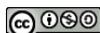




# GUIDELINES

## Welcome to Austria

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VINCE | Validation for inclusion of new citizens in Europe  
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## Introduction

Questions about living in **Austria**, which refugees and migrants frequently ask have been formulated and the answers provided. There are four categories of FAQs:

- **General information about this country**
- **Conditions for refugees during and after asylum seeking**
- **System of schools & education**
- **Systems for transport, working and health**

All the questions are answered with an overview; hyperlinks to websites for more detailed information and sources are provided. The HE professional can use the questions and answers, as appropriate, but may wish to customise the answer to his or her institution.

When appropriate, references are made to other VINCE guidelines.

## General information about Austria

It is important for people arriving in a new country to get to know it as quickly as possible, e.g. can I get financial support? Many practical issues are important such as transport in the region, how to find a job or continue with education.

In Austria, the following websites provide basic information:

The Federal Government: Living and Working in Austria”: [migration.gv.at](http://migration.gv.at)

Further general information about Austria:

Travel guide: <https://www.austria.info>

Wikipedia - Austria

[The World Factbook: Austria](#)

[About Austria: Facts and Figures](#)

### ***Q: What are the main cities/universities of this country?***

**A:** The following websites provide an overview of the universities in Austria:

[Studieren.at](#) (in German)

[Studieren in Österreich](#) [www.studieren.at](http://www.studieren.at) (in German)

Universities of Applied Sciences: [www.fachhochschulen.at](http://www.fachhochschulen.at) (in German)

***Q: What is the political system like in this country?***

**A:** In this context, it is a good idea to understand the political system in Austria. The following topics are important:

- Constitution
- Parliament
- Electoral system
- European Union ([www.eu.eu](http://www.eu.eu))

Wikipedia explains politics in Austria: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politics\\_of\\_Austria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politics_of_Austria)

***Q: What are the main industries/sources of economic wealth in this country?***

**A:** The “Economic Situation and Outlook”, June 2019, published by the WKO (Austrian Chamber of Commerce) is available in English on the internet ([www.wko.at](http://www.wko.at)). Wikipedia (“Austria/Economy”) also provides an overview of the economy and infrastructure.

## Conditions for refugees during and after seeking asylum

**Q: What are the rights & entitlements, responsibilities and obligations of citizens/refugees/ migrants in this country?**

The following information may be useful:

The Geneva convention (<https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>)

The European Union; Human Rights and Democracy: [https://europa.eu/european-union/topics/human-rights\\_en](https://europa.eu/european-union/topics/human-rights_en)

For migrants in Austria, information from the Federal Government can be found here: <https://www.bmi.gv.at/> (in German).

**Q: What financial support is available to refugees and migrants?**

**A:** Information, in German is available here: <https://www.bmi.gv.at/>

**Q: Where can refugees stay during the formal process of asylum seeking?**

**A:** for the state of Burgenland, information can be found (in German) here: <https://kommunal.at/node/29525>

**Q: How can a migrant learn the local language?**

**A:** German is spoken in Austria and almost all of the courses at the University of Applied Sciences Burgenland are held in German.

Local councils offer basic German courses to migrants. There are also a number of online courses available such as duolingo (<https://en.duolingo.com/>) and memrise ([www.memrise.com](http://www.memrise.com)).

***Q: How can migrants find accommodation?***

**A:** This depends of the legal status, as referred to above. Having had the permission to stay, the person with a refugee background will normally be responsible by him or herself to find accommodation or will be supported by the local council.

## The school and education system

### ***Q: How does the education system work in this country?***

**A:** The Austrian Federal Ministry for Education provides an overview of the Austrian education system in English on their website: <https://bildung.bmbwf.gv.at/enfr/index.html>

### ***Q: What is the national qualification system in this country?***

**A:** The National Qualification Framework (NQF) forms the qualification system of the country. The NQF is an important tool for everyone who seeks education and for the labour market and education institutions. The aim of the Qualification Framework is to demonstrate the qualification level of the education together with the expected learning outcome, to make clear the different pathways through the education system and to increase mutual recognition between the national and the foreign qualifications.

#### **Eight levels**

The NQF is a coherent, systematic and levelled description of qualifications, achieved within the national education system. For each level there is a level description, characterizing important aspects of the level. Each level is described with the concepts: knowledge, skills and competences, which altogether characterizes the learning outcome for the level.

For the Qualification Framework in Austria, please check their website:

<https://www.qualifikationsregister.at/en/>

### ***Q: Is there any support for migrants who want to enter higher education in Austria?***

**A:** Please refer to the [Welcome to Higher Education Guidelines](#).

### ***Q: How can competences be recognised? How is the validation of prior learning handled in this country?***

**A:** Austria has a decentralised system of validating prior learning, in other words it is the responsibility of each institution. Each institution can decide themselves how they will handle competences gained without formal certification.

Enic-Naric does, however, provide information about the recognition of professional and academic qualifications in Austria: <https://www.enic-naric.net/>.

Please also refer to the [“Welcome to Validation”-guidelines](#).

## Systems for transport, health and working

### ***Q: What is the public transport system like? How can people travel?***

**A:** “Just Landed” is a good starting point: <https://www.justlanded.com/english/Austria>

Information on the railway system, run by the Österreichische Bundesbahnen (ÖBB):

<https://www.oebb.at/en/>

Getting around Austria by bus (Postbus): <https://www.postbus.at/en/>

In Eisenstadt, the “Stadtbus” has several routes around Eisenstadt during the day. Further information can be found in German: [www.stadtbus.at](http://www.stadtbus.at)

### ***Q: How does the health system work? What are migrants entitled to and how can they register?***

**A:** Refugees are granted basic medical cover in Austria. Further information for migrants is given by the relevant Austrian Federal Ministry: <https://www.migration.gv.at/en/welcome/>

### ***Q: How can I find a job in this country?***

**A:** Details for job seekers can be found the relevant Austrian Federal Ministry’s website:

<https://www.migration.gv.at/en/welcome/>

## Links used for the these guidelines

European Commission: About asylum seeking

[https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/asylum\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/asylum_en)

Suggestions for country-specific facts and figures as a general introduction to the country.

<http://www.austria.org/overview/>

Wikipedia: about the general NQF system

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National\\_Qualifications\\_Framework](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Qualifications_Framework)

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