 - € 2.064,12 for registered partners / spouses;
 - € 201,88 per each child additionally.

You can use **this guide** for more detailed instructions on how to calculate your means of subsistence (available in Ukrainian language).

Important: If you or your family members receive Basic Care (*Grundversorgung*), your livelihood is not secured, which means you are not eligible to apply for RWR Card+.

4) You must have health insurance that covers all risks. If you are fully insured (*vollversichert*) in the Austrian social security system through your job, this would be enough. You must have been fully insured for at least 12 months by the time of application.

For more information go to the Health section of the Guide.

5) You must have suitable accommodation. You must have a legal right to this accommodation (e.g. a rental agreement (*Mietvertrag*)). A Precarious Contract (*Prekariumsvertrag*) is **not enough!**

6) Your stay must not threaten public order or security, be linked to terrorist or extremist activities, or significantly affect Austria's relations with other countries.

7) You must provide proof of German language skills (at least A1 Level) issued by a renowned institution: Österreichisches Sprachdiplom Deutsch (ÖSD); Goethe-Institut; Telc GmbH; Österreichischer Integrationsfonds (ÖIF).

For more information go to the Language section of the Guide.

8) Members of your family (husband, wife, registered partners, minor children and stepchildren) can apply for RWR Card+ for family members.

How do I submit my application for RWR Card+?

- You can apply to the responsible competent registration authority (communities / magistrates). This depends on your place of residence:
 - **Burgenland, Carinthia, Lower Austria, Upper Austria, Salzburg, Tirol and Vorarlberg:** in the relevant district administrative body where you live, i.e. the district administration or, in cities, the mayor (magistrate). Application is possible online, by telephone, or by email, depending on the specific administrative body.
 - **Styria:** the relevant district administration, but in Graz the state governor (Office of the Styrian State Government, Department 3 (*Amt der Steiermärkischen Landesregierung, Abteilung 3*)). Application is possible online via [this link](#).
 - **Vienna:** Governor (Office of the Vienna State Government, Municipal Department 35 (*Amt der Wiener Landesregierung, Magistratsabteilung 35*)). Application is possible online via [this link](#).
- You must fill in the *Antragsformular* (application form) *G – Rot-Weiß-Rot – Karte plus für Vertriebene*, which can be downloaded [here](#).
- In addition to the application form, you will need to submit the following documents:
 - Your **Blue Card**;
 - Your **travel document** (passport);
 - Your passport portrait **photo** (45x35 mm) which is no older than 6 months;
 - For children: **birth certificate** or relevant document confirming family relationship;
 - Possible: marriage certificate, partnership certificate, adoption certificate, proof or certificate of family relationship;
 - Proof of legal entitlement to local housing (**proof of accommodation**), such as a lease, title deed or rental contract; it is sufficient if one family member is listed on the contract;
 - Proof of reliable means of subsistence (**proof of income**). For **employees**, this includes salary information, salary certificates, contract with the employer. For **self-employed** persons, an income tax certificate (*Einkommensteuerbescheid*) and a certificate of no objection (*Unbedenklichkeitsbescheinigung*) from the tax office (*Finanzamt*) and the social

insurance company for self-employed persons (SVA);

- Possible: proof of health insurance that covers all risks. This is not required if you are currently working with full insurance;
- **Proof of German language skills** (language diploma at level A1 from a recognized institution) or fulfillment of an Integration Agreement (e.g. through a university diploma);
- For faster processing of adult applicants: **self-disclosure from a credit protection association** (*Selbstauskunft von einem Kreditschutzverband*).

How long is RWR Card+ valid? Can it be prolonged?

RWR Card+ is usually valid for 1 year when first issued, and it can be extended (even several times). To do this, you must meet the general requirements for issuance and have a valid passport. You must personally apply for an extension to the settlement and residence authority before the expiration of your residence permit, but no earlier than three months before its expiration.

If you have already lived for at least 2 years and fulfilled the conditions of Module 1 of the Integration Agreement, the RWR Card+ will be issued immediately for 3 years.

More about Rot-Weiß-Rot-Karte Plus via [this link](#).

Additionally, check our article at the Office Ukraine website [here](#).

Residence Permit – Student (Student Visa)

What is Residence Permit – Student?

The Residence Permit – Student (Student Visa) is intended for nationals of third countries who have been admitted to study at a higher education institution in Austria. It may be granted in the following cases:

- Degree programme studies (*ordentliches Studium*) at an Austrian university, university of applied sciences (*Fachhochschule*), accredited private university or public or private university college of teacher education;
- Non-degree programme studies (*außerordentliches Studium*) within the framework of a public or private certificate university programme, certificate university of applied sciences programme or certificate programme at a university college of teacher education with **at least 40 ECTS credits**. The course must not serve exclusively for the learning of a language;
- Non-degree programme studies (*außerordentliches Studium*) within the framework of a University Preparation Programme to prepare students for supplementary examinations prescribed in their notification of admission;
- Non-degree programme studies (*außerordentliches Studium*) to establish equivalence of a foreign university degree (recognition, *Nostrifizierung*);
- **In case of extentions:** Professional training course required by law after completion of a degree programme (e.g. court practice, clinical traineeship);
- **In case of extentions:** Stay for job-seeking or setting up business after successful completion of a degree programme, a certificate higher education programme, a programme to establish equivalence of a foreign university degree (*Nostrifizierung*), or a professional training course required by law following the regular degree programme studies;
- For students who are studying at an Austrian higher education institution within the framework of a Union or multilateral mobility programme or an agreement between two or more higher education institutions.

What is the difference between Student Visa and Blue Card?

- Unlike Blue Card, Residence Permit – Student (Student Visa) requires you to be enrolled in the educational program in Austria.
- Student Visa alone **doesn't allow** you to legally work in Austria - additionally the **Work Permit** needs to be issued. The employer has to apply for this work permit at the Public Employment Service (*Arbeitsmarktservice/AMS*) before you take up the job. With the Student Visa you will be able to get a Work Permit for working for **up to 20 hours/week**. This permit will be granted without labour market check.
- Student Visa is valid for 2 years. It can be renewed, for which you have to submit the confirmation of your continuing university enrolment (*Fortsetzungsbestätigung*), your record or studies (*Studienbuchblatt*) as well as proof of academic success in the scope of eight semester hours per academic year or 16 ECTS credits per academic year. Students who have finished their studies may apply for a renewal of the permit for another 12 months to look for a job or set up a business. It is also possible to change to another residence title if you meet the requirements for it.
- Similar to Blue Card, family members of students holding a Residence Permit – Student (Student Visa) can apply for a **Residence Permit – Family Community**.
- For the Student Visa you need to pay a 212€ fee. On the contrary, the Blue Card is free of charge.
- Holders of the Student Visa are not eligible for Basic Care or any social help.

How do I submit my application for the Student Visa?

- You can apply to the responsible competent registration authority (communities / magistrates). This depends on your place of residence:
 - **Burgenland, Carinthia, Lower Austria, Upper Austria, Salzburg, Tirol and Vorarlberg:** in the relevant district administrative body where you live, i.e. the district administration or, in cities, the mayor (magistrate). Application is possible online, by telephone, or by email, depending on the specific administrative body.

- **Styria:** the relevant district administration, but in Graz the state governor (Office of the Styrian State Government, Department 3 (*Amt der Steiermärkischen Landesregierung, Abteilung 3*)). Application is possible online via [this link](#).

- **Vienna:** Governor (Office of the Vienna State Government, Municipal Department 35 (*Amt der Wiener Landesregierung, Magistratsabteilung 35*)). Application is possible online via [this link](#).

- You must fill in the *Antragsformular* (application form) which can be downloaded [here](#).

- In addition to the application form, you will need to submit the following documents:
 - Your valid **travel document** (passport);

 - Your passport portrait **photo** (45x35 mm) which is no older than 6 months;

 - **Proof of sufficient financial means** to cover the living costs: students under 24 years of age - **€ 703,58/month**; above 24 y.o - **€ 1,273.99/month**; registered partners / spouses - **€ 2.009,85/month**; per each child additionally - **€ 196,57/month**. You have to prove these funds for 2 years in advance. The funds have to be in a (foreign) savings book or (foreign) bank account that must bear the applicant's name and be accessible from Austria. An alternative possibility would be a declaration of guarantee (*Haftungserklärung*), the purchase of traveller's cheques or a confirmation of the award of a scholarship.

 - Upon request of the residence authority you should be able to prove the **origin of the funds** (for example, declaration of the applicant where the funds come from, e.g., savings, loan, scholarship, sale of an apartment/house, inheritance; bank statement of the last 6 months; proof of employment; confirmation of scholarship, sales contract, loan agreement etc; bank statement of the account of your parents or other sponsors of the last 6 months; declaration of the parents or the sponsor that the provided funds are on free disposal of the applicant and where the money comes from; proof of employment of the parents or other sponsors);

 - **Declaration of regular expenses** (loans, maintenance payments or other financial burdens);

 - **Proof of accommodation** in Austria (for example, Rental Contract);

 - **Proof of health insurance** covering all risks;

 - **Police clearance certificate** from your country of residence (in individual cases also from

your country of origin) not older than 3 months at the time of application;

- **Notification/confirmation of admission** of the Austrian higher education institution;
- **Confirmation of admission/of participation** in an Union or multilateral mobility programme or an agreement between two or more higher education institutions.
- For prolongation of the Student Visa you will need to additionally submit the following:
 - **Proof of academic success.** For doctoral/PhD students: confirmation of your academic progress from your academic supervisor;
 - **Confirmation** of your continuing university enrolment;
 - **Record** of studies;
 - **Notification/confirmation of admission** of the Austrian higher education institution for another degree programme after completion of a degree programme in Austria;
 - Current **extract** from the files of an officially recognised credit reference agency;
 - After graduation: **proof of completion** of a degree programme or a statutory professional training.

More about Residence Permit – Student (Student Visa) via [this link](#).

For the additional information about Education in Austria go to the [Education](#) section of the Guide.

Residence Permit – Artist (Artist Visa)

IMPORTANT!

As of 2026, Ukrainian citizens who reside in Austria with the Blue Card, are not eligible to apply for the Artist Visa. However, this situation may change. For that case, we still enlist this option here and describe its conditions.

What is Residence Permit – Artist?

The Residence Permit – Artist (Artist Visa) is intended for nationals of third countries who do the artistic work as their main activity and would like to work as an artist in Austria for more than 6 months, on an employed or on a self-employed basis.

Who is eligible for the Artist Visa?

You are considered to be an artist when you perform an activity in the field of art. For this purpose, you must be creative and artistic yourself and pursue this work on the basis of your artistic qualifications/aptitude. In any case, you are said to have artistic qualifications when you have completed your studies in art at a university or university of applied sciences.

The following professions are generally considered to comprise artistic activities:

- Sculptor
- Painter
- Drawer
- Curator
- Restorer
- Stage or set designer
- Interior decorator
- Fashion designer

- . Artistic director
- . Director or producer
- . Quiz master or master of ceremonies
- . Actress/Actor
- . Announcer
- . Singer
- . Dancer
- . Artist
- . Musician

Even if you teach at an art college or art conservatory, you can be considered to be an artist.

If you work as an **artisan** (*Kunsthawdwerkerin/Kunsthawdwerker*) and only technically carry out or produce the designs or drafts of an artist but do not determine the artistic design yourself, you **are not** considered to be an artist.

As a **restorer**, you can be considered to be an artist if you add to the existing work or restore it as a consequence of extensive damage and if you require artistic skills to do this work. In this case, you are involved in a kind of artistic performance. However, if you only carry out cleaning or conservation work on a work of art, the work is usually considered to be a commercial activity.

How do I submit my application for the Artist Visa?

- . Similarly to RWR Card+ and Student Visa, you can apply to the responsible competent registration authority (communities / magistrates) in your place of residence. In case of the employment, this can be done by an employer on your behalf.
- . You must fill in the Antragsformular (application form) which can be downloaded [here](#).
- . In addition to the application form, you will need to submit the following documents:
 - Your valid **travel document** (passport);
 - Your passport portrait **photo** (45x35 mm) which is no older than 6 months;
 - Similarly to the Student Visa, **proof of sufficient financial means** to cover the living costs;

- Similarly to the Student Visa, **proof of health insurance** covering all risks;
- **Proof of artistic training** or description of previous artistic activity;
- In the case of **self-employed** artistic activity: **a written contract** for the performance of a specific self-employed activity that will last longer than 6 months;
- In the case of **employed** artistic activity: **Employer declaration** (*Arbeitgebererklärung*) in accordance with the Foreign Nationals Employment Act. Your employer must declare their commitment to adhere to the employment conditions stipulated in the application;
- **Declaration of Liability**;
- **Proof of German language skills** corresponding to A1 level.

More about Residence Permit – Artist (Artist Visa) via [this link](#).

For other information about Work opportunities in Art & Culture in Austria go to the [Work](#) section of the Guide.

Austrian citizenship (*Staatsbürgerschaft*)

What are the requirements for obtaining the Citizenship?

- In general **10 years legal and continuous residence** in Austria, and minimum of **5 years** with a residence permit.
- In case of marriage, you should have been married to an Austrian citizen for at least **5 years** in a shared household.
- **Integrity:** no judicial condemnation; no pending criminal action (both in Austria and abroad); No severe administrative offences with special degree of unlawfulness.
- **Proof of fix and regular earnings** out of acquisition, income, judicial claim to maintenance or insurance benefits over a period of 36 months on average within the last 6 years before the time of application.
- **Proof of German language skills** at minimum B1 level.
- **Proof regarding knowledge** of the democratic system of Austria and the fundamental principles deriving therefrom, as well as the history of Austria and of each province through a written examination (multiple choice questions) before the Provincial Government.
- **Positive attitude** towards the Republic of Austria and warranty that there is no danger for the public peace, order and security.
- **No pending proceeding** regarding the termination of residence.
- **No eviction order** within the last 12 months and no upright entry prohibition.
- **No close relationship** to any extremist or terrorist group.
- **Principally** loss of previous citizenship. Dual citizenships are not allowed.

More about the Austrian Citizenship via [this link](#).

Housing & Living

Organised & Immediate Accommodations (Shelters)

You can be accommodated directly through the federal state's Basic Care office in organised accommodations (see [Arrival in Austria](#) section of the Guide). Organised accommodation means that meals are also included.

You can also contact the Counselling centres in the federal provinces that can help you in your search for housing:

BURGENLAND:

MOBEB – Mobile Refugee Counselling Service Burgenland
www.diakonie.at

Caritas Burgenland – Accommodation and Housing Burgenland – Oberwart
Wiener Straße 1, 7400 Oberwart
+43 (0)664 88 35 06 83
wohnberatung.burgenland@diakonie.at
www.diakoniebgld.at

CARINTHIA:

Caritas Klagenfurt
Sandwirtgasse 2, 9010 Klagenfurt
+43 (0)463 555 60-15
c.eile@caritas-kaernten.at
www.caritas-kaernten.at

Housing Advice Villach
www.villach.at/stadt-service/wohnen-in-miete/wohnungsberatung

LOWER AUSTRIA:

Volkshilfe Wohndrehscheibe
Erdbergstraße 216A/Top 1, 1030 Vienna
+43 (0)1 360 64 43 43
wds@volkshilfe-wien.at
www.volkshilfe-wien.at

Diakonie Housing Advice Lower Austria
wohnberatung.noel@diakonie.at
www.diakonie.at

STYRIA:

Caritas Sozialzentrum Mariengasse

Mariengasse 24, 8020 Graz
erstkontakt@caritas-steiermark.at

Caritas der Diözese Graz-Seckau

Grabenstraße 39, 8010 Graz
office@caritas-steiermark.at

TIROL:

DOWAS

Leopoldstraße 18, 6020 Innsbruck
+43 (0)512 57 23 43
ibk@dowas.org
www.dowas.org

Diakonie Housing Advice

wohnberatung.tirol@diakonie.at
www.diakonie.at

Caritas Housing and Integration Counselling Services

Heiliggeiststraße 16, 6020 Innsbruck
+43 (0)512 72 70-205; +43 (0)676 87 30 63 06
johannes.neuerer@caritas.tirol
www.caritas-tirol.at

UPPER AUSTRIA:

ARGE for Homeless People

Marienstraße 11, 4020 Linz
+43 (0)732 77 08 05
verein@arge-obdachlose.at

VORARLBERG:

Caritas Centre

Reichsstraße 173, 6800 Feldkirch
+43 (0)5522 200-1700
beratung@caritas.at
www.caritas-vorarlberg.at

VIENNA:

Homes for Ukraine – Offer & Find Shelter

www.homesforukraine.eu

Fonds Soziales Wien

<https://www.fsw.at/n/anlaufstelle-für-vertriebene-menschen-aus-der-ukraine>

DIAKONIE – Ukraine Counselling Centre

Wilhelminenstr. 91-93/II f, 1160 Wien
+43 (0)1 343 91 91
beratungszentrum-ukraine@diakonie.at
www.diakonie.at

Queer Base – Support and Shelter for LGBTQA+ people

Schlüsselgasse 3/3 1040 Wien
asylum@queerbase.at
www.queerbase.at

Long-Term Rental

Where to look for the long-term accommodation?

