

Graz

Summer 2025



**Indiana University Honors Program
in Foreign Languages**

Contents

Program Dates 2

Emergency Contacts in Austria 2

About Graz 3

Instructor Team and Onsite Staff..... 4

Graz 2025 Calendar (tentative)..... 6

Additional Activities 7

Tentative Daily Schedule - Graz 2025 8

Excursions and Important Dates..... 9

Travel Information 10

Graz Blog Information 18

Program Dates

Departure from the U.S.: June 11, 2025

Arrival in Graz: June 12, 2025

Departure from Vienna: July 15, 2025

Arrival in the U.S.: July 15, 2025

Emergency Contacts in Austria

Emergency

144 – This is the nationwide emergency number for emergency medical services in Austria. This number, like the following two, can be called toll-free from any phone (fixed-line, mobile or phone booth).

Fire Rescue

122

City Police

133 – The nearest police station will be called

The American Embassy (Houses U.S. Citizen Services)

Parkring 12 a

1010 Vienna

Phone: +43-1 31339-0

About Graz

Graz is a prosperous and thoroughly modern city of 295,000 (plus 45,000 students) and the capital of the southeastern Austrian state of Styria. It is a beautiful, comfortable, and clean city with attractive green spaces, gardens, and parks. The historic downtown area is picturesque and charming, with Renaissance palaces, medieval walls, and Baroque churches.

Getting lost along the narrow old lanes that are closed to all but pedestrian traffic is remarkably easy, and often rewarding, since you can find scores of sidewalk cafes, bars, restaurants, little parks, and quiet places in the process. Bicycles and trams are widely used, and public transportation is excellent. Graz has a rich cultural life, with opera, theater, street musicians, and summer music festivals.

Instructor Team and Onsite Staff

Nikole Langjahr

Language Course

Administrative Instructor and Financial Coordinator



Originally from Germany, Nikole has taught German at Indiana University since 1999. She is the Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Germanic Studies Department, and also organizes extracurricular events for undergraduate students. In her spare time, Nikole loves to cook, crochet, listen to podcasts and spend time with her children.

Lane Sorensen

Culture Course

Logistics and PR Coordinator



Lane got his B.A. in German and History at Hastings College in Nebraska (where Kool-Aid was invented) before moving to Bloomington to earn his M.A. in German Studies and Ph.D. in Germanic Linguistics and Philology at Indiana University. He has taught German at IU and at DePauw University, and his academic interests include language pedagogy and outreach, historical linguistics, Old Norse literature and Middle Low German 'liver-rhymes'. Lane is also an identical

twin. They are both the evil one.

Franziska Reinisch
Onsite Coordinator



Franziska lives in Graz with her husband and three children. In her free time, Franziska enjoys traveling, practicing Thaiboxing, cooking spicy food, engaging in feminist performance art, and cherishing moments with her family and friends.

Tentative program calendar:

2025 Graz Program Calendar

June-July 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Jun 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 DEPART US	12 ARRIVE AUSTRIA	13 LANGUAGE TEST WALKING TOUR ARRIVAL ORIENTATION	14
15	16 CLASSES Graz Museum	17 CLASSES	18 CLASSES Self Defense Workshop 2pm-4pm	19 NO CLASS (PUBLIC HOLIDAY)	20 CLASSES	21
22	23 CLASSES Styrian Armoury, Zeughaus	24 CLASSES	25 CLASSES	26 CLASSES Cosa Science Museum 3pm	27 EXCURSION: RIEGERSBERG & ZOTTER	28
29	30 CLASSES Eggenberg Castle	Jul 1 CLASSES	2 CLASSES Town Hall Visit 14:00	3 CLASSES	4 EXCURSION: KLAGENFURT & LAKE WÖRTHERSEE	5
6	7 CLASSES	8 CLASSES Ludovico Board Game Workshop 2:30pm	9 CLASSES	10 CLASSES Austrian Sculpture Park	11 LANGUAGE TEST FAREWELL SHOW	12
13 DEPART FOR VIENNA	14 VIENNA	15 DEPART FOR US	16	17	18	19

Additional Activities

Afternoon and Community and Cultural Engagement Activities:

This year we will have a variety of activities in which students will participate. For example:

- A few afternoons a week, we will participate in some sort of sport or physical activity. For example, we will have a self-defense workshop, and also plan on going to the outdoor swimming pool.

