

國立成功大學
高教深耕計畫出國報告書

報告名稱：黃亮瑜赴茵斯布魯克專業高等學院
Management Center Innsbruck 交換學期報告

出國期間：2023/2/8~2023/7/16

經費來源：高教深耕計畫

單位：成功大學能源工程國際學士學位學程

職稱：學士

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中華民國 112 年 7 月 22 日

中文摘要

學生黃亮瑜在 2023 年 2 月大四下經由成功大學推薦赴奧地利茵斯布魯克專業高等學院能源工程學系交換一學期，本報告紀錄了本人在此學期的所見所聞，報告從出國前需要進行的準備工作開始，包含奧地利 D 簽證的申請以及眾多獎學金機會，像是台灣-奧地利高教科研種籽基金獎學金等等。然後詳細說明至交換校的修課學習心得，並對於課程進行評價，第三部分談論國外生活見聞，包含我在當地參與的活動，最後以對於未來學生的建議做收尾。此報告適合任何準備或考慮要去奧地利留學的學生及其他人士閱讀。

English abstract

This report was written after I have completed my exchange semester from March to June 2023 in Management Center Innsbruck in Austria. I studied at the department of environment, process and energy. I documented the experience and information I have acquired during this semester. I started with the required preparation before leaving for Austria; this includes applying to an Austrian visa D and also mentioning many scholarship opportunities such as Taiwan Austria Scholarship and NCKU NOVA scholarship. Furthermore, I gave a detailed review on the courses I took in Austria. The courses I took were highly related to what I studied in Taiwan. They were Renewable energy, Quality and environmental management, just to name a few. I mentioned about the teaching style in this university from different professors and the local students' learning methods. Thirdly, I talked about the general living experiences including the public and private events that I have participated. I believe the most important part was how to find an accommodation in Innsbruck. Finally I gave suggestions to future students and scholars who are preparing or considering to study in Austria. This report can be helpful for students going to Austria, especially to those who go to the city Innsbruck.

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Preparation before the exchange semester

1. Visa: please go to Austrain Office Taipei website to obtain up-to-date information. From my personal experience, they were very efficient, as long as you provide all the required documents. You need the acceptance letter from the university, proof of insurance, proof of accommodation
2. Scholarships: there are plenty of scholarship opportunities for students going to Austria. Ernst Mach Grant, 台灣-奧地利高教科研種籽基金獎學金, NCKU NOVA scholarship, 學海獎學金. With those scholarships, you don't have to worry about how to finance your exchange semester.
3. Accommodation: This is probably the most time-consuming and stressful thing to do before going to Austria. One of the required document you need to submit to Austrain office to get a visa is the proof of your accommodation. If you can't find an accommodation in time, you might not be able to get a visa on time. I will share more experience regarding how to find an accommodation in Innsbruck in "Living" part.

MCI Welcoming week

The school organized this event before the semester officially kicked off. The people from the international office shared many useful insights and information about studying in Innsbruck. Most importantly, you got to meet many exchange students from all over the world. The highlight was the dinner at a traditional restaurant. We ate Knödel and drank beer. If you don't have other things to do, I suggest that it's better to join.

Academic

Understanding Austrian Society and Culture

Lecturer: Susanna LICHTMANNEGGER/ Brigitte HUTER/ Matthias SPARBER

Course overview: The course aims to provide background information and first-hand experiences of the Tyrolean and Austrian culture and way of life: music, literature, arts, politics, history, architecture, Austrian cuisine and the traditional Viennese coffee-house, Austrian customs and folk art etc. will be explored in form of class discussion, visits to local museums and excursions.