Daily newspapers:

- www.immo.kurier.at
- www.krone.at
- www.derstandard.at

Real estate websites:

- www.bazar.at
- www.immobilien.net
- www.immodirekt.at
- www.wohnet.at
- www.willhaben.at
- www.immobilienscout24.at

Basic terms you need to know

- **Ablöse** - payment made by a new tenant to the outgoing tenant for the transfer of certain items or fixtures in a rental property. This usually occurs when the outgoing tenant has made improvements or has furniture that they want to sell to the new tenant instead of taking it with them.
- **Altbau** - old building, usually built before 1953.
- **Baujahr** - year of construction.
- **Betriebskosten** - operating costs, include charges for water/wastewater, sewage services, insurance, waste management, cleaning costs, snow removal, playground, laundry room, etc., which every tenant has to pay for on a monthly basis. Sometimes included in the rent amount.
- **Dachgeschoss** - attic, the floor directly under the roof.

- **Erdgeschoss** - ground floor. In Ukraine this would be the 1st floor, but in Austria the numbering of floors starts from the first floor over ground.
- **Frist** - time limit (usually about rental period).
- **Gesamtbelastung** - whole rent sum, all costs and fees included.
- **Hausverwaltung** - property management company.
- **Kalt(miete)** - base rent, rent without additional costs included.
- **Kaution** - security deposit paid upon signing the contract, usually equates x3 of the monthly rent (f.e. if the monthly rent is €500, Kaution will be €1500). The security deposit can be in the form of a savings account book or paid in cash and deposited with the landlord. It is essential that when you move in, you do a thorough check of the conditions of the flat/rented furniture and take some pictures. Upon termination of the tenancy agreement the security deposit will be refunded to you. If you cause any damages in the flat or if you are in arrears with the rent, the landlord may keep the security deposit or parts of it.
- **Mietdauer** - rental period. For long-term rental contracts usually starting from 3 years.
- **Miete** - rent, cost of the rental, usually paid on monthly basis.
- **Mieter:in** - the tenant.
- **Mietvertrag** - tenancy agreement, rental contract.
- **Möbliert** - furnished, fully equipped with furniture. In Austria, many accommodations are rented without furniture and equipment (fridge, washing machine, etc).
- **Nebenkosten** - additional costs, utility fees, such as electricity, Internet, telephone, TV. Usually such fees are paid by tenants themselves, directly to the provider companies (with whom a separate contract needs to be made).
- **Neubau** - new building (built after 1953).
- **Prekarium** - a form of tenure where someone lets you use an accommodation for a short period time without charging any rent for it, and which is arranged by request. Parts of the operating costs may be charged though.
- **Sanierung** - renovation, restoration. Saniert - renovated.

- **Unbefristet** - not limited in time (usually about rental period).
- **Verfügbar ab (sofort)** - available from (immediately)
- **Vermieter:in** - the landlord.
- **Warm(miete)** - overall monthly rent, with Betriebskosten included.
- **Wohnfläche** - living area.
- **Wohngemeinschaft (WG)** - shared apartment.

Other important details

- Before you sign the tenancy agreement you can view the flat. Flats advertised in newspapers or on the internet are often only accessible through real estate agents. If the flat is viewed by a number of interested parties all at once, it is called open house viewing. The viewing appointment is often arranged by phone.
- With a rental offer you confirm that you want to rent the flat under certain conditions. If the landlord accepts your rental offer, the tenancy agreement is concluded.
- The tenancy agreement (*Mietvertrag*) specifies, for example, which flat (exact address) you are renting and for what period of time. It also contains details on the size of the flat, the rent and the period of notice, the rules of the house, etc. Lay down your tenancy agreement in writing so that you have written proof in the event of disputes.
- Limited (*befristet*) rental agreements cannot normally be terminated by the landlord before the end of the specified period of time unless indicated otherwise in the contract. If a time-limited rental agreement is not terminated, it is automatically extended for the period of time specified in the contract. If the rental agreement is not terminated after expiration of the second term, it shall be deemed as extended for an indefinite period of time.
- Rental agreements unlimited in time (*unbefristet*) can be terminated by the landlord. Observe the **period of notice** laid down in the rental agreement. The landlord is allowed to terminate an open-ended rental agreement only if there are serious reasons, e.g. if they need the premises for themselves or if the rent is not being paid.
- Before you make any repairs in your rented apartment, find out whether they are within your

your responsibility first. In the case of a blocked pipe, for instance, the building management might be responsible. If the heating needs repairing, the landlord may have to bear the costs.

- If you operate a radio and/or TV set in your home, you have to register them. For this you must pay a mandatory **TV and radio licence fee (ORF Beitrag)** costing **€15.30** per household per month. If your income does not exceed a certain level, you can apply for exemption from the licence fee.

You have to submit via [this link](#) an application form, a copy of your registration certificate (*Meldebestätigung/Meldezettel*) as well as copies of the registration certificates for every person living in the household, and evidence of current income for every person living in the household.

- Gas, oil and electricity are usually not included in the rent and have to be paid separately as *Nebenkosten*. You can pay for gas, oil and electricity monthly by payment form, or have it recurrently debited from your bank account (standing order).

You can find out which utility provider company is responsible for your area and which electricity rate is the best one available by consulting the tariff calculator of the regulatory authority E-Control: www.e-control.at.

- To connect your household to the WiFi (*WLAN*) or Mobile network, you will need to make a contract with the Internet provider. You can find available services and price comparison [here](#).

IMPORTANT!

Every Saturday at 12:00 (midday) the emergency sirens are launched in every city, town and village across the country. These are mandatory testing activities, and they usually last up to 1 minute. Several times per year expanded tests are performed, meaning that there will be different types of the alarms and they will last longer than usual. Please don't worry and pay attention to your local news sources!

Important Housing & Living Rules

- As a tenant, you have a right to make changes and improvements to the flat. For example, if you paint or wallpaper the flat, you do not have to notify your landlord. If you are planning major renovation jobs (e.g. removing a wall), you have to let the landlord know and ask for permission. Before moving out, you are responsible for removing all minor changes and bringing the flat into the way it was when you were moving in (for example, the holes in the walls need to be closed).
- You are obliged to pay the rent on time: you can use a payment form to make the monthly rent payments or have it monthly debited from your bank account (standing order). If you fail to pay the rent on time, you may lose the apartment.
- You have a duty to service the apartment and keep it in good condition, including water, electric installations etc. to prevent any damages to the landlord or other tenants.
- Under certain circumstances, you have to grant the landlord access to the apartment (e.g. reading of the water meter). The landlord must inform you about it well in advance and may not enter your apartment without your knowledge.
- To ensure good co-existence, all neighbours have to be considerate and adhere to the **House Rules (*Hausordnung*)**. If the house rules are not posted in your apartment block, contact the property management office and ask them to send you copy of the house rules.
- Between **10 pm and 6 am** you have to keep silence. Neither listen to loud music nor make loud noises which might disturb the neighbours. If you violate this rule, the police may even be called. Hours of rest (i.e. no loud music, loud noises) also apply all day long on Sundays and public holidays.
- Bicycles, old furniture, etc. must not be stored in the hallways; they are stored in the bicycle storage rooms or in the cellar compartment assigned to your flat.
- Some green areas must not be entered. Make sure that your children play in the areas provided for that purpose (playgrounds). If your rented property has a common-use garden, you can use it as well, just make sure you keep it clean (for example, collect your pets' waste.)

Waste sorting (*Mühtrennung*) rules

In Austria, all waste should be disposed in the appropriate color-coded bins. Most of the time, these bins are located on the household territory (in the inner yard or in special rooms). Some

bins such as bins for glass are located on a bit further distance from the households, i.e on the street - so that the noise of breaking glass doesn't disturb the people leaving nearby. For that reason, it is prohibited to dispose glass on Sundays or during public holidays which are considered to be silent days (Ruhetage).

Attention! Depending on the region, waste sorting rules may vary. Find more info via [this link](#).

- Paper (Altpapier) - newspapers, magazines, brochures, catalogues, sheets of paper, paper bags, packing paper, small carton boxes - **red** bin.

Attention! This applies only for clean paper package (for example, greasy pizza boxes should go to the Residual Waste / Restmühl / **black** bin).

- Organic waste (*Bioabfall*) - spoiled food, food waste, coffee grounds, tea bags, paper tissues, fruit and vegetable peelings & scraps, eggshells, leaves - **brown** bin.

Attention! This doesn't apply for the pets waste or for the fish/meat waste (for example, chicken bones, fish scale, which should also go to Residual Waste / Restmühl / **black** bin).

- Residual waste (*Restmühl*) - sweepings, diapers, hygiene waste, vacuum cleaner bags, ballpoint pens, dog excrement and cat litter (in a bag), basically any waste that doesn't fit into any other category - **black** bin.
- Plastic packaging (*Verpackung*) - PET bottles, plastic bottles for ketchup and cosmetic products, beverage cartons, plastic containers, plastic bags, metal cans - **yellow** bin.
- Glass - white (clear) & coloured (*Weißglas & Buntglas*) - beverage bottles made of glass, empty glass bottles for cosmetics or food (e.g. oil bottles), pickle and jam jars - **white** and **green** bins.

Attention! This doesn't apply for light bulbs (disposed separately as hazardous waste), flat glass and broken dishes (disposed as Residual Waste or, if in large amounts, can be brought to the dedicated dedicated waste landfills or recycling centers).

- Hazardous waste - paints, varnishes, cleaning agents, cosmetics, old electrical devices, fluorescent tubes, light bulbs, batteries - should be brought to your closest recycling center (*Ressourcenpark*). Batteries are sometimes collected in the local supermarkets.

- Bulky waste - old furniture & equipment, massive construction waste - should be brought to your local recycling center (Ressourcenpark). Disposal of such massive waste in these areas is a paid service. Some people leave their unneeded furniture (if it is not completely ruined) near household's trash bins - in this case it is free to take. However, leaving too bulky items like this is illegal. Other option is to try to sell such unneeded items at local flea market or via online marketplaces, i.e. Willhaben.at., or bring them to charity organisations.

Conclusion

How to estimate costs for the long-term housing?

Kaltmiete - basic rent

+

Kaution - deposit, usually amounting to 3 monthly rents, paid once at the beginning of the rental (usually in cash), returned by the landlord at the end of the agreed rental period (some of this amount may be withheld to compensate for the damage made by tenant to the rented property);

+

Betriebskosten - additional costs for water/wastewater, sewage services, insurance, waste management, cleaning costs, snow removal, playground, laundry room (sometimes included in the basic rent), usually the amount is fixed;

+

Nebenkosten - utility fees for electricity, Internet, telephone, TV. The amount may vary depending on the consumption.

Work

Chapter I: General Opportunities

Gives an overview of the work opportunities in Austria, regardless of the professional sphere.

Chapter II: Opportunities in Arts & Culture

Specifically focuses on the jobs and funding opportunities for artists and cultural professionals.

Chapter I: General Opportunities

Employed Work

Where do I look for a job in Austria?

The most used web resources for career opportunities are www.karriere.at, www.jobs.at and www.willhaben.at.

The full list of private employment websites and job search engines is available via [this link](#).

It is recommended that you contact the **Public Employment Service (*Arbeitsmarktservice / AMS*)** and its regional branch offices if you are seeking work or training positions.

The AMS is responsible for providing services such as counselling, job placement, further training as well as unemployment insurance benefits (unemployment benefits or *Arbeitslosengeld*) to persons who are residents of Austria and are currently residing in Austria.

AMS has its own job [website](#) and job [search engine](#).

To register with the AMS you need to bring to the office your ID card for displaced persons (Blue Card) and your social security number. If you only speak little or no German at all, please come to the AMS together with an adult person who is able to communicate with us without difficulty.

After registering, your adviser will help you find a suitable German-language course (for more info see the [Language](#) section of the Guide), inform you about job vacancies and any other qualifications you might need.

For an overview of all offices, including opening hours, addresses and phone numbers, see www.ams.at/geschaeftsstellen.

List of counselling and assistance facilities that offer support in your search for a work or training placement and can help you draft your application:

BURGENLAND:

BIB Education Information Burgenland

Domplatz 21, 7000 Eisenstadt

+43 (0)2682 668 86 66

info-bib@burgenland.at

www.bib-burgenland.at

CARINTHIA:

Caritas Carinthia Asylum and Integration Assistance

Sandwirtgasse 2, 9010 Klagenfurt

+43 (0)463 555 60-15

c.eile@caritas-kaernten.at

www.caritas-kaernten.at

Education Counselling Carinthia

www.kompetenzberatung.at

LOWER AUSTRIA:

CarBiz – Caritas Education Centre

Baumannstr. 11–15, 1. Stock, 1030 Vienna

+43 (0)1 406 10 37

bildungsberatung@caritas-wien.at

www.caritas-wien.at

Asylum & Integration Vienna & Lower Austria East

Wiener Straße 56, 2700 Wiener Neustadt

+43 (0)2622 830 20

asylundintegration-noe@caritas-wien.at

Asylum & Integration Lower Austrian North

Hauptplatz 6–7, 2100 Korneuburg

+43 (0)2262 623 55

asylundintegration-noe@caritas-wien.at

Diakonie in the Industrial Quarter, BACH Education Centre Mödling

+43 (0)664 858 27 07

veroniya.lakusta@diakonie.at

www.bildungsberatung-noe.at

UPPER AUSTRIA:

**Volkshilfe Upper Austria
IdA (Integration through Work) –
Volkshilfe Upper Austria**
stefan.thurner@volkshilfe-ooe.at

migrare Centre for Migrants Upper Austria
+ 43 (0)732 66 76 63-860
amra.hamzic@migrare.at
www.migration.at
www.migrare.at

Upper Austria – AST
+43 (0)732 66 73 63-305
ast.oberoesterreich@migrare.at

**KomIn – Competence-oriented Intensive
Counselling (incl. Competence Kaleidoscope)**
+43 (0)732 66 73 63-836
komin@migrare.at

Education Counselling
+43 (0)732 66 73 63-835
bildungsberatung@migrare.at

SALZBURG:

Education Counselling Salzburg
www.bildungsberatung-salzburg.at

STYRIA:

Mobile Integration Assistance
Mariengasse 24, 8020 Graz
+43 (0)676 88 01 53 74
bettina.zangl@caritas-steiermark.at
www.caritas-steiermark.at

Caritas Open Learning Centre
Mariengasse 24, 8020 Graz
+43 (0)676 88 01 51 79
christina.kopinits@caritas-steiermark.at
www.caritas-steiermark.at/openlearningcenter

Education Counselling Styria
www.bildungsberatung-stmk.at

Help Compass for People from Ukraine
www.ukrainehilfe.steiermark.at

Zebra – Intercultural Counselling and Therapy Centre
Granatengasse 4 / 3. Stock, 8020 Graz
+43 (0)316 83 56 30-100
ast@zebra.or.at

TIROL:

Caritas – Housing, Integration and Employment

Heiliggeiststraße 16, 6020 Innsbruck
+43 (0)512 72 70-78
j.gschnell.caritas@dibk.at
www.caritas-tirol.at

Education Counselling Tirol

www.bildungsinfo-tirol.at

VIENNA:

Training & education counselling Vienna

+43 (0)800 20 79 59
info@bildungsberatung-wien.at
www.bildungsberatung-wien.at

Counselling Centre for Migrants

Hoher Markt 8/4/2/2, 1010 Wien
+43 (0)1 712 56 04
migrant@migrant.at www.migrant.at

WAFF – Initial counselling on working & occupation in one's native language

Nordbahnstraße 36, 1020 Vienna
+43 (0)1 217 48-0
waff@waff.at www.waff.at

VORARLBERG:

Caritas – Refugee Assistance Service

Schlossgraben 6, 6800 Feldkirch
Tel.: +43 (0)5522 200-1770
E-mail: fluechtlingshilfe@caritas.at
www.caritas-vorarlberg.at

Education Counselling Vorarlberg/BIFO – Counselling for Education and Career

Bahnhofstraße 24, 6850 Dornbirn
+43 (0)5572 317 17
info@bildungsberatung-vorarlberg.at
www.bildungsberatung-vorarlberg.at

ZeMiT – Centre for Migrants

Bahnhofstraße 29, 6800 Feldkirch
+43 (0)660 436 96 54
ast.vorarlberg@zemit.at

FEMAIL – Women's Information Centre Vorarlberg

Marktgasse 6, 6800 Feldkirch
+43 (0)5522 310 02
info@femail.at www.femail.at

KOST Vorarlberg

Anton-Schneider-Straße 2, 6900 Bregenz
+43 (0)664 88 93 12 68
service@kost-vorarlberg.at
www.kost-vorarlberg.at

WKO Apprenticeship Department

www.lehre-vorarlberg.at
www.vbg.arbeiterkammer.at/lehrejugend

abz*austria – Women’s Career Centre

Bahnhofplatz 1d, 6700 Bludenz
Kornmarktstraße 18, 2.OG, 6900 Bregenz
Bildgasse 10d, 6850 Dornbirn
Marktgasse 6, 3.OG, 6800 Feldkirch
+43 (0)699 16 67 03 25
abzaustria@abz-austria.at
www.abzaustria.at/angebote-projekte/
frauenberufszentrum-vorarlberg

What do I need to apply for a job?

