



Austrian-EU Summer School | University of Salzburg

| FOR APAC

Short-term Study Abroad Program Report

0. Overview

- ☐ **Program Name:** FOR APAC International Austrian-EU Summer School 2026
- ☐ **Host Institution:** University of Salzburg
- ☐ **Program Period:** July 12, 2026 – August 8, 2026 (4-Week Program)
- ☐ **Key Destinations:** Paris, Reims, Leuven, Brussels, Heidelberg, Salzburg, and Vienna (4 Countries / 7 Cities)
- ☐ **Objectives:**
 - (1) Gain diverse European academic and cultural perspectives.
 - (2) Take English-medium modular lectures across multidisciplinary subjects.
 - (3) Build an international academic network with global students.
- ☐ **Summary of Outcomes:**
 - (1) Successfully completed modular lectures, field trips, and earned 5 ECTS credits.
 - (2) Expanded academic horizons across humanities, social sciences, climate change, and international relations.
 - (3) Built global networks with students from various Asia-Pacific and European regions.
 - (4) Enhanced adaptability, intercultural competence, and global mindset.

1. General Impression

☐ Expanding Academic and Spatial Horizons

Having experienced various overseas campuses such as NYU Paris and the Irish College Leuven, the unique spatial composition of the University of Salzburg was truly exceptional. The Old Town campus connected smoothly with cultural landmarks—ranging from the witty 'Cucumber Statue' (Gurken) in Wilhelm-Furtwängler-Garten to the Festival Hall District (Festspielbezirk). This provided an inspiring atmosphere where academia, history, and art naturally blended into daily life. The curriculum went beyond traditional knowledge delivery. Covering philosophical inquiries into the "good life," depth psychology, climate change policy, Irish traditional instruments, and Sino-European relations, it challenged me to ask fundamental questions about society and my own life.

☐ **Global Network and Mindset(Slow Life/Dog-friendly Environment)**

Thanks to the seamless management of the FOR APAC Team and dedicated coordinators, I was able to interact deeply with open-minded, high-achieving students from all over the world. Sharing cultural insights while visiting local restaurants recommended by friends from China, Taiwan, and the Balkans was one of the most valuable assets of this journey. The program maintained a well-balanced schedule among field visits, academic lectures, and free time while ensuring a safe environment throughout.

Experiencing the local 'Slow Life' allowed me to reset my pace away from the fast-forward rhythm of Korea. While early store closings (around 6:00 PM), holiday shutdowns, and the restrained use of air conditioning presented minor inconveniences, they offered a profound understanding of Europe's eco-friendly philosophy and its natural adaptation to climate change. Furthermore, the pervasive dog-friendly culture—where well-trained dogs naturally accompanied their owners on public transit and in restaurants—clearly reflected the community's high level of inclusivity toward both animals and others.

2. Regional Activities & Cultural Life

[France] Paris & Reims (July 12 – July 18)

- ☐ Paris: Staying at ibis Paris Bastille Opéra, I spent my personal time exploring the Le Marais district. Visiting the Musée Picasso for Henry Taylor's special exhibition, offered a deep emotional resonance through vivid brushwork. I also enjoyed peaceful moments on the lawn surrounded by red-brick buildings at Place des Vosges. Lighting a candle with a small donation at Église Saint-Paul-Saint-Louis, visiting the Palais Galliera fashion museum, and staying up late with friends to watch the July 14th National Day fireworks at the Eiffel Tower all added rich, personal layers to my Paris experience.
- ☐ Reims: We visited the Notre-Dame de Reims Cathedral, famous for the 'Smiling Angel' (*L'Ange au Sourire*), and enjoyed the exterior light show (Regalia). Listening to a pipe organ performance up close accompanied by the coordinator's live Mozart vocal performance (Soprano singing) was an unforgettable, moving experience. Browsing local tastes at the local H&M store also provided small, lighthearted enjoyment.

[Belgium] Leuven & Brussels (July 18 – July 23)

- ☐ **Academic & Daily Life:** Residing at the historic 'Irish College Leuven' and eating at the student Mensa, I briefly experienced the authentic rhythm of studying in Europe. Visiting the small chapel where Father Damien rests added a solemn sense of history.
- ☐ **Institutional Visits & Cultural Experiences:** In Brussels, we visited the European Commission for briefings by international officials and explored the European Parliament exhibition (*Parlamentarium*) to observe global decision-making centers firsthand. Beyond field trips to nearby Ghent and Bruges, I spent Belgian National Day relaxing at the M-Museum Leuven café and enjoying panoramic views from the narrow spiral staircase of the KU Leuven University Library.

on Ladeuzeplein. Bondings over Belgian waffles, frites, moules-frites, local Korean restaurants, and karaoke fostered deep cross-border friendships.

[Germany] Heidelberg (July 23 – July 25)

- ☐ **Harmony of History and Literature:** Riding the funicular up to Heidelberg Castle and hiking up the steep Philosopher's Walk (Philosophenweg) yielded spectacular night views of the castle and red-roofed cityscape. At the historic Church of the Holy Spirit (Heiliggeistkirche), I attended a pipe organ concert featuring works by Bach alongside modern organ compositions by Torsten Laux. Tasting 'Schweinehaxe', 'Saucenschnitzel', and local German beer at Vetter's Alt-Heidelberger Brauhaus delivered a direct taste of traditional German culinary culture.

