

IES: Vienna: Music Travel Costs

If you had asked me only two years ago what my life plan was, I would've told you I was going to be a professional opera singer. However, as I decided whether or not to attend conservatory, I watched the devastating effects the pandemic had on the arts world. I learned that the Metropolitan Opera - one of the *best* opera houses in the world, couldn't pay their performers. If even they couldn't pay their singers, what would my financial prospects look like in this career? That day, I committed to UVA.

That may sound like a bit of a sob story, but it's not. I'm still studying music, I participate in the University Singers, take voice lessons, and sing in an a cappella group with my best friends. My life plan has shifted to something that I'm really excited about: becoming a speech language pathologist and specializing in vocal rehabilitation for singers, combining both classical voice and speech pathology. I've also decided to study abroad with the IES: Austria: Vienna: Music program, where I will get a taste of that high school dream: singing opera in Europe.

My first goal for my study abroad is to hone my skill in classical voice. In Vienna, I will be completely immersed in opera, using not only my classes in theory, performance, history, and composition to become a better musician, but also taking advantage of the city around me. Today, Vienna is colloquially known as "the capital of classical music". It's where Mozart created most of his works and where Beethoven studied under Haydn. It's home to the Vienna State Opera and the Theater an der Wien, where Beethoven's famous Fifth Symphony premiered. I'm choosing an IES program rather than a direct exchange because I'm looking for more of a cultural experience than one where I'm confined to a college. I want to mirror living in the city, taking advantage of the program's opportunities to explore concert halls and attend rehearsals. I'll take lessons from teachers with completely new perspectives and find opportunities to globally network with European musicians, something I haven't had the opportunity to do before. I will be taking the entry-level German courses offered through the program, and have already started learning the language at home to prepare. Especially during the pandemic, this experience will be a lesson in flexibility and resilience. I will have to fly by myself for the first time and be prepared for changes that may come with pandemic instability.

If provided with funding, I will use this \$500 to go towards paying for my airplane tickets to get to Austria in August, and back home in December, supporting, as the Miller Arts Website states, "travel expenses...for additional training in an artistic discipline". I haven't purchased the tickets yet, but based on initial research, I predict the tickets will cost around \$900. Clearly, this mini grant will not fund this entire study abroad experience; however, this is one of many scholarships and grants I am applying for. There aren't many scholarships available that would cover the entirety of my study abroad, so I have been applying to many smaller grants and scholarships to pay for the various costs of my time studying in Austria.

I don't imagine there will be a situation where I am not accepted to this program; having spoken to my study abroad advisor, she said that this program is inclusive rather than selective, so I will get in as long as I submit my application.

Proposal Schedule

Spring 2022

- Complete IES and UVA study abroad applications

Summer 2022

- Purchase plane tickets with Miller Arts Minigrant funding
- Obtain study abroad visa

August 2022

- Fly to Vienna and begin taking classes

Fall 2022

- Continue to study music and explore Vienna, documenting my experiences to share in my outcome presentation.

Proposed Budget

Item: Washington D.C. <-> Vienna Round trip airplane tickets

Cost: ~\$900

Sample of Ticket Prices:

The image shows a screenshot of flight search results for roundtrip tickets from Washington D.C. (IAD) to Vienna (VIE). There are four options listed, each with a price, flight duration, and the operating airline.

Flight Time	Price	Airline	Stopover
5:15pm - 9:40pm +1	\$835	SAS - SAS 9412 operated by Austrian Airlines	22h 25m (1 stop) in CPH
5:15pm - 11:30am +1	\$895	SAS - SAS 9408 operated by Austrian Airlines	12h 15m (1 stop) in CPH
5:35pm - 12:35pm +1	\$896	TAP Portugal	13h 0m (1 stop) in LIS
11:00pm - 6:25pm +1	\$946	Turkish Airlines	13h 25m (1 stop) in IST