We will also participate in activities designed to get students engaged with the language, culture, and community in ways that extend beyond the classroom and host family experiences. A few of these activities include:

- A visit to Graz town hall, where we will meet with a local council member
- Hands-on activities at the COSA interactive science museum

Activities are subject to change (e.g., based on weather, community events, other factors). Flexibility in study abroad is key!

Tentative Daily Schedule - Graz 2025

Summer 2025 HPFL Daily Schedule Template (Lunch earlier)									
Hour	Amount of time	Activity							
8:45-9:00		Rollcall							
9:00-10:15	75 minutes	Language 1	Culture 2						
10:15-10:30	15 minutes	Break & Snack							
10:30-11:45	75 minutes	Language 2	Culture 1						
11:45-12:00	15 minutes	Announcements/Support Group							
12:00-1:00	60 minutes	Lunch							
1:00-1:45	45 minutes	FLEX (M: Community Engagement, T: Phone, W: Community Engagement: Th: Phone, F: TBD)							
2:00-4:00	120 minutes	Afternoon Activities (Sports, Magazine, Farewell Show Prep, Community Engagement Activities)							
4:00-7pm Curfew	Approx. 3 hours	Free time (groups of 3)							

Excursions and Important Dates

In addition to local community activities, the program arranges trips to Riegersburg/Zotter Chocolate Factory, Klagenfurt/Wörthersee, and Vienna, as well as afternoon visits to attractions nearby. These excursions form part of the instructional program and are integrated into the academic experience in various ways. Participation is therefore important and counts as class attendance. Please be aware that you will have to cover the cost of some of your meals during the overnight excursion (to Vienna) out of pocket.

Riegersburg/Zotter Chocolate Factory (June 27)

After a guided tour of the medieval fortress Riegersburg followed by a birds of prey show, we explore the Zotter Chocolate Factory.

Klagenfurt/Wörthersee (July 4)

We visit Landskron Castle, Abenteuer Affenberg (an animal park with 180 Japanese macaques), relax at Klagenfurt Strandbad, and finish the day with a boat tour on Lake Wörthersee.

Vienna (July 13 – 15)

In Vienna, we enjoy a guided city tour with a look inside St. Stephen's Dome. The first evening, we explore the Prater amusement park. The next day, we tour Schönbrunn Palace and its adjacent zoo, followed by a trip to the Haus der Musik museum.

Travel Information

Climate:

Early summer weather in Graz is hard to predict. It may be cool and rainy, much like Indiana in mid-April, but you may also encounter the heat and humidity of a Midwestern summer. Be prepared for quite a range of temperatures.

What to Pack:

Pack light. This is the consistent advice from former program participants. A small, well-coordinated wardrobe is more practical than a large one. Bring wash and wear garments you will be happy wearing a lot, and plan to dress in layers.

Your host family will ensure you can wash your clothes weekly (either by washing them for you or teaching you how to use their machines). Thus, you should only bring a little more than a week's worth of clothes. Think about pieces you can layer and those you can wear in multiple ways.

During the school week, you will bring a packed lunch to school from your host family. Please back an insulated lunch box and a small ice pack or two that can be refrozen each night to help keep your lunch cool during the morning.

Additionally, you should DEFINITELY bring sunscreen with you from the United States. Sunscreen or sunblock is significantly more expensive in other countries, and sometimes it is very difficult to find higher SPFs. Consider bringing insect repellent, an umbrella, a hat, and a reusable water bottle.

If you have any particular makeup, lotion, hygiene, etc. brands that you prefer, you should probably pack those since it can be difficult to find American brands in other countries. Additionally, if

you take medicine (prescription or over the counter), pack enough for the whole program and keep it in its original packaging.

Don't forget to pack a digital camera! You won't be able to use your cell phones to snap photos since they will be locked in a magnetic pouch for most of the trip. You might also want to bring a travel alarm clock and an mp3 player, if listening to music is important to you. Do not bring other electronics such as tablets and laptops as you won't be allowed to use them to connect to the internet.