A complete job application (*Bewerbung*) includes:

- Letter of application;
- Curriculum vitae (CV) / resume;
- If available: certificates (school-leaving certificate of a higher-level school, work certificates/references and/or course certificates or confirmations of attendance for relevant technical training courses, further training and other courses);
- Applicant’s photo (optional, if requested).

Letters of application and curriculum vitae/resume should be written in German language unless the job vacancy advertisement specifically requests that application documents be prepared in another language.

A guide to writing a professional CV can be found [here](#).

Attention! Some foreign documents, e.g. university diplomas need to be formally recognised (*nostrifiziert*) so that the employer could accept them. You can find out if your professional qualification corresponds to the same in Austria and if you need to get your documents recognised via [this link](#).

Most of the jobs in Austria require certain level of German language knowledge. For more information about this topic go to the [Language](#) section of the Guide.

If a job interview has been arranged, either by phone or in person, it is customary to bring your CV with you. If you have any diplomas or work certificates, bring them with you to the appointment. If you need assistance drafting your application, go to the [AMS website](#) where you will find tips. You also can find useful instructions via [this link](#).

Forms of employment by working time

- **Full-time employment (*Vollzeitbeschäftigung*)** - means that an employee works **40 hours** per week (8 hours a day for the 5-days working week) or a shorter weekly working time specified in the agreement (e.g. **38.5 hours/week**).
- **Part-time employment (*Teilzeitbeschäftigung*)** - means shorter weekly working hours, usually **20 hours/week** (4 hours/day).
- **Flexitime (*Gleitzeit*)** - this model provides employees with the freedom to organise their working hours themselves. This allows them to decide whether they prefer to start their workday earlier or later.
- **Shift work (*Schichtarbeit*)** - many manufacturing companies, in particular, work in shifts. The company creates a shift schedule for its workforce. This means that employees on one shift alternate at work with employees on the other shift.
- **Night work (*Nachtarbeit*)** - many jobs require nighttime work. These include, for example, several healthcare professions (particularly in hospitals), but also police service and snow removal. The Austrian Working Hours Act defines night work as working a minimum of three hours at night regularly or on at least 48 nights in a calendar year.
- **On-call duty (*Rufbereitschaft*)** - this model means being available during your free time so that you can be deployed as needed. This allows you to cover quiet hours and ensure care in urgent cases. On-call duty is common in professions such as plumbers and doctors, for example.
- **Seasonal work (*Saisonarbeit*)** - here, you as an employee work only for a precisely defined, temporary period. This model is often used in agriculture, for example, but also in tourism, gastronomy, and the hotel industry.

Forms of employment by type of the contract

- **Employment contract (*Arbeitsvertrag*)** - concluded between an employer (*Arbeitsgeber*) and an employee (*Angestellter*), meaning that one person undertakes to perform work for another person. Example of the Employment contract can be found [here](#). More info [here](#).
- **Apprenticeship contract (*Lehrvertrag*)** - employment contract with special training-related terms and conditions. Example of the Apprenticeship contract can be found [here](#). More info [here](#).
- ***Dienstzettel*** - where no written employment contract containing the major rights and obligations is concluded, the employer is required to pass on a written record of major rights and obligations arising from this employment agreement to the employee, the so-called *Dienstzettel* immediately after commencement of the employment. The *Dienstzettel* serves the purpose of documenting proof. The minimum content of the *Dienstzettel* is legally prescribed. Independent contractors are also entitled to receive a *Dienstzettel*. Example of the *Dienstzettel* can be found [here](#). More info [here](#).
- **Independent (freelance) contract (*Freier Dienstvertrag*)** - means that an independent contract is concluded between a customer and an independent contractor. The essential aspect of a freelance contract is that employees make their labor available temporarily, for a fixed or indefinite period of time, without entering into a state of personal dependence. More info and examples [here](#).
- **Work Contract (*Werkvertrag*)** - this includes both those employed on the basis of a contract for work and labour (*Werkvertragsnehmer*), who require a business licence. Contractors (or work contractors) undertake to produce a specific work for another person (the client). A contract for work does not specify when, where, or how you work. Unlike an Employment Contract (*Arbeitsvertrag*), you work independently. A Work Contract (*Werkvertrag*) is directed at the result of a service and ends with its completion, whereas a Freelance Contract (*Freier Dienstvertrag*) aims at the provision of a service over a specific period of time (continuing obligation). A Work Contract requires a result, while a Freelance Contract requires effort. Freelancers are more flexible regarding time and location, but must comply with the minimum threshold, whereas contractors work independently and are liable for the result. Example of the Work Contract can be found [here](#). More info [here](#).
- **Self-employment (*Selbständigkeit*)** - applies for businesspersons, business owners, freelancers, etc. More details you can find in the [Self-Employment](#) part of the Guide's Work section.
- **Minimal employment (*Geringfügigkeit*)** - a regular employment (employment relationship

for one month or for an indefinite period) earning no more than **€ 551.10** per calendar month. Geringfüg-employed persons are insured against accidents, but have no health or pension insurance. Other than that, they have similar rights as other employment form's workers: the right to vacation pay, the right to continued payment in the event of illness, the right to care leave, the right to severance pay, the entitlement to special payments (vacation pay and Christmas bonus) stipulated in most collective agreements, compliance with notice periods. More info about Geringfügigkeit can be found [here](#).

Taxes (*Steuer*) for employed

All individuals resident in Austria are subject to Austrian income tax on their worldwide income, including income from trade or business, profession, employment, investments, and property.

There are 2 types of income (*Gehalt*) in Austria:

- **Brutto** - the income before the taxes.
- **Netto** - the income after the taxes.

In many job descriptions, usually the Brutto income/salary is shown. In case of Employment Contract (*Arbeitsvertrag*), Apprenticeship Contract (*Lehrvertrag*) and *Dienstzettel*, the employer pays taxes for the employee.

In case of other forms of employment, such as Freelance contract (*Freier Dienstvertrag*), Work Contract (*Werkvertrag*) and Self-Employment (*Selbständigkeit*), the worker is responsible for paying their income taxes. Geringfüg-employed persons do not pay additional income taxes.

Full information about the taxation system and tax amounts can be found via [this link](#).

Social Security Insurance for employed

When working in Austria, i.e. either as self-employed or employed person, you are covered by social security insurance. This means that you have health, accident, unemployment and pension insurance coverage. If you are an employee, then your employer pays for your social security insurance. If an employee works in the format of the minimal employment (Geringfügigkeit) and receives no more than € 551.10 per month (in 2025), there is no compulsory health and pension insurance, but only accident insurance.

Your employer must register you with the social security institution on your first day of work. Normally you will receive a confirmation from the employer and/or the health insurance institution.

The amount of the social security contributions is linked on the one hand to your gross wage/gross salary (= income) and on the other to whether you are a waged or salaried worker, or an apprentice. A percentage (= contribution rate) is stipulated by law which is then deducted monthly from your income.

Social Security benefits include:

- **Health insurance:** free insurance protection for family members subject to certain preconditions. Costs of the following non-cash benefits are covered: medical treatments, hospital stays, preventive medical check-ups, preventive medical check-ups of pregnant women, delivery of a child, mother and child examinations after delivery, nursing services at home, dental treatments (partially), rehabilitation, etc. Responsible institution - Austrian Health Insurance Fund (*Österreichische Gesundheitskasse / ÖGK*).
- **Monetary benefits:** sickness benefits, weekly maternity allowance, childcare allowance.
- **Accident insurance:** protection against accidents at work and occupational illnesses and their consequences, e.g. invalidity and occupational incapacity, etc. Responsible institution - Accident Insurance Institution (*Allgemeine Unfallversicherungsanstalt / AUVA*).
- **Pension insurance:** benefits for people who can no longer work due to age (old-age pension), etc. Responsible institution - Pension Insurance institution (*Pensionsversicherungsanstalt / PVA*).
- **Unemployment insurance:** benefits granted during unemployment, etc. (e.g., unemployment benefit payments, social welfare). Responsible institution - Public Employment Service Austria (*Arbeitsmarktservice / AMS*).

Treatments provided by private medical doctors or private hospitals with no contract with the social security institutions are charged to you privately.

For more information about Health Insurance go to the [Health](#) page of the Guide.

Vacations, sick-leaves and holidays

- You get 5 weeks of paid vacation per working year. The working year begins on the day you join the company. However, some companies use the calendar year as their vacation year. 5 weeks are 30 working days (if you count the weeks including Saturdays) or 25 working days (assuming a 5-day week).
- Vacation time must always be agreed upon between you and your employer. However, once vacation time has been approved, it cannot be canceled – unless the company has compelling financial reasons, such as an operational emergency. In this case, the employer must cover any costs already incurred (e.g., cancellation fees).
- Those who work part-time or are in the format of minimal employment (*Geringfügig*) are also entitled to 5 weeks of paid vacation per working year.
- If you become ill, you are obligated to immediately notify your employer of your inability to work (= sick leave). In most cases, this involves calling or writing an email to the company, ideally at or before the start of work. You should then immediately consult a doctor and obtain a sick note (*Krankenstandsbestätigung*).
- Your sick leave is paid as your normal working day. However, if you don't report sick and/or submit the necessary sick notes, your employer is not obligated to pay you wages or compensation for the period of your sick leave.
- There are 13 public holidays in Austria - [full list](#). On these days companies usually do not work (unless specified otherwise in your work contract).

IMPORTANT!

If your worker's rights are violated in Austria, you should contact the Labour Inspectorate (*Arbeitsinspektion*), the Ombudsman's Office, your local Chamber of Labour (*Arbeiterkammer*), the Public Employment Service (*AMS*), or the Austrian Ombudsman Board (*Volksanwaltschaft*).

You can also pursue a civil lawsuit at the Labour and Social Court.

Self-Employed Work (*selbständige Arbeit* or *Selbständigkeit*)

Here we list the most essential information about self-employment in Austria. For more details in English, please refer to [this article](#) from the Austrian governmental portal.

Freelance or New Self-Employed (*Freiberufler* or *Neue Selbständige*)

This form of self-employment means that a single natural person operates the company in their own name and for their own account. A Freelancer can perform any type of commercial services not requiring a business licence (*Gewerbeschein*), such as artistic work, journalism, lecturing.

How to register?

You should register your self-employment with the Tax Office (*Finanzamt*) within four weeks of starting. The standard and mandatory method in Austria is online registration using the Business Registration Form (Verf15) via the [FinanzOnline portal](#) - if you have ID Austria (digital identification tool). Alternatively, you can make an appointment at the tax office and submit the form there - or download and fill it in digitally, print it and put in the postal box at the tax office.

With the Business Registration Form, you submit necessary personal information. You also indicate your estimated turnover and profit for the first and subsequent years. Based on this data, the tax office classifies your self-employment status, estimates your tax rates, and answers the following questions:

- Are you considered a tradesperson (*Gewerbetreibender*) or a freelancer?
- Is your freelance activity subject to Chamber (*Wirtschaftskammer*) Membership, and do you need to provide proof of qualifications to the relevant guild or professional association?
- Are you required to make advance income tax payments?
- Do you have to charge VAT and submit preliminary VAT returns?
- Does the small business regulation apply to you, meaning you're exempt from VAT?

Once your registration is complete and sorted, you'll receive your tax identification number by post.

Social Insurance (*Sozialversicherung*)

IMPORTANT!

Check the video recording of the workshop on Social Insurance made by Office Ukraine via [this link](#).

Freelancers must provide their own risk insurance, unlike employed individuals who are insured by an employer. The compulsory insurance includes pension, health, and accident insurance.

The compulsory insurance of freelancers begins on the day they commence business activity and ends on the last day of the calendar month in which business activity ceases. The insured person must notify the Social Insurance Institution for the Self-Employed (*Sozialversicherungsanstalt der Selbständigen / SVS*) within one month.

Attention! the Social Insurance Institution for the Self-Employed (SVS) has established a special Artists' Service Center (*KünstlerInnen-Servicezentrum*) for artists.

Freelancers are only included in compulsory insurance if their income from all activities subject to compulsory insurance under the Austrian General Social Insurance Act (GSVG) exceeds the insurance threshold of € 6,613.20 per year. This insurance threshold is also always the minimum for calculating contributions.

If you do not have any other insurance but earn less than the compulsory insurance threshold (€ 6,613.2 per year, as of January 2026), you can take out SVS Opting in insurance, which costs around € 50 per month and provides you with basic health insurance.

A monthly contribution of **€ 12,07** is payable for accident insurance. The contribution rates are **6.80%** for health insurance, **18.50%** for pension insurance, and **1.53%** for self-employed pension provision, based on the contribution base.

Subsidy from the Artists' Social Security Fund (*Künstler-Sozialversicherungsfonds*)

The Artists' Social Security Fund Act grants artists a subsidy towards their health, pension, and accident insurance contributions upon application. The subsidy amounts to a maximum of € 1,896 per year. The requirements for the subsidy are that:

- the artist is compulsorily insured as self-employed individual in the health, pension, and accident insurance schemes;
- their total income or total earnings from artistic activity (including secondary artistic activities) according to the income tax assessment must reach at least € 6,613.20 per year (this requirement may be waived or reduced based on averaging over several years);
- and their total income according to the income tax assessment must not exceed € 35,821.50 per year.

If the income limit is exceeded or the insurance threshold is not met, the subsidy must be repaid. However, this obligation only applies to the extent of the excess or shortfall. In exceptional cases, repayment may be waived in whole or in part. In cases of compelling hardship, the fund may grant non-repayable aid.

Applications for a subsidy towards pension insurance contributions can be submitted to the Artists' Social Security Fund (Goethegasse 1, Staircase 2, 4th Floor, 1010 Vienna, Tel. +43 1 586 71 85). Further information and application forms can be found on the Artists' Social Security Fund [website](#).

More on the Social Insurance for self-employed can be found [here](#).

Taxes (*Steuer*)

IMPORTANT!

Check the video recording of the workshop on taxes in Austria made by Office Ukraine (in English language with the translation into Ukrainian) via [this link](#).

Anyone who works freelance must pay **income tax**. In your first year of business, this tax amount will be estimated. You provided this estimate in the business registration questionnaire (questionnaire for tax registration) when you registered as a freelancer. In subsequent years, the amount is based on the amount of income tax paid in the previous year.

You can estimate your Income Tax using the calculation tool via [this link](#). A certain basic income (subsistence level) remains tax-free, for freelancers this amounts € 13,308 per year.

As a Freelancer, you must make prepayments on your anticipated income tax liability throughout the year. The anticipated tax prepayment amount is calculated based on your previous year's income. Income tax prepayments must be paid once a year or quarterly by the following dates: February 15th, May 15th, August 15th, November 15th. The payments are to be made via bank transfer upon the receipt you receive from the tax office.