Lecture Time:

06	March	13:30	~	16:45	14	March	9:00	~	12:15
07	March	9:00	~	12:15	15	March	9:00	~	12:15
09	March	9:00	~	12:15	16	March	9:00	~	12:15
10	March	13:30	~	16:45	16	March	13:30	~	16:45

27 March 9:00 ~ 12:15 14 April 8:00 ~ 8:30 (Final exam)
30 March 9:00 ~ 12:15

This is my first lecture ever in MCI; therefore, I was extremely excited about it. The lecturer matched my expectation by introducing all the important aspect of the Austrian society and culture. Personally I am interested in politics and history, which were 2 important part of the lecture. One thing that surprised me was that we visited many places in Innsbruck so that we gained a better understanding of Innsbruck or Austria. We visited the Hofburg Innsbruck, Bergisel Ski Jump, and also learned how to dance waltz. All of the students in this course were exchange students and I got to know a lot of new people. The professors didn't put much pressure on us with assignments or exams because they knew we were exchange students. We only need to do a group presentation and a final exam. Ms. Lichtmannegger gave us a list of Austrian literature authors and each group had to choose one and make a presentation about this author. The final exam was multiple choses and the question covered all of the lectures, a lot of details to remember but I think it should not be a big challenge. In general I highly recommend exchange students to join this lecture because it allows us to learn a lot about Austria, and I believe this is important because having a basic understanding about our receiving country is a must.

Air pollution control

Lecturer: Jan Back

Course overview:

Students should be familiar the main chemical categories of air pollution and their environmental impact. They know important legal measures for emission reduction. They are able to layout basic operations in terms of dust removal from waste gas as well as gas purification by absorption, adsorption, thermal afterburning and catalytic afterburning.

Lecture Time:

08 March 10:45 ~ 14:30 23 March 9:45 ~ 13:45
09 March 11:30 ~ 15:30 29 March 10:45 ~ 14:30
15 March 10:45 ~ 14:30 12 April 10:45 ~ 14:30
22 March 10:45 ~ 14:30 27 April 9:00 ~ 10:30 (Final exam)

This was the most difficult course I took in Innsbruck. The professor spoke perfect English and was well prepared for the lecture. He uploaded all of this class notes and power points on Sakai (similar to Moodle in Taiwan), where we find resources and hand in the assignments. Personally I think he tried to cover so many subjects in such

a short time, therefore, we didn't have much time to do the exercises. For me, doing exercises is as important as explaining the theory because I understand the theory better through the process of solving real problems. All of my classmates suffered too and complained a lot because they didn't understand anything. The professor provided some example questions so at the end of the lecture, everyone is trying to solve them by ourselves. We have a whatsapp group where we discuss and share our answers, which I benefited a lot. We were allowed to bring class notes or computer (as long as it is not connected to the internet) during the final exam. Luckily the questions were much easier than the example ones. I scored a 3 (which equals to 70~80 points in Taiwan) in the end.

Renewable energy

Lecturer: Aldo Giovannini

Course overview:

Students are able to roughly layout decentralised energy generation processes based on solar and wind power and to evaluate their operation. They know the concepts of implemented plants and are able to evaluate them. Students will learn the basics to use a simulation program (using Polysun) for designing a solar thermal and/or PV system integrated into an entire heating and electricity system in combination with other components and depending on different load demands.

Lecture Time:

28	March	10:45	~	12:15	18	April	9:00	~	12:15
30	March	9:45	~	13:45	25	April	9:00	~	12:15
11	April	9:00	~	12:15	2	May	9:00	~	12:15
13	April	13:45	~	17:15	16	May	9:45	~	12:15
14	April	11:30	~	12:15					(Exam)

We talked about how to calculate the efficiency of a thermal collector and a wind turbine. The professor was patient and ready to answer any questions from the students. He explained the concept with details and example questions to enhance our understanding. The exam was not difficult; I would honestly say it is too easy for university level. It made me feel like I was taking a test from high school. At the last period of the class, he introduced a software called "Polysun", we used this software to estimate how much heat water or electricity a power plant can generate. It is super powerful because we don't need a lot of background knowledge about thermodynamic or electrical engineering, all we need to do is plug in the location and adjust some other coefficient, and the software will calculate and deliver the results.

Quality- and environmental management

Lecturer: Stefan Würzl

Course overview:

Students know the fundamentals of quality management and its context in the framework of an enterprise seen from a holistic perspective and the increasing importance of quality and logistics management. They have basic knowledge of the interaction of quality-related tools in the context of holistic corporate management and they understand the different concepts and focuses of quality management as well as environmental management.