[Austria] Salzburg (July 25 – August 3)

- ☐ **Academic, Natural & Cultural Convergence:** I immersed myself in the vibrant atmosphere of the Salzburg Festival in the Festspielbezirk. Taking bus line 151 up to the Gaisberg peak, I enjoyed a picnic while watching paragliders over the Alps. On campus, taking classes at the Stefan Zweig Centre followed by interactive quiz events rewarded with Mozartkugeln made learning dynamic. Climbing the hill to Kapuzinerberg to light a candle and sign the guest book at the monastery church added a moment of quiet reflection.
- ☐ **Excursions:** The playful Trick Fountains (Wasserspiele) tour at Hellbrunn Palace brought back childhood joy. We took a scenic boat ride on Lake Wolfgang (Wolfgangsee) and explored the UNESCO World Heritage site of Hallstatt. Cruising along the Grossglockner High Alpine Road at an altitude of 3,798 meters for an on-site field lecture on <Climate Change on High Mountains> conveyed both the majestic scale of nature and the stark realities of climate change. Attending a free outdoor performance by a traditional brass band (Salzburg Promenade Concert) at Mirabell Gardens truly showcased the cultural richness of the birthplace of classical music.

[Austria] Vienna (August 3 – August 8)

- ☐ **Historical Spaces & Personal Memories:** Based near Vienna West Station (Wien Westbahnhof), I visited 'Alt & Neu', a famous vinyl record shop known from the film 'Before Sunrise'. My schedule included an audio-guided tour of Schönbrunn Palace, an art-historical exploration at the Kunsthistorisches Museum, and a guided group tour of the Vienna State Opera (Wiener Staatsoper). At the Musikverein's Brahms Hall, I had the privilege of sitting directly behind the performers—who wore 18th-century costumes and wigs—to enjoy a Mozart and Strauss concert.
- ☐  **My Birthday & UN Visit & Farewell:** A guided tour of UNO-City (Vienna International Centre) provided practical insights into the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A personal highlight occurred on my birthday when the coordinator made a surprise announcement during class to celebrate with the entire cohort, presenting me with a box of chocolates. The day became even more unforgettable when my classmates and friends—with a special thanks to six close friends, including a student from my home university (UOS)—threw a surprise party that night. On the final day, we concluded our journey with a farewell dinner at Weingut Feuerwehr-Wagner's garden terrace, engaging in final small-group discussions and sharing meaningful reflections.

3. Academic Courses & Learning Reflections

❖ Overview of Course Structure

- The program featured modular lectures taught by esteemed faculty from top European institutions across Paris, Leuven, Heidelberg, Salzburg, and Vienna. Rather than focusing narrowly on a single major, the general introductory format enabled me to expand my intellectual boundaries well beyond my primary field of study.

❖ Key Modules & Reflections

- **[Field Lecture in the Alps] Climate Change on High Mountains**
 - Content: An on-site lecture held at the Grossglockner in the heart of the Alps (3,798m elevation).
 - Key Takeaway: Stepping out of the classroom to witness the real-world impact of climate change in the High Alps—complemented by the professor's lecture after lunch—made this the most unique and immersive curriculum of the program.
 - **Psychology & Philosophy of the Good Life**
 - Content: Lectures questioning the nature of human happiness and what constitutes a "good life" (Philosophy and the Good Life & Worldviews and the Concept of the Human Being).
 - Key Takeaway: Engaging with profound psychological and philosophical questions provided a meaningful opportunity to pause and reflect on personal values amid a busy life.
 - **Musicology, Philosophy & Literature**
 - Musicology & Cultural Sustainability: As a music student, this lecture was intellectually eye-opening. Deconstructing the piano beyond a mere musical instrument, the session addressed historical uses of ivory, environmental ethics, and the concept of "cultural sustainability," prompting me to re-examine art and instruments through a broader societal lens.
 - Traditional Instruments: Learning about the structure, timber, and global distribution of Irish bagpipes—accompanied by live demonstrations—broadened my appreciation of world music traditions.
 - Literature & Humanism: Studying Stefan Zweig and visiting the Stefan Zweig Centre highlighted his intellectual curiosity and his humanist vision for a united Europe, leaving a lasting impression on humanistic values.
 - **History, Human Rights & Sino-European Relations**
 - French History & Human Rights: Explored the historical evolution of European society, the European Convention on Human Rights, and case studies on universal values.
 - Sino-European Relations & Diplomacy: Examined modern international relations, diplomatic practices, and the long history of European scholarship on China. This provided clear frameworks for understanding contemporary East-West relations.
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❖ Learning Atmosphere & Assessment

- Interactive Discussion Culture: Classes favored open, two-way dialogues where professors and students interacted as equals. Discussions were enriched by diverse cultural and academic backgrounds.
- Assessment Methods: Academic performance was evaluated through a multiple-choice mid-term examination, small-group final discussions, a final examination, and comprehensive presentations. These assessments offered structured opportunities to synthesize a month's worth of learning.

4. Personal Reflection

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It's never too late to learn

- As a transfer student older than many of my fellow participants, engaging in this short-term study abroad program demonstrated that true academic growth and genuine friendships transcend age, nationality, majors, and degree levels. Exchanging ideas with open-minded peers worldwide reaffirmed that learning and human connection carry no expiration date or boundaries. The expanded global mindset and personal growth gained from this experience will serve as invaluable assets for my future journey.



Night View from Philosopher's Walk, Heidelberg



(Left) Mirabell Palace and Gardens, Salzburg



(Right) Vienna Mozart Concert at Brahms Hall, Musikverein



Scenic View during Lake Wolfgang (Wolfgangsee) Boat Tour



(Left) Grossglockner High Alpine Road & Pasterze Glacier, Austria.

(Right) View from Hohensalzburg Fortress, Salzburg