Always issue an **invoice** (*Honorarnote*) invoices for your work as a self-employed professional. They are proof of your income, the services you have provided, and your professional activities. Examples of how to write invoices can be found [here](#).

At the end of the year, you must submit a **Tax Return file** (Income Declaration - *Einkommensteuererklärung*): for paper returns the deadline is April 30th of the following year, for electronic returns (via FinanzOnline) the deadline is June 30th of the following year. The income tax return consists of the main form E1 and the supplementary form E1a, which can be found on the FinanzOnline portal). Based on the information you provide, the tax office calculates your taxable income and determines the corresponding tax liability.

More info on filing an income tax return can be found [here](#). Also there is a [video instruction](#) on how to fill in a tax return and other tax forms, as well as the [general video](#) on taxes for self-employed.

In Austria, it is very common to work with **tax advisors** (*Steuerberater*), who can help you file your annual tax return or file it for you, advise you on other issues related to income, taxes, insurance, pensions, etc. Payment can be hourly, per service, or for annual support.

It is also advised to always keep your receipts from shops, pharmacies, doctors, services, as the immigration service may ask you to provide proof that you were actually in the country. For the self-employed, it is also recommended to keep a record of your income and expenses, preferably in a table, in chronological order.

Sole Proprietor (*Einzelunternehmen*)

The Sole Proprietor is a single natural person who operates the business in their own name and for their own account. They can employ staff, i.e., conclude employment contracts, and also use subcontractors to carry out the work they have undertaken, provided the contract does not stipulate that they personally perform the work. This work can be carried out not only by an employee but also by an independent subcontractor.

A sole proprietorship is generally established upon registration of the business or upon the final and binding issuance of the declaratory judgment. Business registration must be carried out at the district administrative authority of the business location (municipal office or district administration).

Unlike the Freelancer, the Sole Proprietor needs the appropriate business license to carry out a commercial activity. The business license is established upon initial business registration. If the sole proprietor cannot provide proof of competence or obtain individual qualifications, he can still operate the business if he appoints a managing director under trade law.

The managing director under trade law must be actively involved in the business and, in the case of regulated trades, must be employed as a fully insured employee for at least half of the standard weekly working hours.

Regulated Business Activity vs Unregulated Business Activity

There are two types of business activity in the Trade Act (Gewerbeordnung): activities that require an entrepreneur to provide evidence of qualifications (Befähigungsnachweis), and activities that do not.

Business activities that do not require evidence of qualifications are called Unregulated businesses (Freie Gewerbe). Among such business activities are, for example, the following: online shops and retail (without special requirements); IT services (e.g., web design, software development, IT support); advertising agencies and graphic design; event planning and organization; marketing and social media management; small transport services (up to certain weight limits); craft and technical activities (i.e. tailoring, repair).

For the Regulated Business Activities (Reglementierte Gewerbe) the certificate of competence prescribed for this trade must be provided during registration. Such business activities include: restaurants, cafes, hotels, travel agencies; crafts and technical activities requiring specific professional education (i.e. carpenter, electrician, hairdresser, baker); beauty & healthcare.

Full lists of both Regulated and Unregulated Business Activities can be found [here](#).

How to register?

Step 1: Business Registration Office (Gewerbeamt)

You can register in person at the business registration office located at the district administration or municipal authority, or via the online portal [GISA](#).

To register your business, you will need the following documents:

- Identity card or passport
- If applicable, documents regarding academic degrees
- If applicable, certificates of competence
- Persons who have resided in Austria for less than 5 years require a criminal record check
- The completed registration form [GewA1](#).

After registering as a small business owner, your business license will usually be issued to you on the spot.

If you want to establish a craft business, a trade license is required for business registration. You can obtain this by registering with the relevant guild (Innung).

Step 2: Tax Office (Finanzamt)

Fill out the business registration form Verf15 via FinanzOnline. Afterward, you will receive your tax number. This is mandatory information on your outgoing invoices. If you are subject to VAT, you will also need a VAT identification number.

Step 3: Austrian Federal Economic Chamber (Wirtschaftskammer Österreich / WKO)

When you register a business, you automatically become a member of the WKO. The WKO is responsible for registering you with your guild or trade association. WKO membership offers you valuable benefits. These include strong advocacy, access to consulting services, and networking opportunities. You can find more detailed information about the WKO membership [here](#).

Step 4: Social Insurance Institution for the Self-Employed (Sozialversicherung der Selbständigen / SVS)

After you've started your small business, it's important that you register with the SVS for your industry within one week. The SVS is your social insurance provider and offers statutory accident insurance as a small business owner. More information on the SVS can be found [here](#).

Step 5: Austrian Workers' Compensation Board (Allgemeinen Unfallsversicherungsanstalt / AUVA)

As soon as you hire one or more employees for your small business, you will need a company registration number. This number is crucial for your payroll accounting. You can easily apply for the company registration number online through the AUVA company registration number service.

Step 6: Open a business bank account

In Austria, a business account is mandatory to ensure a clear separation between your business and personal finances. This will greatly simplify your bookkeeping.

Social Insurance (*Sozialversicherung*)

Sole proprietors are members of the Chamber of Commerce by virtue of their trade license or other professional authorization and are therefore always compulsorily insured under the Social Insurance Institution for the Self-Employed (*Sozialversicherung der Gewerblichen Wirtschaft / GSVG*).

Contributions are payable as follows:

- **6.80%** for health insurance;
- **18.50%** for pension insurance;
- **1.53%** for self-employed pension provision, based on the contribution base.
- A fixed monthly contribution of **€ 12.07** (2025 value) is payable for accident insurance, regardless of income.

Sole proprietors can apply for exemption from pension and health insurance contributions if their annual turnover does not exceed € 55,000 and their annual profit is less than € 6,613.20 (2025 value). Furthermore, the "small business owner" (*Kleinunternehmen*) must not have been

compulsorily insured under the GSVG (General Social Insurance Act) for more than 12 calendar months in the 5 years prior to application.

Taxes (*Steuer*)

In general, the taxation rules for the Freelancers also apply to the Sole Proprietors.

The Sole Proprietor is subject to income tax and is also required to pay value-added tax (VAT), which is generally levied on all goods and services provided. In most cases, the VAT rate is 20% of the net price. If annual sales are below € 55,000 including VAT (small business regulation), no VAT is payable, and conversely, no input tax deduction can be claimed. If this threshold is exceeded by up to 10%, VAT liability arises in the following calendar year. If the threshold is exceeded by more than 10%, VAT liability applies immediately to all amounts above the threshold. However, even with an annual turnover below €55,000 gross, an application for standard taxation can be submitted.

Chapter II: Opportunities in Arts & Culture

Public Funding Opportunities

Artists of any nationality who legally reside in Austria are eligible to apply for and receive public funding of their professional activities: scholarships, atelier and project support, art residencies, artwork acquisition.

Federal funding programs (*Bundesweite Förderung*)

Funding programs organized and supported by Federal Ministries. Artists who reside in all federal states (*Bundesländer*) are eligible to apply.

Federal Ministry for Housing, Art, Culture, Media and Sport (*Bundesministerium für Wohnen, Kunst, Kultur, Medien und Sport / BMWKMS*) is responsible for the funding programs in the area of Arts & Culture.

[BMWKMS website](#).

Projects / activities in the following areas can be funded:

- Architecture
- Visual arts, Design, Fashion, Photography and Media Art
- Monument protection
- Digitalising
- Cinema
- Culture initiatives, Museums, Folk Culture, Circus and Cabaret
- Literature and Publishing, Libraries
- Music and Performing Arts
- Cultural mobility
- Special projects
- UNESCO World Heritage

Below we list funding programs in most popular areas.

For the programs in other areas please refer to the links on the previous page.

Note that to be eligible to apply and receive fundings in frames of these programs you need to be a legal resident of Austria (have a Blue Card, RWR+ Card or any other type of residency permit). For some programs, you need also to be a member of an officially registered non-profit organisation (*Verein*) - you can read more about them in the respective section of this Guide.

Please pay attention to program deadlines.

Funding programs in Visual Arts, Design, Fashion, Photography and Media Art:

- Yearly program (*Jahresprogramm*) - financial support for long-lasting projects, series of exhibitions, cultural or educational events. This program fits for organisations, artist-run or community-based spaces. Only organisation officially registered as a *Verein* is eligible to apply. Their proposed project should be strictly non-commercial. Costs within this program are covered partially. A detailed budget calculation as part of an application, as well as financial report at the end of the program should be submitted.
- Single projects (*Einzelvorhaben*) - financial support for single or short-term projects, for example an exhibition, a public performance, art residency or series of short events. For this program both individual artists and organisations can apply. The projects can be realised both in Austria and abroad. Costs within this program are also covered partially, and the budget calculation / financial report will need to be submitted.
- Stipend for the studios abroad (*Auslandsateliers Stipendien*) - support for participation in the art residencies at partner residency programs abroad. Individual artists and art collectives are eligible to apply. For the application, a specific project proposal should be submitted.
- FREE AWAY – Free Artist-in-Residence Stipend (*Freies Artist-in-Residence-Stipendium*) - support up to € 2,500 per month + travel costs up to € 500 for the participation in any art residency abroad. For this program, artist needs first to apply for an art residency and only after receiving confirmation from them should they apply for this stipend - the confirmation documents should be submitted as part of the program application. Individual artists and art collectives are eligible to apply (however, the amount of the funding will not change).
- Away Art Residencies - support for the participation in partner art residencies in Austria and abroad, partially funded also by Regional (*Land*) and City (*Stadt*) programs.

- State Stipend (Staatstipendium) - financial support of individual artistic work and large-scale projects up to € 1,500 per month (12 calendar months). Individual artists and art collectives are eligible to apply. For the application, a specific project proposal should be submitted.
- Start Stipend (Start-Stipendium) - financial support for the work of emerging artists (younger than 35 years), facilitating the implementation of an artistic project and entry into the Austrian and international art scene. Budget - up to € 1,500 per month (9 calendar months).
- Domestic ateliers (Inlandsateliers - Vergabe) - support with free atelier space in Vienna.
- Acquisition of artworks (Ankäufe) - the state purchases an artwork for the price proposed by the applicant. The purchase from one artist can happen only once in 3 years.

Funding programs in Music and Performing Arts:

- Support of annual activity (*Förderung der Jahrestätigkeit*) - Music, Performing Arts - financial support for the annual activities of Austrian orchestras, music ensembles and organizers of concerts, musical theater, as well as theatre companies and independent groups in the fields of theatre, dance and performance, that can demonstrate several years of continuous activity. Only organisation officially registered as a *Verein* is eligible to apply. Their proposed project should be strictly non-commercial and include events open for general public. Federal funding in frames of this program is partial, which means that additional funding from regional programs should be received.
- Support for Festivals (*Förderung von Festivals und Festspielen*) - Music, Performing Arts - financial support for festivals and single events. Only organisation officially registered as a *Verein* is eligible to apply. The festival and events should take place in Austria, be strictly non-commercial and include open public activities.
- Project support (*Projektförderung*) - Music, Performing Arts - funding for new productions in the areas of music, theatre, music theatre, dance and performance (for example plays, concerts, etc) with a predominantly Austrian component, which are performed at least three times, particularly in Austria (excluding showings and rehearsals). Both organisations and individual artists are eligible to apply.
- Touring and Travel support (*Reise- und Tourneeförderung*) - Music, Performing Arts - funding for tours by music collectives, theatres, individual musicians as well as dance or performance artists in Austria and abroad. Both organisations and individual artists are eligible to apply.

Types of fundings in Literature:

- Annual activities and Projects support (*Jahresförderungen und Projektförderungen*) - funding for annual activities, literary event and publication activities (e.g., magazines), readings, workshops, seasonal events, event series, festivals, and individual projects. Both organisations and individual artists are eligible to apply.
- Stipends (*Stipendien*) - various funding programs for writers (poetry, prose, essay) and literature illustrators, including support for emerging writers (*Start-Stipendium*), large-scale project support stipends (*Projektstipendium*), general work support (*Arbeitsstipendium*), abroad travel grants and art residencies participation. Only individual persons are eligible to apply.
- Awards (*Prämien*) - for published fiction works or published translation (of Austrian literature into a foreign language or a foreign literature into German). Only individual persons are eligible to apply.

IMPORTANT!

Check the video recording of the workshop on Funding opportunities for artists living in Austria made by Office Ukraine in collaboration with Austrian Ministry of Culture via [this link](#).

Additionally, the detailed info on public funding in Austria can be found in [this brochure](#).

Attention! As a response to the Russian full-scale invasion in Ukraine, Federal Ministry for Housing, Art, Culture, Media and Sport (*Bundesministerium für Wohnen, Kunst, Kultur, Medien und Sport / BMWKMS*) established several special programs aimed to support Ukrainian cultural professionals. More up-to-date information and open calls you can find via [this link](#).

Regional Funding programs (*Land-Förderungen*)

Funding programs organized and supported by Regional governments. Their Cultural Departments (*Kulturämter*) are responsible for funding opportunities in Arts & Culture. In each Region (*Bundesland*) there are separate funding programs. To be eligible to apply for such programs, an applicant should have their main place of residence (*Hauptwohnsitz*) in the correspondent Regions. Sometimes it also counts, if the applicant has the Region as their place of study, not residence.

STYRIA

Main source of opportunities in Arts & Culture for Styria region (Land Steiermark) with the detailed description of the programs and deadlines' list can be found via [this link](#).

- Project Funding (*Projektförderung*) - support for projects with the budget exceeding € 3500 in the following spheres: visual arts, news media arts, architecture, performative arts, film, literature, classic and new music. The project can be a single activity (implementation of the exhibition, organization of the festival, theatre play), or a program of activities (series of exhibitions, theatre performances, public events). The project has to be presented to the public. Both individual persons and organizations are eligible to apply. There are several deadlines throughout the year.
- Artwork Acquisition (*Kunstankäufe*) - within this program, Styria Region purchases the artwork from an artist. The artworks become part of the Styrian State Collection and are primarily presented in semi-public spaces within the State of Styria (offices, meeting rooms, etc.). Individual persons who were either born in Styria or have lived in Styria for minimum 5 years are eligible to apply. Emerging and established artists from all disciplines of visual art (painting, drawing, photography, objects, installations, etc.) are considered. There are several deadlines throughout the year.
- Yearly Support (*Jahresförderung*) - a program to support long-term projects, such as event organizers, art, cultural, media and production centers, independent groups and institutions. In the application, the entire yearly program of activities should be submitted. Most of the activities should be presented to the public. Funding is available primarily for ongoing operating costs (such as personnel, office, and operating expenses) and, where particularly needed, for infrastructure investments and internal training programs. Only officially registered non-profit organizations (*Vereine*) are eligible to apply. There are several deadlines throughout the year.

- CINE ART - Film Support (*Filmförderung*) - program for artistically and culturally relevant film and television projects, contributing to Austrian and European film culture. All genres are eligible for funding, from feature films and documentaries to animation and experimental films, but only projects with a connection to Styria are supported. Industrial films, advertising films, and music videos are excluded.
- Studio-Abroad Scholarships (*Atelier-Auslandstipendien*) - annual studio scholarships to promote international networks and experiences to up-and-coming artists and theorists. The studio stays are provided by the partner institutions abroad in the format of artistic residency usually lasting up to 2 months. The scholarships are awarded within the framework of a call for applications and include a professional place to work and accommodation, expert supervision, and a monthly allowance between € 1,200 to a maximum of € 1,500 (depending on the destination). A maximum travel allowance of € 1,000 is also covered. Only individual persons are eligible to apply.
- Kunstraum Steiermark - within this program the scholarships are granted for the set-up and long-term establishment of workspaces and studios in Styria to facilitate the development of artistic projects and to make it easier for young artists to gain a foothold in the professional arts and culture scene. Fifteen artists or artist collectives are granted a monthly allowance of € 800 for a period of two years. Representatives of all disciplines of art and culture who would like to work in Styria and establish a studio here are eligible to apply.

UPPER AUSTRIA

Main source of opportunities in Arts & Culture for Upper Austria region (Land Oberösterreich) with the detailed description of the programs and deadlines' list can be found via [this link](#).

- Project Funding (*Projektförderung*) - support for the single projects. Both individual persons and organizations are eligible to apply.
- Yearly Program (*Jahresprogramme*) - funding of the ongoing activities or series of events during the year. Only officially registered organizations (*Vereine*) are eligible to apply.
- Work Scholarships (*Arbeitstipendien*) - support of continuous artistic activity of individual artists.
- Funding of Publications (*Publikationen*) - within this program funding is provided for the production and publication of the exhibition documentation catalogues by artists or by art associations.

