universität wien

SHS Sommerhochschule

The Discovery of Modernity — Vienna around 1900

univie: winter school for Cultural Historical Studies



Organization

The univie: winter school for Cultural Historical Studies takes place in Vienna, the capital of the former Habsburg Monarchy (and of Austria today), where traces are still visible of the outstanding culture of the late 19th and early 20th century.

The two-week program combines first-class academic courses with a wide range of social and cultural events. Vienna's rich cultural heritage, especially its museums, will give participants a thorough understanding of the impact that the fin-de-siècle period had on the modernization of Europe.

This unique program consists of high-level lectures in the morning and guided excursions to the city of Vienna and to various museums (including the Museum for Applied Arts, the Leopold Museum, and the Sigmund Freud Museum) in the afternoon.

Vienna also offers visitors plenty of opportunities to explore additional museums and sights at their leisure such as St. Stephan's Cathedral, the Imperial Palace, and the Treasury.

The academic course environment encourages intercultural and social exchange and promotes mutual understanding within the international student population. Participants thus broaden their horizons, meet people from different fields of study, make friends for life, and build connections for their future professional careers.



© SHS

Courses

The univie: winter school offers seven courses comprising 4 ECTS credits per course (corresponding to 32 contact hours). Each contact hour consists of 45 minutes of classroom teaching.
Over the two-week program, students can attend two courses and obtain up to 8 ECTS credits.

The winter program courses offer a concise, well-structured introduction to one of the most fascinating periods of Austria's intellectual history. The culture of the fin-de-siècle is one of the highlights in the history of the Habsburg Monarchy.

The preparatory seminar Introduction to Fin-de-Siècle Vienna on the first weekend provides students with the basic knowledge needed for their selected courses. The seminar is a prerequisite to attend the following courses.

Students can select one course from the courses offered in the early morning and a second, from the courses offered in the late morning. The courses provide them with a deep insight into the society and culture of this fascinating period.

8:30 am–10:30 am

- Vienna's Literature around 1900 and its Cinematic Reception
- Society, Politics, and Daily Life in Fin-de-Siècle Vienna
- Design, Performance, and Media in Modern Vienna

11:00 am–1:00 pm

- Society and Psychoanalysis in Sigmund Freud's Vienna
- Music and Musical Culture in Vienna around 1900
- Democracy and Cultural Modernity in Vienna
- Art and Visual Culture at the Turn of the Century

Successful participants will receive a transcript of grades of the Sommerhochschule of the University of Vienna.

Application & fees

The application deadline is on November 30, 2026.
Applicants must submit the following documents:

1. Application form
2. Motivation letter
3. Transcript of grades
4. Official proof of proficiency level in English
5. Passport-size portrait photo
6. Scan of passport
7. Deposit of € 300

Please send your application documents either by e-mail or in their original form by post:

Email address
sommerhochschule@univie.ac.at

Postal address
Innovationszentrum Universität Wien GmbH – Sommerhochschule
Campus of the University of Vienna
Alser Strasse 4, Hof 1, Tür 1.16
1090 Vienna, Austria

The program fees amount to € 1,790 and include registration, tuition, and all planned excursions.

Participants are responsible for any additional costs for board and lodging as well as travel arrangements. Students who are not already enrolled at the University of Vienna must pay an additional fee of € 26.20 to be admitted to the University of Vienna as non-degree program students and to receive insurance coverage (general accident and liability insurance).

Please transfer your payment to:
Innovationszentrum Universität Wien GmbH – Sommerhochschule
Bank: Bank Austria
BIC: BKAUATWW
IBAN: AT57 1100 0002 8224 0100

Faculty

Wynfrid Kriegleder
University Professor at the Institute of German Studies at the University of Vienna

Richard Lein
Assistant at the Institute of Legal and Constitutional History at the Law Faculty of the University of Vienna

Eveline List
Psychoanalyst in private practice; former professor at the Department of History, University of Vienna

Jonas Pfohl
Postdoctoral Researcher and Lecturer in musicology, University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, University of Vienna

Oliver Rathkolb
Historian of Modern Austrian History at the University of Vienna

Monika Schwärzler-Brodesser
Former head of the Department of Art at Webster Vienna Private University

Elana Shapira
Cultural and design historian; lecturer in Design History and Theory at the University of Applied Arts Vienna

Stefan Wedrac
Historian at the Austrian State Archives; associate scientist at the Institute of Legal and Constitutional History at the University of Vienna



© SHS



“It was an unforgettable opportunity to learn, travel and meet people from all over the world, truly one of the best experiences of my life.”

— Jaqueline Cassemiro (Brazil)

“The univie: winter school has offered a fantastic environment to learn from eminent professors and experts in their respective fields in a small classroom setting, as well as through excursions in the city that they guided.”

— Niamh Christine O’Neill (Ireland)





It is the kind of experience you MUST have at least once in your life! Amazing professors, amazing lectures, amazing classmates, amazing excursions, and amazing program coordinators—what more could you ask for?”

— Zuo Xu (China)

Innovationszentrum Universität Wien GmbH
Sommerhochschule
Campus of the University of Vienna
Alser Strasse 4, Hof 1, Tür 1.16
1090 Vienna, Austria
T +43-1-4277-241 31
E sommerhochschule@univie.ac.at

Director
Franz-Stefan Meissel

Program coordinators
Nina Gruber and Isabel Ramberger

shs.univie.ac.at/winter-school