



OUTCAN Info Sheet 2020

Vienna, Austria

LOCATION

Country: Austria

Town: Vienna

Entry/Exit requirements: Green/Blue passports and posting travel orders are issued for the family along with SOFA stamped in the passport for members and dependents.

Other info to Consider:

- Family (non-dependants) can visit and stay 90 days **without visa** (Schengen Area).

POPULATION

Size: Vienna is Austria's most-populous city, with about 1.9 million inhabitants (2.6 million within the metropolitan area, nearly one third of the country's population).

Ethnicity: 61.2% Austrian, 38.8% Other.

LANGUAGE(S)

Official language: German.

Prevalence of French or English speaking: The standard of education in Austria is very high, so pretty well all schoolchildren get a solid grounding in English.

COST OF LIVING

Exchange rate to consider: Euro

QUALITY OF LIFE

Climate and potential for severe weather, natural disasters:

- Vienna has a typical dry continental climate, with warm summers and cold (often bitterly so) winters.
- Heavy rains may occur in the spring and summer, sometimes resulting in flooding and mudslides.
- In winter, heavy snowfalls may occur in towns and ski resorts. They may also make roads made impassable.

Laws and Culture:

- It is illegal to cover your face in public places in Austria. Failure to comply can lead to heavy fines.
- Penalties for possession, use or trafficking of illegal drugs are severe. Convicted offenders can expect a jail sentence and a heavy fine.
- You should carry an international driving permit or a German translation of your driver's licence.
- If you are in Austria for more than 12 months, you must obtain an Austrian licence.
- You must be 18 years old to drive in Austria.
- Penalties for drinking and driving are severe. The legal blood alcohol limit is 0.05 percent. If convicted, you can expect heavy fines, and local authorities can confiscate your driver's licence on the spot
- The use of a cellular telephone while driving is prohibited, unless it is fitted with a hands-free device.

Safety and Security:

- Petty crime such as pickpocketing and purse snatching occur.

Level of isolation:

- There is only one Canadian family posted to Vienna.
- This post is considered remote, and has limited access to French, risk of feeling isolated.

HOUSING

- It is recommended that you ask your sponsor, during your HHT for a list of all the points of contact at CFSU(E) in Geilenkirchen so you can call if you encounter any support issues as you transition to your rental property.

EMPLOYMENT

Are there employment opportunities for spouses? There are very limited employment opportunities available through CFMWS, so families should plan to be single income for the duration of the posting.

HEALTH CARE

Access: Health care is excellent, and comparable to Canadian standards.

- English services are widely available, French is very limited.
- All bills associated with the care of dependents are the member's personal responsibility and are to be claimed through PSHCP.

Resources for children with special needs:

- Depending on language required (English/French), area of specialization and degree of support needed.
- It may be a wait before finding an appropriate match and at times may not be possible based on availability of English/French speaking providers or resources.
- It is highly advised that the family consult with Medical Screening Officer in Canada and / or the Canadian Element to ensure that the required services are readily available in either English or French before accepting a posting

Consideration for pregnancy / birth: Health care for pregnancy and birth is available on the economy.

Dental: Dental care can be accessed in town. You are required to pay up front, and you can then claim your expenses.

SCHOOLING

- Schooling is typically at the in American International School (IB) for grades K-12 and Lycée Français de Vienne for grades K-12.

Curriculum vs. Canadian curriculum:

- The curriculum varies depending on choice of school.
- The English International Schools offer American curriculum, and the French school offers French curriculum
- None of them offers Canadian history or geography at the elementary level.

Resources for special need children:

- Special needs services, depending on language required (English/French), area of specialization and degree of support needed, it may be very limited.
- Consult with CEM and school prior to any commitments.

CHILDCARE

Things to Consider:

- Local childcare is available.
- When choosing local childcare there is no guarantee that staff will be English or French speaking.

TRANSPORTATION

Things to Consider: Vienna Airport (VIE)

- You should carry an international driving permit or a German translation of your driver's licence.

RESOURCES AND AMENITIES

Is there a Military Family Services centre available in that location?

- No, under MFS(E) Riga & Remote.

Psychosocial / Mental Health Resources:

- Not at post, MFSE SW for dependants only, CAF SW/Mental Health Team for member and family are located in Geilenkirchen, Germany. Padre is located in Italy.

Communications (e.g. Quality of Internet connection): Good, widely available, depending on provider and location.

ACTIVITIES

Access to sports or other leisure activities: Plenty available on the economy, no guarantee for English/French speaking teams

Availability of playgrounds: Yes.

RESTRICTIONS TO CONSIDER

Are common law relationships recognized? Yes

Are same sex couples recognized? Yes

Medications that are illegal in the country: Use without a prescription of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances is illegal.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- **European Commission Country Reports (2019)**
https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/2019-european-semester-country-reports_en
- **Canadian Travel Advisories**
<https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories>
- **CIA World Factbooks (One Pagers from US)**
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/pl.html>
- **Living Abroad (from Gov.UK)**
<https://www.gov.uk/topic/help-british-nationals-overseas/europe>
- **Consumer Price Index (CPI)**
<https://data.imf.org/?sk=4FFB52B2-3653-409A-B471-D47B46D904B55>

For more comprehensive information, please feel free to reach out to the resources below;

- **MFS(E) Social Worker :** Chebat.Myriam@cfmws.com or Myriam.Chebat@Forces.gc.ca
- **CAF Social Worker:** Martin.Laferrieresimard@forces.gc.ca
- **MFS(E) Riga Remote:** + 371 231 16 869, MFSE.Rigaremote@cfmws.com
- **MFS(E) Regional Office:** +49 (0) 2451-717-173, MFS.Europe@cfmws.com