- Artwork Acquisition (*Werkankäufe*) - within this program, the Region of Upper Austria purchases the artwork from an artist. Available in the sphere of visual arts.
- Guest Ateliers (*Gastateliers*) - within this program artists are given the opportunity to work on an artistic project for a limited time (usually four weeks) in guest studios both in Austria and abroad. Available studios include the Salzamt Studio House in Linz, Villa Rabl in Bad Hall, the Egon Schiele Art Centre in Český Krumlov (Czech Republic), the Spinnerei Leipzig (Germany), the Centre en art actuel Sporobole in Sherbrooke (Quebec Province, Canada), and Weinberg Castle. Artists working in the visual arts, architecture, literature, and music composition are eligible to apply. The program covers the rent and operating costs for the residency. In addition, a grant to cover living and travel expenses is provided as a working stipend.
- Scholarships and Prizes (*Stipendien und Preise*) - there are different scholarships and prizes awarded by the Region of Upper Austria to both individual professionals and collectives in the spheres of visual arts, photography, music, performative arts, literature, etc. They vary in grant amounts and in terms & conditions of the application. Please review all the descriptions carefully. List of all available Scholarships and Prizes can be found [here](#).

LOWER AUSTRIA

Main source of opportunities in Arts & Culture for Lower Austria region (Land Niederösterreich) with the detailed description of the programs and deadlines' list can be found via [this link](#).

- Support of Art and Exhibitions projects (*Förderung von Kunst- und Ausstellungsprojekten*) - support of art projects, exhibitions and events focusing on contemporary visual arts (including painting, sculpture, photography, media art, installations, performances and new formats, etc.). Both individual persons and organizations are eligible to apply.
- Support of Art Institutions (*Förderung von Kunstinstitutionen*) - support for the art associations, information galleries and other institutions that have set themselves the goal of promoting and documenting contemporary visual art in and for Lower Austria.
- Artwork Acquisition (*Werkankäufe*) - within this program, the Region of Lower Austria purchases the artwork from an artist. Available in the sphere of visual arts.
- Artist in Residence Niederösterreich - within this program artists are given an opportunity to undertake study and work stays at renowned institutions and inspiring locations worldwide.

- *Ausstellungsbrücke* - within this program, artists are given the opportunity to arrange an exhibition in the Lower Austria State Parliament building.
- Prizes (*Preise*) - there are different prizes awarded by the Region of Lower Austria. They vary in grant amounts and in terms & conditions of the application. Please review all the descriptions carefully. List of all available Prizes can be found here.

CARINTHIA

Main source of opportunities in Arts & Culture for Carinthia region (Land Kärnten) with the detailed description of the programs and deadlines' list can be found via this link.

- Scholarships (*Stipendien*) - funding of the ongoing artistic work in the spheres of Architecture, Fine Arts, Film, Artistic Photography and Media Art, Literature, Music, Interdisciplinary Art Forms, Continuing Education for Individuals in the Field of Independent Cultural Work, Academic Theses in the Fields of Folklore, Cultural Anthropology, and Ethnomusicology. Application for each scholarship is announced via open call which can be found via this link.
- Artist in Residence - funding of the participation in the art residencies in Austria and abroad. Application for each residency is announced via open call which can be found here.
- Prizes (*Preise*) - there are different prizes awarded by the Region of Karinthia. They vary in grant amounts and in terms & conditions of the application. Please review all the descriptions carefully. List of all available Prizes can be found here.

SALZBURG

Main source of opportunities in Arts & Culture for Salzburg region (Land Salzburg) with the detailed description of the programs and deadlines' list can be found via this link.

- Culture Initiatives (*Kulturinitiativen*) - funding of the ongoing activities or series of events during the year. Only officially registered organizations (Vereine) are eligible to apply.
- Special Projects (*Sonderprojekte*) - support for the single projects. Both individual persons and organizations are eligible to apply.

- Prizes and Awards (*Preise und Auszeichnungen*) - available in the spheres of visual arts, media arts, performance and theatre, music, literature, etc. Application is announced once a year via open calls.
- Artwork Acquisition (*Kunstwerkankäufe*) - within this program, the Region of Salzburg purchases the artwork from an artist. Application is announced once a year via open call.

TIROL

Main source of opportunities in Arts & Culture for Tirol region (Land Tirol) with the detailed description of the programs and deadlines' list can be found via [this link](#).

- Project Funding (*Projektförderung*) - support for the single projects. Both individual persons and organizations are eligible to apply.
- Yearly Program (*Jahresprogramme*) - funding of the ongoing activities or series of events during the year. Only officially registered organizations (Vereine) are eligible to apply.
- Work Scholarship (*Arbeitsstipendium*) - funding of the ongoing artistic work in different spheres of arts and culture. Application is announced via open call which can be found via [this link](#).
- Prizes (*Preise*) - there are different prizes awarded by the Region of Tyrol. They vary in grant amounts and in terms & conditions of the application. Please review all the descriptions carefully.
- Atelier in Büchsenhausen Castle (*Atelierhaus in Schloss Büchsenhausen*) - subsidy of renting an atelier in art center Künstlerhaus Büchsenhausen in Innsbruck.

City Funding programs (*Stadt-Förderungen*)

Funding programs organized and supported by City governments. Their Cultural Departments (*Kulturämter*) are responsible for funding opportunities in Arts & Culture. In each major city and often in smaller cities there are separate funding programs. To be eligible to apply for such programs, an applicant should have their main place of residence (*Hauptwohnsitz*) in the correspondent Cities. Sometimes it also counts, if the applicant has the City as their place of study, not residence.

VIENNA

Main source of opportunities in Arts & Culture for Vienna with the detailed description of the programs and deadlines' list can be found via [this link](#).

- *Einzelförderung* - program aimed to support single projects - and *Gesamtförderung* - program aimed to support long-term activities. Both individual persons and organizations are eligible to apply. Available in the spheres of visual and media arts, performative arts, film, music, fashion and literature.
- Artwork Acquisition (*Kunstankauf*) - within this program, the City of Vienna purchases the artwork from an artist. Available in the sphere of visual arts.
- Work Scholarship (*Arbeitsstipendium*) - 1-year-long stipend of € 1,500 per month awarded for continuous artistic activity. The artist should have lived for at least 3 years in Vienna to be eligible for this Scholarship. Available in the spheres of visual and media arts, performative arts, film, music, fashion and literature.
- *START-Atelier* - within this program, studio spaces in the shared atelier building are provided free of charge to the graduates from Academy of Fine Arts Vienna and University of Applied Arts Vienna. The studios can be provided for a maximum of two years.
- Prizes (*Preise*) - there are different prizes awarded by the City of Vienna to both individual professionals and teams in the spheres of visual arts, photography, music, performative arts, literature, etc. They vary in grant amounts and in terms & conditions of the application. Please review all the descriptions carefully. List of all available Prizes can be found [here](#).

You can also check the video recording of the workshop on the opportunities for artists in Vienna held by Office Ukraine (in Ukrainian language) via [this link](#).

GRAZ

Main source of opportunities in Arts & Culture for Graz with the detailed description of the programs and deadlines' list can be found via [this link](#).

- Culture Support (*Kulturförderung*) - program aimed to support both single projects and long-term activities. The support can be provided in the form of a direct monetary grant or service provision (e.g. materials, machinery, event spaces). Both individual persons and organizations are eligible to apply. There are two deadlines for this program throughout the year.
- Work Scholarships in Visual Arts (*Arbeitsstipendien für bildende Kunst*) - grants of € 5,000 each for continuous artistic activity in the field of visual arts (painting, graphic arts, sculpture, object art, media and net art). The aim is to recognize Graz-based visual artists who are to receive support for their ongoing artistic work and who are specifically active in Graz. The grant recipients agree to present the results of their artistic activity from the relevant period to the public within one year of the grant award.
- Abroad Scholarships in Visual Arts and Film (*Auslandsstipendien für Bildende Kunst und Film*) - international scholarships of €5,000 each given to visual artists (painting, graphic arts, sculpture, object art, media and net art, film). The aim is to enable Graz-based visualartists and filmmakers to undertake a residency abroad, allowing them to realize an artistic project in a country of particular interest to them. The scholarship recipients agree to present the results of their artistic work from the scholarship period to the public within one year of the award or to submit a comprehensive activity report outlining their results.

List of all available Scholarships can be found [here](#).

- Prizes (*Preise*) - there are different prizes awarded by the City of Graz to the individual professionals in the spheres of visual arts, photography, music, performative arts, literature, etc. They vary in grant amounts and in terms & conditions of the application. Please review all the descriptions carefully. Note that for most of the Prizes the candidates are nominated by the jury members, which means there are no open calls for them. List of all available Prizes can be found [here](#).

LINZ

Main source of opportunities in Arts & Culture for Vienna with the detailed description of the programs and deadlines' list can be found via [this link](#).

- Project and Event Support (*Projekt- / Veranstaltungsförderung*) - program to support single non-commercial projects and events. Both individual persons and organizations are eligible to apply.
- Ongoing Activity Support (*Basisförderung*) - support of long-term activity or series of projects during the year. Only officially registered organizations are eligible to apply.
- Art Support Prize (*Kunstförderpreis*) - program supporting the development of artistic and cultural work by emerging artists, cultural professionals, and designers in applied art. The prize amount of € 3,600 is available in different categories. Individuals and collectives are eligible to apply. The applicants should be registered in Linz for at least 2 years.
- Work Scholarship (*Arbeitsstipendium*) - project-based working grants of € 5,000 in the spheres of Fine Arts and Photography, Literature, Music, Performing Arts, Interdisciplinary Art Forms, Media Art, and Film. Only individual persons are eligible to apply.
- LINZ media arts - special funding program for the projects in the sphere of media arts, with total amount of € 30,000. Individual persons and collectives are eligible to apply.
- LINZ sounds - special funding program for the projects in the sphere of music, with total amount of € 30,000. Individual persons and collectives are eligible to apply.
- LinzEXPORT - special funding program for the participation in the art residency abroad, with total amount of € 50,000. Individual persons and collectives are eligible to apply.
- LINZimPULS - special funding program for the independent artists, cultural professionals, and the independent arts and culture scene, with the total amount of € 90,000. Individual persons, collectives, as well as organizations, are eligible to apply.
- Atelierhaus Salzamt - within this program individual professionals in the spheres of visual arts are provided with the studio spaces free of charge.
- Soroptimist Art Prize (*Soroptimist-Künstlerinnenpreis*) - prize for artists up to 35 years old who has been living in Austria for more than 2 years. Includes Main prize of € 5,000 and two additional prizes of € 3,000 and € 2,000.

SALZBURG

Main source of opportunities in Arts & Culture for Salzburg with the detailed description of the programs and deadlines' list can be found via [this link](#).

- Support programs (for projects and yearly programs) - funding opportunities in visual arts, media art, music, dance, etc. The full list of support programs per artistic sphere can be found via [this link](#).
- Opportunity to make an exhibition in the city galleries - Galerie Mozartplatz 5, Galerie Zwerglgarten, the Museum Pavilion, Rathausgalerie, and Stadtgalerie Lehen. The city of Salzburg covers certain costs, including transport, insurance, exhibition setup, printing, shipping, and opening reception design. Budgetary funds for materials, accompanying programs, catalogs, brochures, etc., are not included.
- AIR Auslandsaufenthalte and AIR Stipendien - participation in the artist residencies at Salzburg's partner institutions or any other institutions abroad.

INNSBRUCK

Main source of opportunities in Arts & Culture for Innsbruck with the detailed description of the programs and deadlines' list can be found via [this link](#).

- Project and Event Support (*Projekt- / Veranstaltungsförderung*) - program to support single non-commercial projects and events. Both individual persons and organizations are eligible to apply.
- Scholarships (*Stipendien*) - funding of the ongoing artistic work in different spheres. Full list of available scholarships and open call announcements can be found via [this link](#).
- Prizes (*Preise*) - there are different prizes awarded by the City of Innsbruck to the individual professionals in the spheres of visual arts, photography, music, performative arts, literature, etc. They vary in grant amounts and in terms & conditions of the application. Please review all the descriptions carefully. List of all available Prizes can be found [here](#).
- Artwork Acquisition (*Kunstankauf*) - within this program, the City of Innsbruck purchases the artwork from an artist. Available in the sphere of visual arts.

Other Opportunities & Sources

ERSTE Foundation

ERSTE Foundation supports multiple initiatives and projects in spheres of Financial Education, Social Finance, Democracy, Culture, Digital & Social Innovation. One of ERSTE's main projects is **tranzit.org** is a unique network of civic associations working independently in the field of contemporary art in Austria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia and Romania and across the borders of a wider Europe.

Opportunities offered by ERSTE Foundation:

- Fellowship for Curators and Artists at Salzburg Summer Academy - tranzit.org program - funding for the participation in one of the courses of the Salzburg Summer Academy, includes course fee, accommodation, travel and living expenses.
- Artist-in-Residence programme at MuseumsQuartier Vienna - tranzit.org program - participants of this program are given the opportunity to live and work for the period of two months in one of the studios at MuseumsQuartier right in the heart of Vienna. Each residence grants a monthly stipend of € 1,300.
- Professional Integration HUB - a program designed to support the professional integration of Ukrainian women into Austria's professional environment. The organizers also expect that the experience gained through the program will contribute to the future reconstruction of Ukraine. The initiative is funded by ERSTE Foundation and implemented by the European Centre for Freedom and Independence (Vienna, Austria). Program offers: paid internship in leading institutions and organizations based in Austria; a professional placement aligned with each participant's field and qualifications; an intensive German language course; study visits, webinars, workshops, and networking events; ongoing support and mentorship throughout the internship; a chance to join the professional community.

VALIE EXPORT Center

The mission of the VALIE EXPORT Center Linz is to make the premature legacy of VALIE EXPORT accessible, to conduct research on it, and to enable others to do so. As an internationally oriented research center, it fosters artistic and scholarly engagement with media

and performance art. The Center is a collaboration between the City of Linz, the LENTOS Kunstmuseum Linz and the University of Arts Linz.

Opportunities offered by VALIE EXPORT Center:

- VALIE EXPORT Center Scholarships - work grants addressing experienced artists, arts-based researchers, and curators. Prerequisites for an application are a completed degree (MA, diploma, or comparable final degree) and proof of several years of outstanding artistic or curatorial practice in international work contexts. Funding is available to support work on projects that are limited in time and thematic scope and which serve the individual's artistic development or to develop the profile of an independent arts-based research or curatorial position. The scholarship includes a grant of € 1,500 per month and a workspace at the VALIE EXPORT Center Linz.

Schiele Award

The Schiele Award is a € 10,000 art prize awarded biennially since 2022, providing artists with a platform to present their work to a wider audience. The Award is jointly organized by Rorary Club Tulln and Rotary Club Wien-Albertina. Application is open to young artists from Austria and abroad who reside in Austria and are between 18 and 28 years old.

Ö1 Talentstipendium für bildende Künste

The Scholarship in the sphere of visual arts from the Austrian major broadcasting company Ö1, given yearly to the students from Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, University of Applied Arts Vienna, University of Art and Design Linz, University of Music and Performing Arts Graz, and Mozarteum University Salzburg. The amount of the scholarship is € 10,000. Open call is announced on the Ö1 website and on the websites of the respective universities.

STRABAG Art Award

An Award from the Austrian largest construction company, given yearly to the artists who are based in Austria, Germany and Slovenia and work in the mediums of painting and drawing. The main award amount is € 16,000, also there are 4 acknowledgment prizes € 8,000 each.