Students understand the requirements of cyclic economy and use this knowledge in case studies and practical examples. They are able to gather and balance material and energy flows of processes, products and operations and make life cycle assessments in compliance with the ÖN-ISO standard. Besides they know the fundamentals of economic models of recycling economy and sustainable management.

Lecture Time:

24 April 13:00 ~ 18:00

16 May 13:00 ~ 18:00

09 May 13:00 ~ 18:00

01 June 9:00 ~ 12:15

15 May 11:30 ~ 17:15

15 June 9:00 ~ 10:30 (Final exam)

The professor of this course is extremely experienced not only in educating but also in the business industry. He worked in Swarovski for 19 years and thereby is able to provide us real life examples during the lectures. He introduced us many important methods to organize a better and more efficient team. I didn't have many courses talking about management since my home university focuses more on technical part. Therefore, the content of this course is completely new to me, which is what I am looking for to experience during my stay in Austria. I especially like one concept that the professor taught us, the fishbone diagram; it identifies many possible causes for an effect or problem. It can be used to structure a brainstorming session. I believe if we practice often enough, we will target the problem more accurately.

German conversation

Lecturer: Anika Schmid

We focused mainly speaking in this course, which is exactly what I need because I feel like I understand the others but I have trouble expressing myself. We usually discuss the current news happened in the world. I was thrilled to learn that we can take a German test in Innsbruck to obtain a certificate. I was determined to get a B2 certificate ever since. I took the exam on 26 May; I believe I have a good chance to pass the exam. In my daily life, I used German more than English, which helped me

to improve my language skill dramatically.

Extracurricular

China Center

One of the goals that I gave myself before coming to Austria is to learn more about what people here think about China, therefore, I contacted the head of the MCI China Center Ms. Wang. I expressed the wish to provide assistance if she organizes events for China Center. She kindly accepted and invited me to the event “UN Chinese Language Day”. I had a chance to sing a famous Chinese song 茉莉花 on stage. I was surprised when I saw the entire hall was full.

Career Messe Innsbruck 2023

This is an annual event in Innsbruck where many companies and universities will present themselves. It is a best opportunity to learn Austrian working market if you intent to work in Austria in the future. Also, there are a lot of universities from every corner of Austria, if you want to pursue a higher education in Austria; this event is also for you. I learned how international students can find jobs after their graduation and the legal requirements. Overall, this event was very informative to me since I planned to study my master in Europe.

Living

I applied to a student dorm via a website called oead student housing. The MCI recommended exchange students to apply to dorms using this website; therefore, I followed their advice. Because most of the exchange students use this website, the rooms were booked very fast. Please apply as early as possible. Otherwise it is quite challenging to find a cheap and well-equipped room in Innsbruck. However, I noticed that this website doesn't own those dorms; they are owned by other private companies such as WIST, House4student. Maybe it is also possible to apply trough their own websites and get a lower price. I encourage the future students to apply as soon as possible. In case the students' rooms are all booked, you have to look for private landlords, which will be more expensive and requires more time to find one. You can use Facebook to find a room as well. In fact, MCI also provided a list of dorms which exchange students can apply to.

Further accommodation possibilities:

- Villa Blanka: internat@villablanka.com (We recommend to also write that you are coming as an exchange student to MCI) – more information: www.villablanka.com

- Alpine Residence for Students: <https://www.ars-14.at/en-gb> - Room prices there are a bit more expensive (between 600 - 900€) but it is a newly build residence (some of the current Incoming students for fall semester are living there at the moment).
- Home4students:

Furthermore you can also find some very useful information on the website of the ESN student organization. You will find some helpful hints here: <http://innsbruck.esnaustria.org/living-innsbruck> They also have a Facebook group where students post some shared rooms in flats from time to time (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/651598215011452/>).

This is the official website of MCI talking about the accommodation <https://www.mci4me.at/en/student-life/student-life/student-life-accommodation>

There may also be offers on <https://wohnen.oehweb.at> - this website is provided by the local students' union ÖH and it is one of the most popular websites local students go to when searching for a flat/room). (It is in German though, and you need to look for furnished apartments – ideally it says “Zwischenmiete” at some point.) However, please note that anyone can post an offer on there, so scammers may be publishing on there as well.

