

Information for International Students: Invitation to Participate in the Admission Exam

Dear applicants,

we are pleased that you are interested in studying at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna. We have compiled the following information on visa requirements to assist you in your preparations for your trip to Vienna for the admission exam. If you have any questions, please contact:

- Student Welcome Center: studentwelcome@akbild.ac.at
- Austrian Student Union: oeantiraref@akbild.ac.at

With best regards,
Academy of Fine Arts Vienna

1. Citizens of the member states of the European Union (EU) and of the European Economic Area (EEA)

Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Island, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Sweden, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, UK¹ and Switzerland

You only require a **valid travel document** (e.g. passport) for entering Austria. Citizens of these countries **do not require a visa**.

2. Citizens of all other countries (so-called „third countries“)

For you different regulations apply, depending on whether a bilateral agreement exists between your countries of citizenship and Austria on an exemption of visa requirements, or not. Please contact the competent [Austrian representative authority](#) (embassy, consulate general) to enquire about what applies to you.

2.1. If you are allowed to enter Austria without a visa

You only need a valid travel document for your trip to Austria. However, please make sure in advance that you know the exact time for which you may stay in Austria without a visa.

2.2. If you require a visa in order to enter Austria

We urge you to contact our [registrar's office](#) by email **as soon as you have received the invitation to participate in the admission exam**. Please include the following information in your message:

- your full name,
- your date of birth,
- your citizenship,
- the study program for which you are applying,
- a photocopy of your passport (scanned and sent by email).

The registrar's office will then send you a so-called *conditional letter of admission (Bescheid über die bedingte Zulassung)*, which you will need to present at the Austrian representative authority when you apply for your visa for the trip to Vienna in order to participate in the admission exam.

Since processing your visa application will take some time, we strongly recommend that you **consult the website of the Austrian representative authority and apply for a visa "C" as soon as you have received the conditional letter of admission**. The competent [Austrian representative authority](#) will provide you with important information on the visa application process; required documents, forms etc.

Please note that this visa C will enable you to **stay in Austria only for the duration of the admission exam**. After the exam you will have to leave Austria. If you pass the exam, you will need to apply again for a different visa type and residence permit, respectively. This application must again be submitted to a competent Austrian representative authority outside the Schengen Area. You will receive detailed information on this process together with the notification of admission from the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna.

Please note: The Academy of Fine Arts Vienna is in no position to give legal advice on matters of immigration law. This handout is for information purposes only and constitutes a compilation of information provided by the [Austrian Exchange Service](#) and [Municipal Department 35](#).

¹ Brexit on January 31st 2020. No changes until the end of the transition period on January 1st 2021.