Useful Art & Culture Opportunities links (Austria):

Job portals in Art & Culture:

www.kupf.at/kulturjobs

www.kulturkonzepte.at/service/jobboerse

www.igkultur.at/service/stellenanzeigen-jobs-kultur

www.kiosk.akbild.ac.at/de/rund-ums-studieren/jobben-wien

www.dieangewandte.at/jobs

www.museumsbund.at/jobs-und-ausschreibungen

www.jobs.derstandard.at/p/s/design-kunst-kultur

www.tki.at/blackboard

Grants & Cultural mobility:

www.away.co.at/de/calls

www.mobility-arts-culture.at/en/index

www.transparenzportal.gv.at/tdb/tp/situation/unternehmer/branchen-und-wirtschaftszweige/kunst-kultur-kreativwirtschaft

www.igkultur.at/service/kulturfoerderungen

www.igkultur.at/tag/open-call

www.newsbase.at

www.grants.at

www.kueltuergemma.at

www.kulturvermittlung.org

Useful Art & Culture Opportunities links (worldwide):

Websites:

www.transartists.org - worldwide art residencies database;

www.resartis.org - worldwide art residencies database;

t.me/mystkycia - Ukrainian Telegram-channel with worldwide open calls (in Ukrainian language);

www.houseofeurope.org.ua/opportunities - art & culture opportunities in EU/EEA for Ukrainians;

www.culture.ec.europa.eu/funding/calls - cultural mobility grants;

www.on-the-move.org - online platform that posts open calls for art residencies and other cultural mobility opportunities;

www.contemporarylynx.co.uk/open-calls - platform with open calls;

www.fullyfunded-residencies.org - platform where only fully funded opportunities are published.

Social media:

www.facebook.com/groups/opencalls - Facebook public page collecting open calls;

www.instagram.com/opencallforartists - Instagram page collecting open calls;

www.instagram.com/artslooker - Ukrainian Instagram magazine collecting art opportunities;

www.instagram.com/artenda - Instagram page collecting open calls;

www.instagram.com/opencallpalette - Instagram page collecting open calls;

www.instagram.com/call_for_curators - Instagram page collecting open calls for curators.

Cultural events & Art spaces

Whole Austria:

www.galleryguide.at

www.diegalerien.at

www.igkultur.at/organisation/mitglieder

Vienna:

www.kreativeraumewien.at/news/uebersicht-ausstellungsraeume-wien

www.independentspaceindex.at

Graz & Styria:

www.galerientage-graz.at/place

www.museum-joanneum.at/kioer

www.kultur.graz.at/kultura2z/e

Linz & Upper Austria:

www.linz.at/kultur/2128.php

www.land-oberoesterreich.gv.at/227833.htm

www.kupf.at/mitglieder

Salzburg:

www.dachverband-kultur.at/mitglieder-archiv

Burgenland:

www.kultur-burgenland.at/ueberblick

www.bildendekunstburgenland.at/kopie-von-offen-2024

Carinthia: www.kaernten.igkultur.at/projekt/index-spaces

Lower Austria:

www.kulturvernetzung.at/de/orte-und-menschen/#veranstaltungsorte

Tirol & Vorarlberg:

www.koer-tirol.at/en

www.tki.at/mitglied

www.kunsthaut-bregenz.at

www.stage-bregenz.art/en/around-the-fair/vorarlberg

Ateliers, studios, workshops

www.wien.gv.at/kultur/atelier-mieten - renting atelier spaces from the city of Vienna

www.igkultur.at/service/kultur-raeume-mieten-vermieten-nutzen - spaces for Artist Associations

www.kreativeraeumewien.at - finding an empty space to use in Vienna

Self-organized atelier spaces in Vienna:

www.semmelweisklinik.at

www.west-space.at

www.sohostudios.at

www.instagram.com/palaisroess/

www.instagram.com/prolet.air

Self-organised atelier spaces in Graz:

www.aporon21.org/projekte/roesselmuehle

www.schaumbad.mur.at

www.salzburger-kunstverein.at/ateliers - ateliers in Salzburg

www.linz.at/kultur/salzamt - ateliers in Linz

Also there is an opportunity to rent a space directly from private persons:

www.willhaben.at/iad/immobilien

www.immobilien.derstandard.at

Additional: Estimating prices, salaries and fees

Resources that will give you a perspective on fee rates in Austrian Arts & Culture sphere and help you estimate the cost of your work:

www.igkultur.at/service/verein/gehaltsschema-und-honorarrichtlinien-fuer-kulturarbeit

www.igbildendekunst.at/infomaterial/honorare

www.freietheater.at/en/honoraruntergrenze

www.honorarrechner-bbkrp.de/honorarrechner

www.tki.at/infothek/fair-pay-kultur-praxis

[www.kulturrat.at/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Fair Pay Reader KulturratOesterreich 2021.pdf](http://www.kulturrat.at/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Fair_Pay_Reader_KulturratOesterreich_2021.pdf)

www.blitzrechner.de/kunstwerk

Additional: Establishing an Artist Association (*Verein*)

In Austria, you can establish an Artist Association (*Verein*) which may be useful if you work together as a collective and/or want to establish an art gallery or an off-space. Through the Association it is easier to apply for the funding (especially long-term), as many programs are designed specifically for associations.

Attention! *Verein* is a non-profit organisation. It can, however, receive an income, for example through membership payments, donations, grants, etc. - but the entire amount of this income should only be aimed to sustain an association's functioning, like rent, utilities, organisational work, project funding. No profit should be distributed to the members or to the board - otherwise the association may lose the tax benefits. If you intend to perform a business activity, such as selling art, you will need to establish a company and therefore pay appropriate taxes.

To establish an Association, at least two members are required. To legally register and association, the documents such as a notification of association formation (*Anzeige der Vereinserrichtung*), a statute (*Statut*), an information about each member, a description of planned activities need to be brought to your local authority unit, such as State Police Directorate (*Landespolizeidirektion*) or the District administration (*Magistrat*). Upon the completion of the procedure, the fees will need to be paid.

A detailed information about registration process, documents and fees can be found [here](#).

Also [here](#) you can read the brochure on establishing and running an association in the field of Arts & Culture.

Health

Insurance (*Versicherung*)

The social insurance system comprises health, accident, and pension insurance and is based on the compulsory insurance model. Virtually the entire population is covered by health insurance thanks to this legally mandated compulsory insurance. In addition to statutory health insurance, private supplementary insurance can be purchased.

Since May 31, 2025 displaced Ukrainians are no longer automatically provided with health insurance. This means that to access medical services, hospital care, remedies, etc., they need to obtain health insurance.

The type of insurance depends on the individual's life situation (form of employment, studies, receipt of basic social security benefits, etc.). In certain cases, such as employment, compulsory insurance is automatically (by law, without application) available to the individual concerned. If this is not the case, an application for self-insurance can be submitted.

To submit application for the insurance (in case if you are not compulsory insured due to employment), you need to arrange an appointment in your local Health Insurance Fund office (Österreichische Gesundheitskasse / ÖGK) - this can be done online via [this link](#).

Once you register for the Insurance, you will receive an “e-card” by post. An e-card contains your insurance number and proves that you have a valid insurance. With this card you can go to any doctor.

Here is the list of the available Insurance options:

Compulsory insurance due to employment

In Austria, there is a system of compulsory insurance for all employed persons. Compulsory insurance begins as soon as the legal requirements are met (e.g., an employee with earnings above the marginal earnings threshold).

If an employee earns below the marginal earnings threshold of € 551.10 per month (in 2025), there is no compulsory health and pension insurance, but only accident insurance. Those who work remotely for a foreign company (that doesn't have a registered branch or office in Austria) need to obtain a self-insurance (for example, after registering as a self-employed person/freelancer).

The obligation to register and pay contributions generally lies with the employer (and not with the employee).

General Self-insurance (*Selbstversicherung*)

Requirements for the self-insurance are:

- No existing health insurance (e.g., due to employment, compulsory insurance in another EU/EEA state, or Switzerland);
- Residence in Austria, an EU/EEA state, or Switzerland.

Self-insurance begins immediately following a terminated health insurance policy. The self-insurance provides entitlement to benefits not only for the insured person but also for co-insured persons, such as children.

The maximum monthly contribution for voluntary health insurance is **€ 526.79** (as of 2025).

A reduction is possible depending on your financial circumstances. An application must be submitted to request a contribution reduction. Proof of financial circumstances is required (e.g., income tax assessment, savings account statement, declaration of support).

Required documents:

- Application form including reduction form;
- Copy of registration certificate (*Meldezettel*);
- Copy of passport;
- Copy of displaced person's ID card (Blue Card);
- Proof of any prior insurance coverage in the EU, EEA, or Switzerland.

To submit application, you need to arrange an appointment in your local Health Insurance Fund office (*Österreichische Gesundheitskasse / ÖGK*) - this can be done online via [this link](#).

Self-insurance for minimally employed (*Geringfügige*)

Requirements for this type of self-insurance are:

- You hold one or more jobs and your total monthly earnings do not exceed € 551.10 (as of 2025);
- You are not subject to compulsory health and/or pension insurance;
- You are resident in Austria, an EU/EEA country, or Switzerland.

Voluntary insurance begins when you start minimal employment if this is your first application. The Austrian Health Insurance Fund requires the application within six weeks of the start of employment. Otherwise, voluntary insurance begins the day after the application is submitted.

If you are paid with service vouchers, voluntary insurance begins when you start your first job, provided the application is received by the ÖGK no later than the end of the following calendar month.

This voluntary health and pension insurance costs **€ 77.81** per month (as of 2025).

Required documents:

- A fully completed application for voluntary insurance for marginal employment;
- Copy of registration certificate (Meldezettel);
- Copy of passport;
- Copy of displaced person's ID card (Blue Card).

To submit application, you need to arrange an appointment in your local Health Insurance Fund office (Österreichische Gesundheitskasse / ÖGK) - this can be done online via [this link](#).

Self-insurance for students (*Selbstversicherung für Studierende*)

- You study at an Austrian university, university of applied sciences, or conservatory;
- You do not have any other existing health insurance;
- You are a permanent resident in Austria;
- Your annual income doesn't exceed the limit of **€ 17,212** (as of 2025);
- You haven't changed your course of study more than twice, or after the third semester;
- Your average duration of studies did not exceed more than 4 semesters without a valid reason.

This insurance starts immediately following the termination of health insurance coverage or if the application is received within six weeks. Otherwise, it begins the day after the application is submitted.

The monthly contribution for subsidized self-insurance for students is € 73.48 (as of 2025).

Required documents:

- Completed application form for self-insurance for students;
- Confirmation of admission or continuation of studies for the current semester;
- Copy of the certificate of enrollment showing all fields of study and their duration;
- Copy of the registration certificate (*Meldezettel*);
- University notification/information regarding the duration of any preparatory course;
- Proof of previous health insurance coverage with foreign insurance providers within the last twelve months.

Health Insurance in frames of Basic Care (*Grundversorgung*)

For displaced people on Basic Care the health insurance remains provided even after May 31, 2025. Those displaced persons who have not yet claimed basic care can, if they are in need, submit an application for enrolment to the basic social assistance office responsible for their respective federal state. This office will then examine the eligibility requirements and the scope of benefits on a case-by-case basis.

For more information on Basic Care, go to the respective page within our Guide.

What benefits can be accessed within the insurance?

The benefits you can access provided that you have a valid health insurance include:

- medical care (outpatient services);

Attention! The Austrian population receives most of its outpatient care from doctors in private practice, usually in individual practices. There are doctors with a health insurance contract (*Vertragsarzt/ärztin*)- those belonging to the *Krankenkassen* this means that the costs of treatment are covered by the health insurance fund. Then there are elective doctors (*Wahlärzte/-ärztinnen*) - here you have to pay the bill yourself and get part of the money back from the relevant health insurance fund.

- hospital care (inpatient services);
- medical rehabilitation;
- medications;
- home health care and midwifery services;
- psychotherapy and clinical psychological diagnostics;
- treatments by medical-technical services;
- parent-child health passport examinations;
- preventive check-ups;
- transportation costs;
- subsidies for medical aids and assistive devices;
- sick pay and maternity pay during childbirth;
- accident treatment.

Full list of services can be found [here](#).

Receiving medical help

What to do if you feel ill

If you feel ill or have symptoms of an illness, you need to go to a **general practitioner** (**Praktischer Arzt/Ärztin** or **Hausarzt/ärztin**). Paediatricians (*Kinderarzt/ärztin*) are doctors who specialise in treating children. Generally, you don't need an appointment to visit this doctor. Anyway, they can send you to another specialist from the relevant narrower field - there you will usually need an appointment for a visit.

The list of all practicing doctors in Austria can be found [here](#).

To find a general practitioner, in the field "Fachrichtung" (specialization) enter "Allgemeinmedizin" (general medicine). You also can find there a specialist from any other field of practice.

At the same time, there are separate online sources for finding a doctor in every city, where sometimes you can also find a doctor by the language they speak.

Selection of the Hausarzt/ärztin is important because upon registration (submitting your insurance details), you will be able to change your doctor only once in a quarter, or for compelling reasons (f.e.moving to another place).

As mentioned above, you can choose a doctor who has a contract with the Krankenkasse (**Vertragsarzt/ärztin**) - then the entire service will be covered by a Health Insurance Fund, provided that you have a valid health insurance.

Or you can choose an **elective doctor (Wahlarzt/ärztin)** - in this case you will need to pay for the service yourself, but the money for some of them can be reimbursed by the Health Insurance Fund after you submit an invoice to them.

The invoice must include:

- Check (*Rechnung*) from the doctor containing detailed information about the diagnosis and the individual medical services provided, your personal data or that of any co-insured persons (first and last name, date of birth, social security number), the date of treatment, the date the check was issued, the check amount, the signature and stamp of the doctor;
- Proof of payment(s) - payment note, deposit slip, e-banking receipt, bank statement;
- Your bank details and your address for the transfer of the amount.

The invoice must be submitted via online portal of the Health Insurance Fund you are insured with. The respective links can be found [here](#).

Normally you will be able to get up to **80%** of your expenses reimbursed. For the certain services this amount may be less.

To avoid misunderstandings or unpleasant surprises, it is advised that you clarify the costs with the doctor or the amount of reimbursement with your health insurance provider before beginning treatment.

You can also go to a **private medical practises (Privatpraxen)** who are not entitled to reimbursement of costs - even for services covered by health insurance. This means, their services will need to be paid by yourself and cannot be reimbursed in frames of your insurance. As a guideline for determining whether a fee is reasonable, the recommended fee schedules of the medical associations in the federal states and the Austrian Medical Association (www.aerztekammer.at) can be used. In any case, agree on the fee amount with your treating doctor before treatment begins.

According to the Medical Practitioners Act, doctors are generally required to primarily use conventional medical, i.e., scientifically recognized, treatment methods. In addition, they can also offer alternative medicine methods such as acupuncture or homeopathy. The doctor is obligated to inform the patient if the proposed procedure is not scientifically recognized.

The costs for these alternative treatments are not covered by the health insurance.

Alternatively, you can go to the **Austrian Health Insurance Fund's (Österreichische Gesundheitskasse / ÖGK) medical centres** which have different specialists available. Their services are covered by the insurance. You will need to make an appointment for the visit, which can be done online [here](#).

ÖGK also has **dental health centres**, their list can be found [here](#).

Another possibility would be **Primary Care Units (Primärversorgungseinheit / PVE)**, which are often also called **Health Centres**. There, several professional groups work together: general practitioners, pediatricians, and nurses, medical assistants, and other healthcare and social care professionals, such as social workers and physiotherapists. Working together in a coordinated manner, they ensure local healthcare tailored to the needs of patients.

A primary care unit (PCU) offers a wide range of healthcare services. In addition to treating acute problems such as sore throats and chronic illnesses like diabetes, the PVE team places great emphasis on promoting the health, preventing disease, and supporting the psychosocial well-being of its patients. This includes, for example, nutritional counseling, smoking cessation programs, and referrals to other services. The specific services offered may vary depending on the region.

PVEs working hours are usually longer and they are available on year-round weekday basis. Also, most treatments and services in PVEs are covered by health insurance. You can visit PVE even if you already have a Hausarzt/ärztin, but they are for some reason unavailable (for example, on vacation). You can switch from your Hausarzt/ärztin to PVE or vice versa once per quarter (once in 3 months).

What to do in case of an emergency

Phone numbers to call if you have a health emergency:

1450 - Health Hotline (*Gesundheitshotline*).

Free, 24/7 telephone consultation service. Call if:

- You have acute symptoms: sudden fever, pain, abdominal cramps, or general malaise on

- the weekend or in the middle of the night.
- You are unsure about your further actions.

144 - Ambulance (*Rettung*).

Free, 24/7 central emergency number for medical emergencies. Call if:

- There is a medical emergency: unconsciousness, heart attack, stroke, severe shortness of breath, severe pain, accidents with serious injuries, poisoning;
- There is a serious accident: traffic accident, workplace accident, sports accident involving injuries.

