

Vienna, 29.01.2023

Report Experience

Winter Semester 2022/2023

Academy of Fine Arts Vienna

Abstract Painting

Dear International Office, Dear Students, I would now like to report from my six-month Erasmus stay at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna. I studied in the class for abstract painting, which is currently led by [REDACTED]. Everything I report here is valid for the year 2022/23, but as everything can always change, there is no guarantee for rules of conduct. These are only tips without guarantee.

During my stay, the class for abstract painting consisted of the two professors, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], as well as 2 assistants [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and about 40 students. There are 3 studio rooms as well as a plenary room/meeting room, all located in the restored building at Schillerplatz in Vienna's 1st district. The building was extensively restored over a period of 3 years and is a classicist building from the 19th century. There are actually 3 academy locations that I know out of personal experience. The main building on Schillerplatz contains the Institute of Fine Arts (IBK) and the Institute of Art and Architecture (IKA), as well as theory rooms, a historical anatomy room, a nude drawing room, some workshops, a library, the Gemäldegalerie, a cafeteria etc.

I was very satisfied with my class. However, I recommend that Erasmus applicants who plan to stay for the whole year choose a different class, as it is not desired by the current class administration to stay to semesters. On the whole, it is not planned that Erasmus students stay for a year, which is how it is communicated in the International Office there. However, according to experience and what my fellow students reported, it is quite possible to negotiate an extension towards the end of the semester in consultation with the professors in charge. The winter semester begins here in October and ends at the end of January/beginning of February and is thus one month shorter than in Bremen. Accordingly, the summer semester is the longer one.

As preparation, I recommend informing yourself about the classes and asking yourself which ones interest me the most and why. This could increase your chances of being accepted. I was also told that many people apply for very few places. It has to be said that most of them also apply to [REDACTED]'s class, which has accepted about 40 new students (probably 5 Erasmus-Students) this year. The whole application process was done online via an academy intranet, to which you get your access data by email. A 20MB portfolio was accompanied by an extra letter of motivation.

At the beginning, it makes sense to look for a room in a shared flat or an apartment before you arrive. The market price is between 400-500 Euros for a shared room and 550+ Euros for a small flat. There are exceptions, of course, and if you're lucky you can find something cheaper on Facebook or Instagram. There are many intermediate rentals. Social housing can only be found semi-illegally through contacts, but there are apartments for less than €500. Unfortunately, I don't know much about student halls of residence. It is very important for the Austrian state to register temporarily with the district magistrate at the beginning, in the first few days. Only with proof of residence you will get a student card and can you buy a semester ticket. The ranking that says Vienna is the "most liveable city" is of course rubbish and was probably bought, like every ranking. Vienna is not a cycling city, even there are cycle paths. They often end abruptly and disappear without a trace. It is absolutely necessary to ride a bicycle with functioning lights and reflectors between the spokes in order to avoid very high fines. And of course drive sober. My tip is to pay the fine immediately, if you accidentally run a red light (approx. 70-90€). Everything else increases the prices enormously. There is a high amount of police patrol around the city.

As already mentioned, the winter semester ends earlier than in Germany. The 4-day academy opendoorstour always takes place a week before terms end. Examsperiod is afterwards. There are

