

Universität Innsbruck, Carl Andersson

Innsbruck is special. From the majestic mountains, that watches over the relatively small city, and the towering Nordkette (in the north) that will too often draw your attention from class, to the very open and free-minded inhabitants, there seemingly is something here for everyone.

I would particularly recommend a semester in Innsbruck to someone who enjoy outdoors activities. In this category, Innsbruck, and especially the alps, certainly delivers. There is what I would call, “three pillars of the Innsbruck experience”. These are skiing, biking, and hiking, coincidentally all of them involves the mountains. Shocker! I’ve grown particularly fond of the latter, hiking, it eliminates all forms of stress and gives a true peace of mind.

Now, away from the mountains and into the classroom. There aren’t many courses held in English, which creates some problems when creating a schedule, I found myself scrambling for courses since many crashed with each other. This is of course not a problem if you speak German. Another problem, and this might be a deal-breaker; the semester in Austria starts in October and ends in February (the exam week is in February), meaning that if you have a consecutive semester in Sweden, you will miss around one month. So be prepared to perhaps extend your studies in Sweden with one semester. Anyways, how are the courses themselves? If you can get over the German accent, and, or the Bavarian if you happen to study in German, you will find challenging and interesting courses. I would personally recommend the “Strategic Management”- course. Very inspiring!

Conclusively, school is cool. Now to accommodation.

I lived at the “Akademikerhilfe” (basically “academic help”), and while I have no problems with the rooms and dorm overall, I wished it would have been more central. It takes around an hour to walk from the dorm to the university. So, if you want to sleep an hour longer, I recommend you to either get a bus card or a bike, preferably the bus card (around €120). Either that or you seek accommodation more centrally. The rent was around €320, but this can naturally change in one year. And while being on the subject (sort of), let’s talk about money.

Innsbruck is fairly expensive, in fact, it’s the most expensive city in Austria. Except for beer, beer is cheap. I found myself spending the most of my budget during the first month of my stay (Lederhosen, Oktoberfest, “German life”), until I calmed down and found a rhythm. This could of course have been due to my lack of experience as an exchange student, so see this as a fair warning to all you first-timers, spend moderately! Also, if you plan to enjoy the “three pillars of the Innsbruck experience” I recommend you to buy the “Freizeitticket”. It costs €450 and gives you free access to basically all the cable cars and summits in the area, however not the busses (!!).

The Erasmus Student Network, abbreviated ESN, organises many activities in order for new students to meet each other.

Overall, Innsbruck gave me an unforgettable experience that I’ll never forget. Below you’ll find some snapshots of the city.

Feel free to contact me about stuff, i.e. the exchange: carl.pj.andersson@gmail.com

Viel Erfolg!



Colorful houses by the Inn



A hiker's reward



My first hike <3



And we finish with DJ-Santa