

Travel Report by Helena

My experience with Actilingua was so enriching, not only thanks to the language learning experience but also the opportunity to fully embrace and immerse myself in Viennese culture. Having taken intensive language courses before, Actilingua surpassed my expectations. The school and its staff are organised, approachable, and helpful, consistently making sure you are happy with the course and accommodation.

Classes

My German classes with Actilingua were always interesting, engaging, and informative. Our teachers were prepared to go above and beyond to help us progress, for example, my teacher often printed me off my own children's stories and marked writing I had worked on in my free time. Complimenting my intensive morning classes with study and revision outside of class helped me make progress very quickly, and I went from hardly being able to speak German at all to having a confident grasp on the language in a matter of weeks. The variety between the two morning lessons not only meant that classes never became boring, but also that all four language skills (reading, writing, listening, speaking) were regularly exercised, practiced, and improved. Classes were small, which made it easy to ask questions and request a further explanation from the teacher.



Our class was very diverse, with a huge variety in age and nationality and despite these differences, the school provided an inclusive and relaxed environment where it became easy for us to get to know each other, learn together and become friends regardless. It was a unique experience to get to meet so many different people.

Free time

Having the afternoons and evenings free also gave us a lot of freedom to explore Vienna, and there is always lots to do! One of Vienna's most beautiful buildings, the Belvedere Palace, is just across the school and we often would take lunch to eat in the Botanical Gardens or the area around the palace, enjoying the last of the September sun. Stephansplatz, MuseumsQuartier, Stadtpark and so much more are walkable from the school and are just some of the places we visited. The river is also beautiful and a great place to go swimming, play beach volleyball, go for a run, or just relax! The school itself also arranges a cultural programme with regular events throughout the week, as well as weekend excursions. One of my favourite events was the kaiserschmarrn masterclass evening, where we were taught how to make the traditional Austrian dish and then eat the product! The school's cultural programme also allows a natural exposure to the German language, as the events are conducted in German too!



Accommodation

During my course with Actilingua, I stayed in the student residence with 3 other girls a similar age to me. Having come from all different parts of the world, we were able to share our cultures over a common interest in the German language, and we all became good friends. I loved that the accommodation was always kept exceptionally clean and was also relatively modern. The rooms are large and well equipped with plenty of storage space, big windows, and even a television for some extra German learning immersion! The best part about the accommodation is its location to the school; it takes only 30 minutes to walk, and even less time on the tram or train. Various public transport stations are all a short walk from the accommodation, which makes getting into the centre simple and almost effortless. There is an abundance of supermarkets, restaurants, cafes, and shops also across the road, not to mention the central location truly adds to the Viennese living experience.



Summary

Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Actilingua. Not only did I make excellent friends and live in a beautiful city, but I also massively improved my German and I feel confident to use what I have learned and continue to build upon it now I have returned home. For anyone considering embarking on a German course, I highly recommend Actilingua in Vienna – go for it, you won't regret it!