Some signs that an offer may NOT be legit:

- The apartment has no exact address / house number, only a street name
- The landlord urges you to make a payment/deposit (never make any large payments in advance in general)
- The landlord gives you a foreign bank account (Austrian bank accounts start with “AT” – but again, never make large prepayments in advance)

In case you are not sure:

- Check the address on google maps (does the street exist? And does the house number exist in this street?)
- Check the photos with google picture search (do the same photos appear on other websites promoting a different room/apartment?)
- on websites offering apartments: check the Imprint/Company details (Are they based in Innsbruck/Austria? Is it an “.at” website?)
- ask your buddy (you will get the contact details of your buddy in January) or the International Relations Office for advice. Your buddy as well as the International Relations Team are always happy to help to try verifying an offer.

I lived at a dorm called Dr. Karl Kunst with the address of Dreieiligenstr. 9a Innsbruck. I highly recommend this dorm because it is close to MCI and main train station. The room is big and has almost everything I needed. What it didn't provide were hair dryer, cooking utensils and bed/pillow/quilt sheet. The kitchen was nice and you can meet many people there.

Cooking:

When you decide to study abroad, I believe you are aware of the high expense of eating in a restaurant. Cooking by yourself is a must if you don't want to go over your budget. I would say almost every accommodation you can find has kitchen, but not always have cooking utensils. I suggest an app called Willhaben to buy second hand goods. Unfortunately, this app has only German version but it should not be a problem. You can find many things you need on this app with very reasonable price. Cooking in the kitchen is an excellent opportunity to meet new people. You should keep your own stuff in a safe place because it might get stolen given that it is a public place.

Traveling:

Innsbruck is a small city. You can survive without a bike. I didn't have a bike because I lived very close to the university. I always walked or took the public transportation (tram or bus). You can buy Austrian Train Company's discount card if you intend to travel within Austria or its bordering countries. You can probably get the ÖBB Vorteils card Jugend since you are reading my report. It cost me 19 euro and it was valid for a year. With this card, you can enjoy a huge discount (50%) on trains operating in Austria. The border-crossing trains (for example, you want to go to Germany from Innsbruck) will be 25% off if you have this card. Other discounts can be found on ÖBB website. The earlier you book the train, the cheaper the tickets cost.

Bank and SIM card for telephone:

There are several banks in Innsbruck. I would recommend Sparkasse because it has an offer for student which they don't charge monthly fee. I tried to open a bank account with Bank of Austria but they didn't accept students who will only stay for one semester. Therefore, I went to Sparkasse and it was not a problem for them at all. The employees were super friendly and the opening process was easy. They do have people speaking English but the contract is in German. If you have any questions, it is preferable to ask them immediately and directly when you open an account. Otherwise you have to find someone to translate the contract for you. I also open an account with Revolut, which I highly recommend if you want to travel to countries that don't use euro as their currency. Please do your research to find the best option

for you.

As for sim card, I bought mine from a supermarket called Hofer. The card cost 2 euro and it has many tariffs for you to choose. I used “HoT smart” which cost 5.9 euro for 30 days with 7 GB internet (include 5.5 roaming in EU). When you buy the sim card, please bring your passport with you and ask the employee to activate the card for you.

Suggestions for future exchange students

German is important!!! If you come here with no German ability, you can survive but you will lose many opportunities. You can't participate in many events. I came here with German B2 level so I had a great time with very little problems. And since you are here in Innsbruck, go to a German course and learn or improve your German. If you stay here for more than 4 months and still can't order food in a restaurant in German, it is very embarrassing to me. You are an exchange student and spend a lot of money coming here (probably your PARENTS' money), you need to learn something. Don't just think about travelling.

Stop hanging out with Taiwanese people. I agree that they can be helpful when you miss home or have troubles. But being an exchange student is a one-time opportunity in your life. You didn't go to Innsbruck to speak Chinese or doing the same things as in Taiwan.