Upon submitting all relevant information (address, details of the emergency, number of people affected, name of the contact person), you will receive further instructions on the first aid, and the appropriate rescue units will be dispatched.

141 - Emergency medical service (*Ärztendienst*).

Free medical consultation service available outside of normal working hours (night time from 19:00 to 07:00, weekends and public holidays). Exact times and conditions may vary regionally - check via [this link](#).

Attention! This service is not meant for the acute medical conditions and serious accidents - in such cases, contact 144.

More information on other important services in Austria can be found in the respective [chapter](#) of this Guide.

In case of medical emergency, you can also go to the **hospital (*Krankenhaus* or *Spital*)**. List of all public hospitals in Austria can be found via [this link](#).

When you come to a hospital, you will normally need to wait in a queue for a next available doctor. However, if you are brought to the hospital by an ambulance, your reception will be prioritized. More information on the hospitals can be found on the next page.

Hospitals

Austria has both **public** and **private** hospitals, and your doctor can refer you to either one.

- At public hospitals, patients are typically treated at general care units (*Allgemeine Gebührenklasse*), which is fully covered by public health insurance. However, public hospitals also have a special class (*Sonderklasse*) that provides enhanced comfort and amenities, such as private rooms. This requires patients to pay out-of-pocket or private coverage.
- Private hospitals offer higher levels of comfort and flexibility during in-patient treatment. Again, these services require payment from either the patient or private health insurance.

Hospitals are classified according to their **care functions**:

- *Acute care (Akutversorgung)* that deals both with the acute, unplanned and planned treatment of an illness, and is provided in general hospitals, and sometimes also in specialized hospitals and sanatoriums.
- *Non-acute care (Nicht-Akutversorgung)* is primarily provided in nursing homes for the chronically ill and rehabilitation centers.

Hospitals in Austria provide **Inpatient (Stationäre Versorgung)** and **Outpatient (Ambulante Versorgung)** treatment.

- On a standard **inpatient ward**, patients who do not require special care or monitoring of organ functions are treated. Intensive care units are available if monitoring or maintenance of organ functions is necessary. Within departments, larger hospitals may have further specializations.
- Hospital **outpatient clinics** are medical facilities where patients are examined and treated without being admitted to the hospital. Their tasks and services include, among other things: diagnostics and therapy; pre-admission assessments, e.g., before surgery; post-treatment check-ups; specialized care tasks.

Hospitals have various outpatient clinics. These include **general specialist clinics** (*allgemeine Fachambulanzen*), specialized outpatient clinics (*Spezialambulanzen*), and the so-called Central Outpatient Emergency Department (*Zentrale ambulante Erstversorgung*). General specialist clinics can operate as walk-in clinics or as appointment-based clinics.

Specialist clinics usually have fixed opening hours. They are specifically responsible for the diagnosis and treatment of certain medical conditions. They operate exclusively as appointment-based clinics.

The **Central Outpatient Emergency Department (ZAE)** provides initial care for acute and emergency patients. Patients without an appointment are assessed and treated on an outpatient basis after the urgency of their treatment has been determined. The primary task of the ZNA is the rapid inpatient care of patients with acute and potentially life-threatening conditions.

Medications

In Austria, medicines are sold exclusively in pharmacies (*Apotheken*), with some over-the-counter items in drugstores.

There are emergency service pharmacies (*Notdienst Apotheken*) available - in them you can buy medications outside normal working hours, on weekends and public holidays.

The list of all pharmacies in Austria, by location and operation hours, can be found via [this link](#).

To purchase most of the medications, you'll need a doctor's prescription (*Rezept*), using either a public (Kassenrezept) or private (Privatrezept) form. The prescription is given to you by the Hausarzt/ärztin or a specialist doctor.

With the public medical prescription, purchase of the medication is normally covered by the insurance, however the prescription fee for each prescribed package of medicine must be paid (€ 7.55 as of December 2025).

Private doctors, private group practices and hospital doctors generally prescribe medicines using a private prescription. The full private sale price of the medicine must be paid to redeem a private prescription in a pharmacy. However, you may request reimbursement of costs from your health insurance provider by issuing an invoice (please see the instructions above).

If you have a **foreign medical prescription**, you will need to authorize it in Austria. This can be done by your Hausarzt/ärztin, provided that your prescription contains the following:

- Identity of the patient: surname, first name, date of birth;
- Validity of the prescription: date of issue;
- Identity of the prescribing physician: surname and first name; professional qualifications; direct contact information; address of the practice; signature (handwritten or electronic);

- Identification of the prescribed product, if required: "common name" (international non-proprietary name (INN) recommended by the World Health Organization, or name of the active ingredient) or brand name if the prescribed product is a biological medicinal product or the prescribing physician deems this medically necessary due to the fact that brand names differ in EU/EEA Member States; dosage form (tablet, solution, etc.); quantity; strength; dosage schedule.

You might have your prescription translated to German to English beforehand. For the detailed instructions, it is advised that you consult your Hausarzt/ärztin.

Sick leave

If you are employed and become ill, you will need to get a sick leave. Prior to going to a doctor, notify your employer. Then ask your doctor to issue a sick leave certificate (*Krankschreibung*). Only with an official sick leave certificate you are entitled to payed sick leave. The number of paid days off within your sick leave may vary and is usually stated in your job contract.

Psychological help

As any other medical help, psychological help can be received at private doctors or medical centres operated by ÖGK. Via [this link](#) you can find the list of all specialists in psychotherapy whose services are covered by insurance.

Apart from that, non-governmental non-profit organizations and fund can provide consultation and therapeutic help, for free or at reduced cost. Among them are: **Pro Mente Austria**, **Psychosozialen Zentren**, **Verein Lichtblick**, **ZEBRA**.

For psychiatric help, and in case of crises and emergencies, you can go to specialized centres and psychiatric ambulance wards in hospitals - full list [here](#).

Also there are multiple telephone and online hotlines that offer consultation and emergency help in case of mental crisis, suicidal thoughts, domestic and gender-based violence:

- **Telefonseelsorge: 142** - Telephone, email and chat counselling for people in difficult life situations or times of crisis, also available online.
- **Frauenhelpline: 0800 222 555** - free and anonymous helpline for women against male violence, 24/7;
- **Männernotruf: 0800 246 247** - hotline for men affected by violence, after restraining orders, in cases of suicidal thoughts and relationship problems, 24/7
- **Die Möwe: 01 532 15 15** - hotline for children, young people, and families experiencing psychosocial crises, violence, and abuse, Mo-Thu 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Fri 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM;
- **SMS Police emergency line for deaf people : 0800 133 133**
- **AMIKE-Telefon: 01 343 0101** - intercultural psychosocial emergency support for people with a migration or refugee background, Mo-Fri 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM and 2:00 PM - 5:30 PM. Available in German/English (01 343 0101 1), Ukrainian (01 343 0101 7), and other languages.
- **HelpChat** - anonymous, free, and strictly confidential online counseling for women* and girls* affected by violence, daily from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM and every Friday from 9:00 AM to 11:00 PM.
- **Ö3 Rotes Kreuz Kummernummer: 116 123** - helpline for all people in personal distress, daily from 4 pm to midnight.
- **vera* trust centre** - the confidential counselling service, vera* provides support to individuals working within Austria's arts, culture, and sports sectors who have experienced violence, harassment, or abuse of power, and outlines possible courses of action.

There are also local hotlines in different regions and cities, their full list can be found via [this link](#).

Language

Apart from the daily life, knowledge of German language (*Deutschkenntnisse*) is necessary for work and study. At the same time, official proof of German language knowledge is required when applying for such types of permanent residency permission as Rot-Weiß-Rot Karte Plus and Artists Visa.

For different purposes, different levels of German language knowledge are required. Proofs may be provided by means of:

- a generally recognised language diploma from the following institutions: Austrian German Diploma (ÖSD); Goethe-Institut e.V.; Telc GmbH; Austrian Integration Fund (ÖIF);
- a generally recognised language diploma from an institution designated by order of the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs for the region covered by an Austrian professional representation authority abroad (BMEIA), and published on the official bulletin board of the relevant professional representation authority;
- meeting the requirements for Module 1 or Module 2 of the Integration Agreement (knowledge of German at the A2 or B1 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages);

The language diploma must not be more than one year old at the time of submission.

Where to learn German language

Apart from the private schools, courses and teachers, there are several learning opportunities which are available for free or at a reduced cost. Main of them is one offered by the **Austrian Integration Fund (*Österreichischer Integrationsfond / ÖIF*)**.

Austrian Integration Fund (*Österreichischer Integrationsfond / ÖIF*)

Specifically for Ukrainian displaced persons, ÖIF offers German language courses at levels A1 to C1 throughout Austria. Online learning resources are also available. These courses are offered at more than 80 locations across Austria, with childcare available if needed. Courses at

level A2 and above conclude with a legally recognized ÖIF certificate.

To apply for the language course funded by ÖIF, you will need to fill in the form and set an appointment online via [this link](#).

The addresses of the ÖIF offices accross Austria can be found [here](#).

To your appointment you need to bring your Blue Card, Meldezettel and proof of social insurance. There, you will receive the necessary information about available courses and get registered for your chosen course, offline or online.

ÖIF courses are free of charge, but your attendance need to be over 80% so that you are allowed to the final exam. If you miss more than 20% of your classes without a valid reason (for example, sickness, which needs to be proved by the sick note from your doctor), you might have to reimburse the costs of the course.

ÖIF also covers the costs of the transport you use to reach the courses location - usually you receive tickets for public transport for the period of the course duration. Those working or registered at AMS get their transportation tickets covered by AMS.

Other opportunities

There are many other opportunities offered free of charge or at a reduced cost by [AMS](#), [Arbeiterkammer](#), [Caritas](#), Volkshochschulen (higher people's schools) and many non-governmental non-profit organizations. You can find them online on your local government websites (for example, [Vienna](#), [Graz](#)).

Higher Education

In Austria, students have the following higher education opportunities:

- University (*Universität*);
- University of applied sciences (*Fachhochschule*);
- University colleges of teacher education.

List of all country's higher educational institutions can be found [here](#).

Tuition fees at public universities and university colleges of teacher education

Most of the universities in Austria are state-funded. Austrian students as well as students from EU/EEA countries do not pay tuition fees for the normal duration of the study program + 2 semester of the grace period. When the normal duration and grace period are exceeded, they need to pay **€ 363.36** per each further semester.

International students pay tuition fee of **€ 726.72** per semester.

Also there is an obligatory contribution to the Students Union amounting **€ 25.20** per semester which has to be paid every semester (not only those exceeding normal program duration).

Attention! As for 2026, Ukrainian students have the same rights and obligations (i.e. regarding tuition fees) as Austrian and EU/EEA. This means, they do not pay tuition fees for the normal program duration, and only pay the Students Union fee.

Tuition fees at universities of applied sciences and private universities

For universities of applied sciences the provider may charge all their students tuition fees, at their discretion, up to a maximum of **€ 363.36** per semester. Students from third countries may be charged fees to a maximum of the level required to cover costs. At private universities, there is no restriction on the tuition fees amounts. Information about the actual tuition fees can only be obtained directly from the private university itself.

Recognition of foreign qualifications in Austria (Diploma nostrification)

Nostrification of a diploma in Austria is required if you plan to work in regulated professions (doctor, lawyer, teacher, etc.) or enter an Austrian university; for other professions, a Ukrainian diploma is recognized under the Lisbon Convention, but often a recognition procedure (*Anerkennung*) is still required through the relevant authorities to confirm qualifications and language skills, which is similar to nostrification.

The procedure involves submitting documents (diploma, supplement, curriculum) to the university or relevant ministry, their translation into German, an apostille, and confirmation of equivalence.

Attention! Many universities do not require nostrification of the education certificates. To make sure your education certificate can be accepted, contact your desired university and send them your documents for the prior check.

The National Academic Recognition Information Centre [ENIC-NARIC AUSTRIA](#) at the Federal Ministry for Digital, Business, and Enterprise (BMDW) is the first contact point for all questions regarding the recognition of international university diplomas in Austria. You can [submit your application online](#) through the Recognition Information Application System (AAIS). Typically, an assessment of a foreign higher education qualification costs as much as € 200.

Additionally, you can apply to for nostrification at a university, Fachhochschule or University college of teacher education; as long as there is a comparable degree within Austria. This usually takes around three months to complete. The university will then let you know its decision and if you need to take any supplementary examinations.

If you don't need validation for your degree, but would still like some documentation to support your qualifications, you can [apply online](#) and pay for an evaluation report. Typically, these contain information on the training institution, basic classification (the level and scope of training, etc.), and correlation with Austrian academic degrees. The cost is usually between € 150 and € 200 depending on how many qualifications are on the report.

More detailed info on qualifications recognition can be found via [this link](#).

Entrance procedure

For most of the higher education institutions in Austria you need to apply online on the respective pages on their websites. Application process may open once or twice a year, depending on the university and on a particular program.

Usually application and selection process consists of at least two rounds, first of which is submitting an online form, in which apart from your personal and education details you will need to provide a motivation letter. The second round and/or third rounds, depending on a program, might be a practical or oral exam (offline or online), and/or personal interview (also possible offline and online).

Language in the higher education

Some universities may require you to provide proof of German language knowledge on the stage of application, other may only ask for it by the beginning of the 3d study semester. The knowledge levels required can also vary, but usually the minimal level is B1.

Normally the educational process in Austrian universities is happening in German language, though there are many English-speaking programs available. However, in many universities because of the large number of foreign students (also students who come from abroad in frames of different exchange programs) in reality the study process becomes bilingual.

Student financial aid (*Studienbeihilfe*)

Student financial aid is only available if the parents or the student themselves are unable to cover the costs associated with their studies from their own resources. There is a legal entitlement to state student financial aid if certain conditions are met.

Eligible applicants:

- Austrian citizens;
- EU/EEA citizens (under certain conditions);
- Third-country nationals (under certain conditions);
- Stateless persons (under the same conditions as third-country nationals);
- Convention refugees.

Requirements:

- Social need - determining factors include the income and marital status of the student, their parents, and their spouse or registered partner;
- Good academic progress - must be demonstrated after two semesters;
- Starting studies before the age of 33, with the following exceptions: self-supporting students: up to the age of 38, students with children up to the age of 38, students with disabilities up

to the age of 38, students starting a Master's program up to the age of 38 (the Bachelor's program must have started before the age of 33).

- No completed degree or equivalent qualification, with the following exceptions: master's studies commenced no later than 30 months after completion of the Bachelor's degree (provided the statutory minimum study period for the Bachelor's degree was not exceeded by more than three semesters), doctoral studies commenced within 24 months of the previous degree (provided the statutory minimum study period in the previous studies or study phases was not exceeded by more than two semesters);
- A maximum of two changes of study program after a maximum of two semesters in the same field of study;
- Compliance with the study periods stipulated in the Student Support Act (StudFG) - this generally means: the statutory study period plus one tolerance semester per phase or per degree program (for programs without study phases).

Applications for student financial aid can only be submitted within a specific timeframe: for the winter semester from September 20 to December 15, for the summer semester from February 20 to May 15.

Required Documents:

- Application form;
- Applicant's enrollment confirmation (if studying at a university of applied sciences, teacher training college, conservatory, private college, or private university);
- Enrollment confirmation of siblings studying at a university of applied sciences, teacher training college, conservatory, private college, or private university);
- Proof of academic achievement/transcript of records for applicant (depending on academic achievement);
- Bachelor's degree certificate for applicant (at the start of a Master's program);
- Master's degree, diploma examination certificate, or university of applied sciences graduation certificate for applicant (at the start of a doctoral program);
- Proof of income for at least four years for applicant (if a deductible applies);
- Pension statement for parents, spouse, or registered partner (if applicable);
- Birth certificate for applicant, siblings, or own child(ren) (for first-time applications).

Submission of the application is possible online via [this link](#).

Many universities offer different other scholarships and financial support to their students. For more information, conditions and application deadlines, regularly check your university's websites, email newsletters and information desks.

