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**AUSTRIA | SPRING, 2007 STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM EVALUATIONS**

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MAJOR1: German  
MAJOR2: Music  
MAJOR3: Select third major--  
ABROAD\_DURING: Spring 2007

PROGRAM: Institute for the International Education of Students and the University of Vienna

COURSE\_NAMES: Austria in Text and Film  
Theater in Vienna  
Music Performance Workshop  
Literary Topics in German Works  
Nationalsozialismus und Gedächtniskultur



TYPES\_OF\_COURSES: Combination of program and regular university courses

EXPLANATION\_OF\_COURSES: All courses were at the IES institute except Nationalsozialismus und Gedächtniskultur, which was offered by the University of Vienna

COMMENTS\_ON\_COURSE\_WORK: The IES courses I took were in German and taught by wonderful professors. While the work load was a bit less than I was used to at Amherst, I found it difficult because nothing was in English. The University course was very challenging, and the lecture format was different from what I was used to. The reading was also very difficult for that class, but the professor was encouraging and helpful and the course was interesting.

STUDENT\_BODY\_COMPOSITION: All American

COMMENTS\_ON\_TEACHING: In my literature classes here at IES the grading varied greatly from professor to professor. Following the University tradition here (many of the IES Vienna professors also teach at the Uni Wien), I was given a lot of freedom in regards both to the literature I chose to study and how I chose to approach it. Student presentations on authors selected by the students, for which no requirements but a time limit were given, were one example.

ACADEMIC/LANGUAGE\_PREPARATION\_NEEDED: This program's greatest strength, in my opinion, is that it has just as much to offer a German major as someone who has never spoken a word of German. The introductory German grammar courses here are phenomenal. This

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program is perfect for anyone who wants to learn a new language and get to know a beautiful city, or for anyone who is looking to enhance the German skills they have learned from Professor Schütz and see the city they learned about in Professor Rogowski's Vienna course.

DESCRIPTION\_OF\_HOUSING\_&\_MEALS: I lived with six other students from my program. Other housing options besides IES apartments included home stays and dorms. There was no meal plan.

WHO\_MADE\_HOUSE/MEAL\_ARRANGEMENTS: The IES housing coordinator did a wonderful job making sure everyone was happy.

LIVING\_COSTS: 500-600 euros a week for food

MEDICAL\_FACILITIES\_AVAILABLE?: Yes, a very helpful IES coordinator helped students with insurance, etc. when they had to go to the hospital

WHAT\_PROGRAM\_SERVICES\_WERE\_AVAILABLE?: n-a

HOW\_DID\_YOU\_MEET\_LOCALS?: Go to the Heurige and drink the beer and wine, go to the balls and dance the walzes, and go to the opera at least once a month

DID\_YOU\_EXPERIENCE\_DISCRIMINATION?: none at all

DID\_YOU\_TRAVEL?: I did both! I went to Italy, Poland, and to other parts of Austria with my friends on my own, and took part in IES-sponsored trips to a ski resort and a town near Vienna called Mariazell, where our orientation was held. Other IES trips included Berlin, Munich, Wachau, and Steiermark.

WOULD\_YOU\_RECOMMEND\_THIS\_PROGRAM/UNIVERSITY?: The best reason to go on this program is the city it's in!!! Vienna is amazing, especially if you have any interest in classical music, German-Austrian culture, or beer and wine :)

SUMMARY: I have already planned a thesis based on music and poetry that I discovered while abroad. After Amherst I hope to return to Vienna for graduate school in Music.