

Living in Vienna and working at the Vienna International Centre

General information about Vienna

Vienna is the capital and largest city of Austria with a population of around 1.7 million people. The city lies in the east of Austria and is close to the borders of the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary. The official language of Austria is German.

Vienna is a vibrant city rich with history, culture and a strong musical and artistic legacy. In 2001, the city centre of Vienna was designated a [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#). Vienna is host to several major international organizations, which contribute to the international environment of the city.

In 2016 the world-wide quality of [living survey conducted by Mercer Human Resource Consulting](#) (MERCER), Vienna was ranked first for overall quality of life. Over 200 cities were analysed for Mercer's survey, revealing Vienna, Austria, in top position for overall quality of life, followed by Zurich, Switzerland, in second place, and Auckland, New Zealand, in third place. Munich, Germany, was in fourth place, followed by Vancouver, Canada. The analysis was based on an evaluation of 39 quality-of-life criteria. These included political, economic, social and environmental factors, together with personal safety, health, education, entertainment, transport and other public services. The research is conducted annually to assist multinational companies in assessing international hardship allowance for employees stationed abroad. The cities are ranked against New York, with a base index score of 100.

Time zone

Austria follows the Central European Time, which is the Greenwich Meridian Time (GMT) +2 in winter and +1 in summer.

Electricity

The electricity voltage is 220 volts (50 cycle). A standard voltage converter and an adapter should be sufficient for conversion. Normally, electricity outlets in Austria require a two-prong plug with round prongs. Computers require a European plug adapter that can be purchased at appliance stores.

Shopping

Shops are generally open from 9:00 to 19:00 on weekdays and from 09:00 to 18:00 on Saturdays. Shops are closed on Sundays, except for supermarkets at some railway stations, some suburban railway stations (Schnellbahn), some underground stations ("U-Bahn"), as well as at the airport.

For more information about Vienna, see the website of the [City of Vienna](#).

Common Services at the IAEA and Vienna International Centre (VIC)

Services available to all staff members of the international organizations headquartered at the VIC provide convenience and assist new staff members in adjusting to life in Vienna.

Child care centre

The on-site Child Care Centre provides support for staff members, as applicable, who are parents working in the VIC. Its opening hours correspond to the IAEA's regular working hours.

Medical service and pharmacy

The joint medical service of the VIC-based organizations has a staff of several doctors, nurses and a counsellor, who provide emergency medical care, routine health screenings, travel immunizations, private injections, psychological counselling, cancer screening for women, ergonomic office visits and other services.

VIC housing service

The housing service guides staff members through the process of renting apartments and houses in Vienna and the surrounding area, and offers a database of available rental properties.

On-site eating establishments

The VIC offers a gourmet restaurant, a full-service cafeteria and two coffee shops and a bar for staff members and visitors.

Banking services

English-speaking branches of Bank Austria, BAWAG P.S.K Bank as well as the United Nations Federal Credit Union are available during business hours.

United Nations postal service

In cooperation with the Austrian Postal Service, the United Nations Postal Service offers a full-service post office, with money transfer services and UN postage stamps.

Shopping in the VIC

The following stores and services are available on the premises of the VIC: newspaper stand, flower shop, hairdressing salon, photo processing service, dry cleaning service, and several gift shops run by the IAEA, the UN, the UN Women's Guild and UNICEF.

Travel agencies

American Express and Carlson Wagonlit provide travel services to all staff for both official and leisure travel.