

My Time in JKU (Johannes Kepler University, Linz, Austria)

This brings back memories, memories that were great in the making and even better when recalled. The experience of an exchange semester is truly amazing. Although Austria is a fairly new destination for an exchange semester, it is one to be discovered. JKU comes with a beautiful campus, friendly people and lots of goodies in store.



The REFI (similar to our buddy system) consists of very friendly students who help you from the very start and are there whenever you need them. Upon arrival, arrangements were made for us to meet all exchange students, a welcome reception was held, as well as trips were organized to tour Linz and other beautiful locations.

I couldn't have asked for a more welcoming ambience.

The academic life is made easier by the staff and students who are always willing to help. There are courses available from different faculties such as economics and business, social sciences etc. The pre-semester programs include intensive German course and cultural sensitivity training that go a long way to help you feel more comfortable around new surroundings.



Aside from academics, the city of Linz is the third largest city in Austria. Embedded in the picturesque Danube Valley and surrounded by green rolling hills, Linz has a unique flair. A stroll through the old town with its picturesque buildings where you can view

the Linz castle high above the town and the oldest church in Austria, the Martinskirche, dating back 1,200 years is highly recommended. The pastel tones of the Baroque and Rococo facades of the citizens' houses on the Main Square and the carefully renovated "old town" provide striking contrasts to the city's modern industrial and commercial centers. For leisure, you can go cycling on the bike path along the banks of Danube. The areas around Linz are ideal for skiing during winter. Linz also has quite a few nice places to eat at. You can go to Leberkas-Pepi to have some really good leberkase. Head to Royal Bombay Palace for some Indian



food or hit local pizzerias for great pizza. The Roasted Duck is great for Chinese food and for some really good coffee and hot chocolate, I recommend you go to 'Da Vinci' at the Hauptplatz (City center). Don't forget to try the kebabs at the city center as well. Last but not the least, for our very own Thai food, visit



'Tom Yam'. Just an hour away from Linz by train, is Salzburg- the birthplace of Mozart. It's a beautiful place to go check out with its churches and of course, the castle. Also just an hour and a half away from Linz by train is the capital of Austria- Vienna. It is a big city with

lots to offer. Walk at St. Stephen's square and visit St. Stephen's cathedral. Take a city tour and visit museums and see the library. Take a trip to the opera and don't forget to try the original Sacher chocolate



cake. Other interesting places near Linz include Schlierbach, Steyr, Gmunden and Halstatt. The international office will arrange trips to these places so you should be sure to join.

This has been an amazing experience and I have BBA TU to thank for it. Thank you so much BBA, it has really been worthwhile.

By Amika (Amie) Sachdev, BBA#15