Scholarships & Funding programs for students:

General search:

www.stipendium.at

www.grants.at

From the state:

www.oesterreich.gv.at/de/themen/bildung_und_ausbildung/hochschule/universitaet/2/Seite.160807

www.arbeiterkammer.at/beratung/bildung/bildungsfoerderungen/Beihilfen_fuer_Studierende.html

www.transparenzportal.gv.at/tdb/tp/situation/buerger/bildung/stipendien-beihilfen-fuer-studierende

www.stipendien.oeaw.ac.at/stipendien

From the universities:

Vienna:

www.akbild.ac.at/de/studium/stipendien-preise

www.dieangewandte.at/finanzielles

www.mdw.ac.at/1488

Graz:

www.kug.ac.at/en/studying/during-your-studies/costs-grants-allowances/scholarships-for-students

Linz:

www.kunstuni-linz.at/studium/studium-zulassung/stipendien-preise

Children & Pets

Children

Pre-school

Before the age of 3, a child can attend a **crèche (Kinderkrippe)** - a day-care establishment which may be either publicly or privately maintained and is not a part of the school system.

For children aged 3 to 6 a **kindergarten** is the traditional form of pre-primary education. From ages 0-5 kindergartens and crèches are optional and children attend at their parents' initiative. From the age of 5, kindergarten is obligatory and free of charge for a minimum of 20 hours over a minimum of 4 days per week. To register a child in a public kindergarten, you will need to contact your local municipality (*Gemeinde*) or district (*Bezirk*) and apply either online or in person, usually several months prior to the desired start date.

Primary school

Compulsory schooling begins for all children on September 1 after their sixth birthday and lasts for nine years. For most children (90%) between the ages of 6 and 15 in Austria (regardless of their nationality), this means regular attendance at a fully publicly funded school. It can also mean attendance at a fee-paying private school or homeschooling.

General compulsory education (school years 1-9) may be completed in private tuition programmes (*Häuslicher Unterricht*). The Board of Education (*Bildungsdirektion*) must be notified of private tuition arrangements before the beginning of the school year. The teaching person does not require a certificate of proficiency. The equivalence of teaching will be tested in subsequent examinations held at public schools.

Primary schools have to provide a common basic education for all students in the first four grades. A pre-school year (*Vorschulstufe*) can be included in the lower levels (grades 1 and 2) of primary schooling; the pre-school year is part of the school system and is designed to foster the development of children of compulsory schooling age who are not yet mature enough for year 1. Children with special educational needs are either taught in mainstream schools or attend special needs schools (*Sonderschule*).

To register a child for school, parents typically apply at their local primary school (*Volksschule*) in late autumn of the year before starting, usually in November, submitting documents like passports and previous reports, often meeting with school management to assess German skills and readiness - though you can choose other schools with specializations. The process ensures your child is ready for school, and you'll need your residence registration (*Meldezettel*) to prove your address.

Secondary and upper-secondary school

After completing primary school, students transfer to either a **general secondary school (*Allgemein bildende höhere Schule / AHS or Gymnasium*)** or a **middle school (*Mittelschule*)**.

General secondary school (*Allgemein bildende höhere Schule / AHS*) offers a comprehensive and in-depth general education for students. Generally referred to as a *Gymnasium*, the AHS consists of a four-year lower school (5th to 8th school year) and a four-year upper school (9th to 12th/13th school year). In the first two years of AHS (5th and 6th school year), all public grammar schools offer almost identical core curricula. In year 7, an AHS focus is divided into one of the following areas:

- Gymnasium - focuses on languages, humanities and liberal arts.
- Realgymnasium - focuses on mathematics, natural sciences, and technology.
- Realgymnasium for economics - focuses on economics and commerce.
- Musical school - focuses on the advancement of the fine arts, including music, art, crafts, dance, drama, literature and rhetoric.
- Sports school - a school with a special educational focus on sports.

With the successful completion of the 9th school year, students have fulfilled their compulsory schooling. Most AHS students continue on to the upper secondary level on their way to the ***Matura*** - the final secondary school-leaving examination at the year 12. Passing the exam is a prerequisite for studying at a university (*Universität*) or the higher school of applied sciences (*Fachhochschule*).

Secondary school (*Mittelschule*) - a public school that covers the 5th to 8th school years. While an AHS can reject applicants due to low academic performance, the *Mittelschule* accepts all students who have completed the 4th year of elementary school with at least an "adequate" grade. Graduates of a middle school can transfer to vocational middle or higher schools (*Berufsbildende mittlere Schule/ BMS* or *Berufsbildende Höhere Schule / BHS*) or to an AHS

upper secondary school (9th to 12th or 13th school year).

School of intermediate vocational education and training (*Berufsbildende mittlere Schule / BMS*) - starts after grade 8 and cover one to four years, depending on the type (grades 9, 10, 11 and 12). They provide the students with the basic specialist knowledge and skills which qualify them to directly exercise an occupation in the fields of engineering, trade, arts and crafts, commerce or domestic science, or in any other business-related or social area.

College of higher vocational education and training (*Berufsbildende höhere Schule / BHS*) - starts after grade 8 and cover 5 years (grades 9 - 13). They impart a higher-level general and vocational education and training which qualifies students to exercise a higher-level occupation in the fields of engineering, trade, arts and crafts, commerce, domestic science and others, and at the same time lead to university-entrance qualifications.

School financial aid (*Schulbeihilfe*)

Students in grade 10 and above can apply for school financial aid if they are considered to be in need. The basic annual amount for school financial aid for the 2025/26 school year is € 1,845. The basic amount is increased if the student meets the special circumstances specified in the Student Financial Aid Act. Reasonable maintenance payments from parents or spouse, as well as the student's income (if any), reduce the basic amount.

Applications for school financial aid can be submitted online with the corresponding school confirmation.

Eligibility for school allowance:

- Austrian citizens;
- Nationals of an EU member state;
- Nationals of an EEA contracting party;
- Third-country nationals with long-term residence permits;
- Third-country nationals and stateless persons who themselves or whose at least one parent was subject to income tax in Austria for at least five years and also had their center of life in Austria;
- Refugees within the meaning of the Geneva Refugee Convention

The requirements for receiving school allowance are:

- Attendance at an Austrian secondary school (from grade 10 onwards) or a school structured in semesters (e.g., evening college, day college, etc.) as a regular student;
- Social need: The income, marital status, and family size of the student, their parents, and their spouse are decisive for assessing social need.

Pets

There are many different vet clinics in Austria, full list of which can be found via [this link](#).

All dogs in Austria need to be registered in the Pet Database for Dogs (*Heimtierdatenbank für Hunde*) and micro-chipped. A micro-chip is inserted by a veterinarian doctor at the cost of an owner. For cats which are not intended for breeding registration and micro-chipping is not obligatory, but strongly advised.

In some regions, dog owners also need to pay a dog tax. For more information and amounts contact your local magistrate.

Cats that have regular access to the outdoors must be spayed or neutered by a veterinarian.

Dogs in the public spaces must be walked on a leash, except for the specifically designated places (dog playgrounds, some park areas). In public transport it is necessary that additionally to the leash the dog is also wearing a muzzle.

Owners are required to pick up the dog poop when they walk in the public areas. The special plastic bags are available for free in many popular walking places (f.e. parks), or can be purchased in the supermarkets, convenience stores or veterinary shops.

Transport

Public Transport

Long-distance (*Fernverkehr*) and suburban (*S-bahn*) transport

Main operator of the public transport in Austria is **Austrian Federal Railways - ÖBB**. They operate railways but also certain intercity bus lines across the country. Also they collaborate with the foreign operators within the neighbouring EU countries for the international transportation.

The tickets for the ÖBB trains and buses can be purchased at the train and bus stations in special kiosks, as well as online via [website](#) or mobile app. The tickets to the neighbouring countries can be also purchased through ÖBB.

If you purchase a normal ticket for the long-distance or suburban train or bus inside the country, usually you may use for any train (in chosen direction) within 24 hours. Sometimes you may use only specific train type (RJ - RailJet, IC - InterCity, REX - Regional Express). This information is usually written on a ticket.

If you book early enough, you can catch so-called “**Sparschiene**” tickets - the tickets at around half-price of normal tickets. However, you can use those tickets only for the selected train type and departure time, it cannot be changed or refunded.

You don't necessarily need to print your ticket before your trip, it is enough to have it in digital form on your smartphone or laptop - the ticket needs to have a QR code that controller scans when on board. However, for some routes it is required that you print a ticket beforehand.

For most of the trains inside Austria, you don't receive an assigned seat together with your ticket. This means that when on a train you can occupy any available seat - pay attention at an indication above or near the seat, which will tell if this seat has been reserved. If you occupy a reserved seat, you will have to give it up upon request. You can purchase a seat reservation for € 3 together with your ticket - sometimes this can be a good thing to do if you need to travel to a popular destination during the busy time of the day.

ÖBB has several programs which allow you to save money on the train and bus tickets:

- **Vorteilskarte** - gives you 50% discount for any normal ÖBB ticket, which means that you will buy tickets for the price of the “Sparschiene” but without the limitations of “Sparschiene”. There are different Vorteilskarte options for families, youth (below 26) and seniors. It works also for some of the private railways. More detailed information can be found [here](#).
- **Klimaticket** - allows you to travel for free within the year with all ÖBB trains and buses, as well as with local public transport and some of the private transport, such as mountain funiculars. There is an option to purchase a Klimaticket within a specific region (can be bought via the websites of the respective region’s transport operator) or all around Austria. Klimaticket is valid for 1 year and renews automatically - to cancel it, you need to send a special request online. There are options for families, youth and seniors as well. However, Klimaticket cannot be given to someone else (except for the family ticket), as it has the holder’s photo which can be checked by the controller. More information on the Klimaticket can be found [here](#).
- **Erlebnisticket** - transport ticket combined with the access to some touristic sights or experiences (museum visits, festival entrance, etc). More information [here](#).
- **Freizeit-Ticket** - regional ticket, can be purchased via local transport operator. It is valid for 1 day and allows free unlimited rides with ÖBB trains and buses, suburban transport and local public transport.

There are also several private railways in Austria, main of which is **WESTbahn**, which runs fast trains between Vienna, Linz, Salzburg and Munich (Germany). Others like Graz-Köflacher Bahn, Mariazellerbahn, Pinzgauer Lokalbahn, and Wiener Lokalbahnen (Badner Bahn) focus more on regional/local routes. These private lines often integrate with ÖBB’s Klimaticket and Vorteilscard.

Apart from that, other international, intercity and suburban transport operators work in Austria, such as FlixBus, CAT (City Airport Train - Vienna Schwechat airport), Vienna Airport Bus, etc.

Local public transport

Different regions and cities in Austria have their different operators of local transport, which normally includes suburban and city buses, trams (*Straßenbahn*) and subway (*U-bahn*).

Each of these operators has a website and mobile app where you can plan your route, check timetables and purchase tickets:: **Vienna, Graz, Linz, Salzburg, Innsbruck, Klagenfurt**.

Tickets also can be purchased in the kiosks available at the public transport stops (not every of

them, usually only bigger ones) and kiosks installed inside the transport. Purchase via cash or card is possible.

The cost of the tickets vary by region and city. The most typical ticket type is the **Single-ride ticket (*Einzelfahrt*)** - normally it allows you to travel with any transport means and unlimited number of transfers within a designated transport zone during a specific time period. There are also other ticket options, such as 24-hours ticket, short-ride ticket, weekly, montly or yearly ticket, etc. Ticket price reductions are available for schoolchildren and seniors (you might be asked for a proof of your status by a controller).

IMPORTANT!

Make sure you **validate** your ticket before boarding! Paper tickets purchased in kiosks can be validated using validation machines at the entrance to the station (subway) or inside the transport. Some tickets (for example those you purchase from the kiosk inside the transport) are validated automatically - it means that date and time of validation is put on your ticket. Tickets purchased via mobile app can be validated in the app right upon purchase or later.

There are not always controllers in the public transport in Austria, but they can do random ticket checks. If you fail to present a validated ticket, you receive a penalty up to € 150.

Private Transport

Using private auto in Austria

The current EU Regulation provides that forcibly displaced persons from Ukraine can continue to use their Ukrainian driving license in all EU countries until the expiration of their residency permission. Therefore, there is no need to exchange your Ukrainian driving license for an Austrian one.

A Ukrainian driving license does not necessarily have to meet the requirements of an international driving license, and a translation of the license is not required. It is recommended that you carry along an identity document (e.g. a Ukrainian passport) and an ID card for forcibly displaced persons (Blue Card).

Cars with Ukrainian registration must have a valid international insurance card (Green card) or border insurance which can be purchased via such organizations as ÖAMTC and ARBÖ.

Austrian law requires Ukrainians who have been in the country for more than a year to register their cars. However, there is a way to avoid registration. In order not to register a car, you need to cross the Austrian border before the end of the 12-month period of stay in the country. When returning to Austria, the countdown will start again, so you will have another year during which you can not register a vehicle.

Austria allows voluntary registration of vehicles if a person permanently resides in the country, but there is no simplified procedure for Ukrainians. If you want to register your car in Austria (to obtain Austrian license plates), you must contact the registration office in the district where you have your main place of residence. A valid insurance certificate (motor vehicle insurance) must be presented for approval. The registration fee (including license plates) is around 200 euros, as well as additional fees (standard consumption tax, engine insurance tax). More information can be found here. Also, keep in mind that after receiving Austrian license plates, you are required to pay taxes: NoVA (standard consumption tax) and insurance tax related to the engine.

Also there are **paid roads (*Autobahnen*)** in Austria, to use which a **Vignette** must be purchased. It can be purchased in the form of sticker and glued on the frontal window (will be only available until 2027), or in digital form which will be linked to your number plate. All the information and purchase of the Vignettes is available via this link.

Parking rules

For parking at the private and public lots you need to pay on hourly basis, usually payments can be made via kiosks available at the lot. Private parking lots normally offer a longer term rent of the parking place.

In the cities there are normally several parking zones. Depending on a zone, the price and duration of the parking time varies - usually the closer to the city center the more expensive parking gets, and the lesser gets the possible parking time. Zones have color distinction, and usually places where it is possible to park in the city are marked with the road signs of the corresponding color. In some zones free parking is possible in the evening and on weekends.

To pay for your parking, you need to find a parking machine (*Parkscheinautomat*) nearby. Attention - in some of them it is only possible to pay by cash. In the Parkscheinautomat you select a desire parking time and pay the requested amount, after which you receive a parking ticket. This ticket you need to place in your car under the front window, so that it can be easily seen from outside. If you fail to do so, you may receive a fine.

Important Services

Emergency Numbers

112 - Single European emergency number (*Euro-Notruf*)

A free, universal number to reach police, ambulance, or fire services from anywhere in the European Union, working even without a SIM card or credit, and connecting you to local operators who often provide multilingual assistance. Use only in case of a life-threatening emergency.

122 - Fire service (*Feuerwehrzentralen*)

128 - Gas emergency (*Notrufnummer bei Gasgebrechen*)

133 - Police (*Polizei*)

140 - Mountain rescue (*Bergrettung*)

141 - Emergency doctor (*Ärztenotdienst*)

This service connects you with a general practitioner who can provide assistance, prescriptions, or medical information when regular doctor's offices are closed. It is NOT for life-threatening emergencies and serious accidents.

142 - Crisis hotline (*Telefonseelsorge*)

This service provides confidential support around the clock for people in various crisis situations, including those experiencing loneliness, mental health issues, relationship problems, social/financial difficulties, or suicidal thoughts.

144 - Ambulance (*Rettungsdienst*)

Used for for life-threatening medical emergencies or serious accidents to get immediate help.

147 - Emergency services for children and young people (*Notrufdienst für Kinder und Jugendliche*)

01 406 43 43 - Poison centre (*Vergiftungszentrale*)

Point of contact for suspected poisonings to provide immediate toxicological advice to laypersons and medical professionals. In case of life-threatening symptoms, the emergency services (144) should be called first.

Service lines

1455 - Pharmacy services

050 141 - Socio-medical Service (Sozial Medizinischer Dienst / SMD)

1450 - Austrian health hotline

Helplines for social matters

116 000 - Hotline for missing children

116 006 - Helpline for crime victims

116 117 - Non-emergency medical assistance

116 123 - Emotional support helpline

Ambulance and patient transport services

Rotes Kreuz (ÖRK) - provides ambulance and medical services. It also has a

disaster relief service, which is on standby 24/7 for operations in Austria and abroad.

Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund Österreichs (ASBÖ) - a voluntary association that provides social, ambulance and medical services. It specialises in maritime rescue.

Die Johanniter - provide ambulance and patient transport services, home healthcare services, social services and disaster relief.

Grünes Kreuz - provides ambulance, patient transport and medical services throughout Austria.

Car breakdown services

123 - ARBÖ breakdown service

120 - ÖAMTC breakdown assistance