CALS International Exchange Program

**BOKU [Austria]**

**Overview**

**Semesters Available:** Spring or Academic Year  
**GPA Requirement:** Good academic standing  
**Language of Instruction:** German is the official language, but English is widely spoken. Many courses are taught in English.  
**Academic Calendar:**  
Semester 1/Winter: October-February  
Semester 2/Summer: February-June

Through a reciprocal agreement between The University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences (BOKU) and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) at Cornell University, CALS undergraduate students may apply to enroll directly in any field of study at BOKU for a semester or a year. Students study alongside BOKU and international students, and are eligible to participate in the many activities sponsored by BOKU and its student body.

This exchange program is open to undergraduate CALS students of sophomore or higher standing, and is awarded on first-come, first-serve basis.

- There are no nuclear power plants in Austria. Most energy is generated with hydro-electric power plants. Lectures in the field of Water Resource Planning and Water Management are given at the "Institute of Water Management, Hydrology and Hydraulic Engineering".
- Austria has the highest percentage of organic farmers within the European Union. BOKU offers classes in the MSc "Organic Farming"—Cornell students with the appropriate background are eligible to take them!
- Austria has an age long tradition of wine production and is an important exporter of wine. BOKU offers a BSc in "Viticulture, Oenology and Wine Marketing."
- Austria is one of the countries with the highest percentage of recycling of used materials. Austrian citizens have a high awareness of the limitations of natural resources. BOKU Vienna is taking on the challenge to play a role in securing and consciously using our natural life resources. BOKU offers a BSc and MSc "Environmental and Bio Resources Management", and also MSc "Natural Resources Management and Ecological Engineering".
- 98% of Austria’s waste water is treated in sewage treatment plants. Waste water treatment is an important part of BSc and MSc in "Environmental Engineering."

**Areas of Study**

You may take classes at any level at BOKU, as long as you have the pre-requisites. Students are allowed to take any course of any program. BOKU Vienna offers more than 300 courses in English. It is easier to find Masters level classes in English (8 of the Master Programs are taught entirely in English). Many CALS students opt to take classes at the Masters level.

- Soil, plants & animals  
- Space, landscape & infrastructure  
- Water, climate & environment  
- Forests & timber  
- Alternative biomaterials & bio energy  
- Agricultural sciences  
- Food Sciences  
- Biotechnology
Campuses

BOKU has two main campuses in Vienna. There’s a chance you’ll have classes at each of them. The extensive and efficient public transportation system in Vienna makes getting to/from class a breeze!

Student Reports

What do other CALS students have to say about studying at Deakin? Links to student reports can be found on the main Exchange Partner webpage. Be sure to check them out!

Language Classes

To get accustomed to the German language, ZIB offers a German Intensive Language Course for exchange students. The course runs for two weeks before the semester starts, both in the winter semester and in the summer semester.

Courses in “Deutsch als Fremdsprache” (German as a Foreign Language) are available at the Center for International Relations during the semesters. Besides the improvement of your language skills, the courses also try to widen your social and intercultural skills.

Assessments & Grading

BOKU University makes use of ECTS (European Credit Transfer System), developed by the European Commission to provide common procedures guaranteeing academic recognition of studies abroad and thereby facilitating international mobility programmes. The ECTS is based on the student workload required to achieve the objectives of a programme, objectives which are preferably specified in terms of the learning outcomes and competences to be acquired. 1 ECTS-credit equals 25 hours of workload (this includes lectures, self-study and exam preparation). One academic year consists of 60 ECTS both on Bachelor and Master level. See the table below for how grades are assigned to students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>European Grade (ECTS)</th>
<th>Austrian Grade</th>
<th>US Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>1 (Sehr Gut)</td>
<td>A+, A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>1 (Sehr Gut)</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2 (Gut)</td>
<td>B, C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>3 (Befriedigend)</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>4 (Genugend)</td>
<td>D (no credit)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FX or F</td>
<td>5 (Nicht genugend)</td>
<td>F (no credit)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Classes

Studying at Austrian universities is very different from studying at Cornell. Students are free in what courses they take and how many courses they take. For many courses attendance is not obligatory - for some, seminars and practical courses, it is. Thus, it really depends on the level of student-responsibility and on how much progress the students want to make in their field of study.

Courses vary in terms of workload. 30 ECTS credit points are considered a full work load per semester, and CALS students are required to take at least 30. Of course, students are allowed to do more than that. Depending on the workload required, a full semester can comprise between 7 and 10 courses.

Students are not necessarily in the courses five days a week. Some courses are "blocked," so students may meet only for 3 or 4 days but for 6 to 7 hours at a time.

Every course has its own number which you should use to fill out the "learning agreement." The actual selection will take place when you are in Vienna. You don't need to register for most of the courses, you just show up. Some courses ask for a registration, which you can do after your arrival online via the homepage of the institute or on lists in the institute. You can find out in the BLIS if you need to register for courses.

BOKU offers different types of courses:
- lecture = Vorlesung (VO): teacher talks, possibilities for student questions
- seminar = Seminar (SE): special and profound lecture; sometimes project work or reports are required
• exercises = Uebungen (UE) practical exercises; labs;
• excursion = Exkursion (EX) field trip
• practical course = Praktikum (PR) practical course; lab
• project work = Projektarbeit (PJ) project work or group work

There can also be combinations of different types of courses, e.g.:
• lecture + seminar (VS)
• lecture + exercises (VU)
• lecture + excursion (VX)
• lecture + practical exercises + excursion (VY or VZ).

Additionally, everyone who lives in Austria is required by Austrian law to register with the local authorities. Registration with the municipal authorities must be completed within three (working) days of your stay in Austria.

The documents required are a valid passport and the residence registration form (—Meldezettel). The —Meldezettel can be obtained at the municipal authorities, in the ZIB. When changing your address during your stay in Vienna, you need to inform the municipal authorities by filling in a new—Meldezettel. A couple of days before your departure from Vienna, you need to sign off.

If you are staying in Austria for longer than 3 months you have to register with the competent municipal authority (Magistrat, Bezirkshauptmannschaft) within the first 3 months of your stay and you will receive a confirmation of registration (fee applies).

This registration is necessary in addition to the registration according to the registration act. In case of non-compliance with this regulation a fine may be imposed.

**Program Costs**

Students are billed their regular CALS tuition, with no added administrative fees. Students purchase plane tickets and pay remaining costs such as housing, meals, student visa application fees, local travel, and personal expenses. Some partner institutions charge student activity fees and/or health insurance plans which students are also responsible for.

Financial aid travels with students going abroad. Students must complete with grades equivalent to a Cornell “C” or better. Financial aid for study abroad is need-based, consistent with university and government policies and covers all costs relevant to study abroad, including tuition, all mandatory program fees, housing, meals, books, personal expenses, and round-trip airfare. If you are currently receiving financial aid, your aid package will be adjusted based on your determined level of need and the projected costs for your study abroad program. University grant aid and loan awards may be either increased or decreased to meet study abroad need. The normal work-study component of aid packages will be converted to student loans.

**How to Apply**

You will apply to the exchange after meeting with the CALS study abroad and exchange advisor in 140 Roberts Hall. All application materials will be returned to CALS-not the university directly.

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**Accommodation**

There are numerous housing options in Vienna. The OeAD organization serves all of Vienna’s universities, and is one of the easiest ways to secure housing.

**Working**

It’s rather difficult for students from non-EU/EEA countries to receive a work permit. Further details concerning this complicated matter can be found on the homepage of the OeAD.

**Student Visa**

For U.S. citizens, a visa is required for students staying over 90 days. You must apply in person.