What TO Bring

- travel documents and itinerary, passport
- raincoat or umbrella, warm jacket
- sturdy, comfortable shoes/tennis shoes (we will be walking and hiking a lot!)
- warm weather attire (shirts, shorts, dresses, sandals)
- one nice outfit
- two sweaters or sweatshirts
- prescription drugs in their original container to last the entire program; clearly printed copy of your prescription in generic, not brand name, terms
- aspirin, antihistamines, vitamins, cold medication, and other nonprescription drugs you sometimes use
- one towel
- swimwear
- extra pair of glasses or contact lenses and a typewritten copy of your prescription
- contact lens solution
- backpack
- gift for Austrian family
- photo camera (NOT your cell phone!)

- course books, notebooks, pens or pencils, a pocket dictionary
- electric outlet adapter, voltage converter

What NOT to Bring

- laptop, tablet
- hair dryer, curling iron, straightener
- MP3-player with Internet connectivity
- bulky and overly heavy items

Adapters and Converters:

Another item that you should pack is an adapter (it attaches to an American plug on one side and has the European plugs on the other side) as well as a converter (it converts the European voltage [220 volts] to American voltage [110-120 volts]). You can often buy a device that is both an adaptor and a converter, but it is important to check. If you get just an adapter, you can destroy your electronics.

Currency:

The currency in Graz is the euro, the official currency of 19 European countries. As of January 2025, one euro was worth 1.03 US dollars. Please keep in mind that it is not a direct 1:1 ratio when calculating your expenses.

It is important to have some Euros as cash on hand when you depart from the United States since there is no guarantee that you will be able to get to an ATM immediately when we arrive in Austria, and we may stop for a snack on the way from the airport to the host city. Sometimes the airport ATM machines run out of Euros due to high travel volume. Additionally, it is important to bring both a Debit card and a Credit card IN THE STUDENT'S

NAME. It is best that this credit card is a Visa/Mastercard, which are much more frequently accepted than Discover/American Express in Europe.

Call your bank ahead of time and let them know where, when and how long you are traveling. You don't want them putting a block on your card while you are abroad!

Cultural Etiquette:

Eating Out and Tipping

Austria is famous for its culinary delicacies. You will get to try fine sweet treats like “Sachertorte”, “Topfenstrudel” or “Kaiserschmarrn” to be enjoyed in a nice *Kaffeehaus*, or more simply a quick sausage snack at one of the many traditional *Würstlsbuden* or small restaurants (*Beisel*).

To learn a restaurant's most economical meal, ask the waiter what the *Menü* (daily special) is. Be aware that, in general, water is not free! A good word to remember is *Leitungswasser* (tap water). You may get a few strange looks, but they generally won't charge you for it. Remember what you eat, because you will be expected to recount it to the server when the time comes to pay your bill. Include any bread or rolls. At most places, you call the server over (“Zahlen bitte!”) when you are finished and pay at the table.

In restaurants, the tip is up to 10%, and it is paid directly to servers when they collect what you owe for your meal. Once the server tallies up the food bill and announces what is due, state the amount you are giving him for food and tip together.

The cultural norm is to round up to a number of Euros without additional cents. Thus, a bill of € 7,20 would typically be rounded up to € 8,00; a bill of €7,90 to € 9,00.

Getting Around Graz

Taxis

Taxis are available at any hour of the day or night. They don't cruise (although you may manage to flag one down on its way back from somewhere) but are located at taxi stands throughout the city. You can call for one at 316.878, or just show up at any of the following places: Geidorfplatz, tel. 62 2 36; Griesplatz, tel. 91 12 33; Hauptbahnhof, tel. 91 122 77; Kaiserfeldgasse/Herrengasse, tel. 72 2 00; Landeskrankenhaus, tel. 32 3 04; Parkhotel, tel. 32 1 01; Südtirolerplatz, tel. 91 41 14; Schmiedgasse/Hauptplatz, tel. 79 0 43. Inexpensive group taxis should be reserved by phone: tel. 22 1 01, or 31 5 55, or even 36 3 11.12

Walking

By far one of the most enjoyable things to do in Graz is just wander. It is usually safe. The jumble of building facades along the Altstadt is fascinating. Through the archways on these streets, you will find everything from blind alleys and trash cans to interesting examples of architecture.

