



Chapter 2: Reiter, G. "International Student Mobility Manual – Incoming Students"

2 General Information about Studying at the PHDL

Studying at the PHDL is free of charge, there are no tuition fees whatsoever.

However, a € 20 ÖH-membership fee must be paid when you arrive. This is a compulsory fee for every student studying in Austria.

2.1 Academic Year

- **winter semester (WS): 1 October – 31 January**
exam weeks: February week 1
Orientation Sessions for Incomings: last week of September
- **summer semester (SoSe): 1 March – 31 June**
exam week: July week 1
Orientation Sessions for Incomings: last week of February

Please note:

Some exams may take place before the exam weeks.

2.2 Study programs at the PHDL

At the PHDL the following study programs are on offer (QTS =Qualified Teacher Status):

Bachelor studies for

- QTS Elementary Level
- QTS Primary Level
- QTS Secondary Level

Master Studies for

- QTS Primary Level

Incoming students need to decide on their study programme for administrative reasons, but have access to most courses from all study programs, provided there are enough study places.

2.2.1 QTS Elementary Level

basic general education across the curriculum specifically designed for the age group of 2-6 yrs

2.2.2 QTS Primary Level

basic general education across the curriculum, specifically designed for the age group of 6-10 yrs

Students may choose from a wide range of offers for a study focus (German: "Studienschwerpunkt")

2.2.2.1 Major Study Focus

- Early Childhood Education ("Schwerpunkt Elementarpädagogik")
- Inclusive Education/Focus on disabilities ("Schwerpunkt Inklusive Pädagogik/Fokus Behinderung")
- Mathematics-Science-Technics („Schwerpunkt Mathematik-Naturwissenschaft-Technik“)
- Religious and Spiritual Education („Schwerpunkt Religions- und Spiritualitätsbildung“)
- Social Diversity („Schwerpunkt Soziale Vielfalt: Sozial- und kulturwissenschaftliche Vertiefungen“)
- Linguistic Development („Schwerpunkt Sprachliche Bildung“)

2.2.2.2 Minor Study Focus

- Nutritional and Health Education („Schwerpunkt Ernährungs- und Gesundheitsbildung“)
- Movement and Sport/Physical Education („Schwerpunkt Bewegung und Sport“)
- Leisure and Education („Schwerpunkt Freizeitpädagogik“)
- Arts („Schwerpunkt Künstlerische Bildung“)
- Activity-orientated Media Pedagogy („Schwerpunkt Handlungsorientierte Medienpädagogik“)
- Music Education („Schwerpunkt Musikalische Bildung“)
- Social Work within the Educational System („Schwerpunkt Schulsozialpädagogik“)
- Theatre Pedagogy („Schwerpunkt Theaterpädagogik“)

2.2.3 QTS Secondary Level

Specialist training in **2 subjects** specifically designed for the age group of 10-18 yrs.

Students of QTS Secondary Level at the PHDL must enrol 2 of the following subjects:

- Basic Educational Science and Practical Pedagogical Studies (BWG - "Bildungswissenschaftliche Grundlagen und Pädagogisch Praktische Studien")
- Creative Arts (BE – „Bildnerische Erziehung“)
- Movement and Sports (BS – "Bewegung und Sport")
- Biology and Environmental Studies (BU – "Biologie und Umweltkunde")
- Chemistry (CH – "Chemie")
- German (DE – "Deutsch")
- Nutrition and Household (EH – "Ernährung und Haushalt")
- English (EN – "Englisch")
- Geography (GW – "Geographie")
- History, Social Studies and Citizenship Education (GS – "Geschichte und Sozialkunde")
- Design: Textile-Technology (GTT – "Gestaltung Technik.Textil")
- IT/ Media Design (INF – "Informatik und Informatikmanagement")
- Catholic Religious Education (KR – "Katholische Religion")
- Maths (MA – "Mathematik")
- Music Education (ME – "Musikerziehung")
- Physics (PH - "Physik")
- Psychology and Philosophy (PP – "Psychologie und Philosophie")
- Textile Design (TG – "Textiles Gestalten")

2.3 ECTS - European Credit Transfer System

ECTS is a learner-centred system that enables students to create their own study plan by credit accumulation. It allows a compatibility of studies and enhances mobility on an international level.

ECTS credits are based on the workload students need to invest in order to achieve expected learning outcomes. Workload indicates the time students usually need to complete all the required learning activities, like attending lectures, seminars, writing essays and papers, doing projects, practical work, self-study or sitting for examinations. Therefore, each course is attributed a certain number of ECTS credits, depending on the expected workload.

- 60 ECTS credits equal the workload of a full-time academic year and the expected learning outcomes.
- 15 weeks/semester
- One credit amounts to approx. 30 hours of work.
- 0,5/0,75 ECTS, as given in the PHDL-curriculum, are always rounded up to the next full number (e.g. 0,75 ECTS = 1 ECTS for Incomings Students (Erasmus-Standard: full ECTS))

2.4 Austrian Grading System

- 1 = excellent (outstanding performance)
- 2 = good (generally good, but with some errors)
- 3 = satisfactory (generally sound work with a number of substantial errors)
- 4 = sufficient (performance meets the minimum criteria)
- 5 = fail (< 50%; substantial improvement necessary; requirement of further work)

2.5 Austrian Course Types

There are several different course types:

- **Lecture** (German: "Vorlesung", VO)
 - regular attendance recommended
 - assessment criteria: usually written or oral end of term exam
- **Training course*** (German: "Übung", UE),
Pro-seminar* (German: "Proseminar", PS),
Seminar* (German: "Seminar", SE)
 - regular, compulsory attendance (no more than 0,25% absences allowed
Tip: careful with blocks of 4-5 hrs, missing just once and you may already be over the limit!)
 - assessment criteria: These vary and may take the form of active participation in class, presentations, midterm-tests, essays, papers, written and oral end of term tests. Specific instructions will be given at the beginning of each course.
- **Optional course*** (German: "Wahlfach", WF)
 - **regular attendance** (no more than 0,25% absences allowed *Tip: careful with blocks of 4-5 hrs, missing just once and you may already be over the limit!*)
 - **frequently taught in small groups (e.g. in music), often involving practical work**
 - **especially suitable if you feel uneasy about your level of German/English**
 - assessment criteria: active participation in class and self-study
- **Conversatorium** (German: "Konversatorium", KO)
 - courses without regular attendance: in the form of discussions where instructors answer the students' questions upon request
 - please consult with professors about expected attendance
 - assessment criteria: These vary and may take the form of active participation in class, presentations, midterm-tests, essays, papers, and written and oral end-term tests. Instructions will be given at the beginning of each course.

*In these course types you are expected to inform the professors in advance of absences.

2.6 Coordinator for Incoming Students - Areas of Responsibility

International Office at the PHDL (German: “Zentrum für internationale Bildungs-kooperationen”, short: ZiB)

We help you with general and administrative issues regarding your stay in Linz.

Your host coordinator ...

- receives the nominations from the partner university
- sends out emails and key data during the process of application
- provides assistance regarding ...
 - application, registration and ÖH-membership
 - Learning Agreement, choice of courses and optional subjects
 - Certificate of Arrival/Certificate of Attendance Start
 - orientation sessions
 - student ID cards
 - German courses
 - Practical Pedagogical Studies (PPS)
 - living in Linz (e.g. public transport, accommodation)
 - confirmation of attendance
 - extensions
 - visa-issues

Your coordinator at the PHDL supports you as your personal contact partner on site for individual concerns as well as in emergencies.

2.7 Students' Union – the „Österreichische Hochschülerschaft“

Every student at an Austrian university is obliged to become a member of the Austrian Students' Union (hereafter: ÖH, short for ‘Österreichische Hochschülerschaft’). The ÖH's representatives at the PHDL provide opportunity for you to get to know your fellow-students. They organize regular sports activities as well as parties, events and get-togethers. For more information see

https://www.phdl.at/ueber_uns/organisation/interessensvertretungen/studierendenvertretung/

2.8 Buddy System

Each academic year, the Vice-Rector appoints a student as “Chief-Buddy” who coordinates a buddy system for our incoming students. Your buddies will support you from the very beginning of your stay and will be your contact persons for all matters concerning everyday life in Austria and at the PHDL. See also chapter 4.1.2.

2.9 University Facilities and Services

- **Library and Media Centre**
 - PHDL-Library: includes an open access library with many English books
 - You get free access to the libraries of the Anton Bruckner Private University of Music, the Private Catholic University
 - discount on the library-card of the Johannes Kepler University Linz and the Upper Austrian State Library
- **Media Workshop**
In this open workspace you can ...
 - use all the hardware installed for free
 - consult our media-experts free of charge
 - create digital learning scenarios for your primary school-lessons
 See also <https://www.phdl.at/service/medien/medienwerkstatt>
- **It-Services**
e.g. email Service, E-Learning, computer rooms, [WI-FI](#) in most parts of the university
- **Advice and Counselling**
free professional counselling and psychotherapeutic advice - of course strictly confidential.

Psychologische Studierendenberatung
Phone: 0043 - 0732 - 2468 - 7930
psychol.studber@jku.at
Hochschulfondsgebäude, 1. Stock,
Altenbergerstraße 69, 4040 Linz

See also: <https://www.studierendenberatung.at/en/coming-to-a-new-country/>
- **PHDL - Canteen** (German: "Mensa")
There are menus at reduced prices available to you. For further information please contact the ÖH.
- **ÖH-cooking facilities**
Near the ÖH- office there are microwaves for you to heat up your lunch.
- **ÖH-office supply service** (German: "Mensa")
You can help yourself to paper and other office requisites for free at the ÖH-office.
- **Practice Rooms and Musical Instruments:**
You have access to several music rooms equipped with the following instruments
 - pianos
 - guitars
 - an organ
 - zither
 - accordions
 - percussion instruments

Orff-instruments

You may use all these instruments when no classes take place. However, the instruments must remain in the music rooms!

- **PHDL - Gym, Sports Grounds and Indoor Pool**
can be accessed free of charge at certain times within the weekly schedule
- **Sport and Games** organised by the ÖH
- **University Sports Institute – USI**
You have access to over 150 USI-courses at very reasonable rates. See also <https://www.iku.at/en/campus/recreation/sports-exercise>
- **Cooperation with the International Graduates Club in Linz**
The International Graduates Club offers opportunities for international students to get together at a central place in Linz and organizes joint events. Incoming students with an advanced level of German will take their German Language classes there:

Int. Graduates Club - Int. Cultural Lounge
OÖ Kulturquartier
OK-Platz 1, 1st floor
<http://www.international-graduates-club.at>

2.10 Online Erasmus+ Portal

The Online Erasmus+ Portal provides valuable information about your exchange. There are many documents and forms as well as the Erasmus Students' Charta available for downloading. See

https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/resources/documents/applicants_en

2.11 Erasmus Student Network (ESN)

Under the principle of “**Students Helping Students**” the international organisation “**Erasmus Student Network**” (ESN) offers opportunities for an exchange among visiting students and for self-development:

- **Valuable tips and information** (excursions, skiing trips, parties, ...):
<https://esn.org/students>
- ESN-student guide book for your mobility
https://www.phdl.at/fileadmin/user_upload/4_International/2_Outgoings/student-guidebook-2015.pdf
- ESN-facebook for more services like tandem language learning free of charge
- ESN- app for your mobile phone