The Stadtpark is a good place to eat a snack lunch, feed the pigeons, study, or play Frisbee. With the help of your street map and a reproduction of an old map of the city you can mentally reconstruct the inner and outer defenses of the Schlossberg, remnants of which are still visible to the trained eye. At the Hilmteich, one can rent a rowboat for an hour or two.

For the inept rower, there's a forest full of footpaths behind the pond. In fact, one of these paths leads out to Wallfahrtskirche

Mariatrost, a lovely old Baroque church on the outskirts of town. A beautiful running path, marked for up to a half marathon, is laid out in the same forest. If it gets late and you're getting tired, hop on tram number 1 for the journey back downtown.

Trams

Most host families live in Graz's handsome and widely separated suburban areas, not downtown, and you will use Graz's extensive public transportation system to commute to the city center where classes are held. Your program fee includes tram/bus passes.

The procedure for riding the *Straßenbahn* is this: At the more populated stops, the door will open automatically; hop on. Otherwise, push the button beside the door and wait until the door opens. Once on, stick the unstamped end or side of your ticket, which you should have bought before, into the convenient *Entwerter* box. The weekly and monthly passes provided by the program are stamped only once!

Just before your arrival at your destination, push the button on one of the uprights near the door. If you don't think you'll be able to recognize the stop the first few times, the conductor will be glad to help. State where you want to get off, and the conductor will show you out at the appropriate stop.

Learn to read tram and bus schedules, posted at most stops (*Haltestellen*). Be especially careful to note the different schedules for weekdays, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. The schedule, like all other printed times in Europe, uses the 24-hour clock (e.g., 1 p.m. = 13.00 Uhr).

Health and Safety Precautions

Tick-Borne Encephalitis (TBE)

Please be aware that ticks that are carriers of the TBE virus are common in Austria. You could be exposed to ticks while biking, hiking, or walking in grassy or wooded areas. No TBE vaccines are available in the U.S. Vaccination is available in Austria, but they are given in a series (1-3 shots) and typically do not reach fully efficacy for a number of weeks. You are strongly encouraged to take precautions by wearing long-sleeved shirts, long pants rather than shorts, socks and shoes rather than sandals, and to closely examine yourself for bites and shower after potential exposure. Should you develop symptoms of TBE (several days of fever, fatigue, headache and muscle pain), seek medical assistance.

For further information, including a more detailed explanation and additional recommendations, please see information on the CDC website:

wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbook/2014/chapter-3-infectious-diseases-related-to-travel/tickborne-encephalitis

Medical Care

If you become ill in Graz, the instructors and the on-site coordinator will help you get medical attention. They will help you with any forms your physician must complete in order for you to submit an insurance reimbursement claim under the IU policy. Please be aware that you might need to pay cash up front and that neither the instructors nor your host family can be held responsible to provide these funds.

Departure Day Travel Plan

Please refer to your email correspondence from the IUHPFL office for details regarding the group flight and be sure to check flight

times as departure day approaches, as flight times are subject to change.

Students and instructors will meet at the counter **3 hours before departure**, check in, and pass through security together. Be sure to keep your passport in an accessible and safe place in your carry-on bag or personal item; do not put your passport in your checked luggage. **Please wear your IUHPFL program shirt.**

Parents/guardians must accompany their students to the airport and pay for any extra fees associated with additional or overweight baggage.

Additional tips:

- Please bring a student ID.
- Both students and guardians should have a photocopy of the student's passport. Students should keep a paper copy of their passport with them at all times throughout the program.
- Do not forget to pack this handbook and your course materials.
- Please refer to TSA guidelines regarding prohibited items: <https://www.tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/whatcanibring/all>
- Please refer to TSA guidelines regarding liquids in carry-on luggage: <https://www.tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/liquids-rule>

In case of an emergency on departure day, call the IUHPFL office at (812) 855-7957.

We look forward to a safe and enjoyable first leg of our adventure with you!

Graz Blog Information

Blog Site: For parents, families, friends and students!

Website: <https://iuhpflgraz2025.blogspot.com/>