

*[Opening Music, plays continually through the introduction]*

### **Introduction**

Hello and welcome to this episode of Global, Here and Now - a podcast where the Poole College of Management Global Programs team showcases a variety of unique ways to engage globally. I'm your host Ellen Frost and today, we're going to highlight one of our most popular semester study abroad programs - Vienna University of Economics and Business in Vienna, Austria. Now, Let's Go Global.

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### **Lead-In to Topic**

NC State University has over 100+ locations for semester study abroad programs with universities around the world. This number of options can be overwhelming and not all programs are strong academic fits for students in the Poole College of Management. To help with selecting a program, our office in Poole has identified 25 strategic semester options for Poole majors which offer business, accounting and economics courses taught in English. One of the most popular strategic semester options is Vienna University of Economics and Business in Vienna, Austria.

Vienna University of Economics and Business or simply "Vienna" is one of the largest universities in Europe with nearly 25,000 students and is a recognized leader in international business education. Its beautiful campus is located near the city center of Vienna and a short subway ride to countless restaurants, museums and shopping areas and also the main tourist attractions such as the Schonbrunn Palace & Gardens, St. Stephen's Cathedral, the Vienna Zoo and the Danube River. Vienna is a great program for Poole students as it offers many courses, taught in English, that transfer back as major requirements for business administration, accounting and economics majors. To hear about what it is actually like to study and live in Austria, let's connect with Jennie Bose, who is a Poole College of Management student and studied at Vienna University.

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### **Interview**

Ellen Frost: Thanks for joining us today Jenny we're excited to hear about your time in Vienna and learn more about the program so to get started. Can you tell me a little bit about why and how you chose to study abroad at Vienna.

jenniferboase: Yes, so the, why was kind of going off of my first study abroad, I did a summer in Italy, after my freshman year. we're there for six weeks and, at the end oh my God it's just isn't long enough so semester seem like a pretty good solution. As far as picking Vienna those kind of narrowed it down and just ended up with that so. I had rolled out a lot of the more Western European countries, just for something a little off the beaten path and. Vienna with top on quality of living, safety and things like that, because that would be important to me and my family to ended up settling on That was my first choice and was lucky enough to get there.

Ellen Frost: awesome so what type of classes, did you take, while you're abroad and how do you think those classes compared to your experience at nc state.

jenniferboase: So I had a 5050 split of concentration classes and. Non concentration classmates so I took to global HR classes marketing class and a sustainable development class. As far as comparison goes there there ran pretty differently so Vienna we met maybe six to eight times a semester, and that was it. there's a lot of group projects that you work on on the side and all of their classes are project based instead of assignment base. So you work with a group of four to six students over the course of the Semester and that's essentially how you get most of your education, and so they give you a lecture for the beginning in one point, the middle and then the rest of the Semester is just working on that project. Is it similar to stay in that you still work with people, and you have this small groups, and you have the takeaways but the magnitude of the projects which is much larger and much longer.

Ellen Frost: yeah so thinking outside of classes, what was life, like in Vienna, so what was your living situation abroad let's start there.

jenniferboase: So I stayed in student housing and it was specifically for international students, so I lived with someone from Sweden someone from Norway and someone from Brazil, so that was very unique. The kitchen was an absolute mixture of everything that we would have had at home just kind of thrown in the one French together, but it was a lot of fun being with that mix of people. One thing I found pretty interesting, too, is, I was the only one who spoke one language, all of them spoke at least English and their native language but kind of put me put things into perspective.

Ellen Frost: yeah that's super interesting and. you know how do you make friends, while you're abroad, so you talked about the living situation which sounds like you're able to meet a lot of international students through that but what did you do on a normal day or a normal weekend, while you're living in Vienna.

jenniferboase: So I made a lot of my friends, through the orientation program that they had and then also through my classes, so the marketing class that I took was almost entirely exchange students. And we kind of got together with people in our classes at first for assignments, and then ended up doing more social things later on. And then from there you meet a handful of locals and kind of stick around the same ones that you've met before, but we do everything from museums, to go to the park to seen outdoor concerts they had it was very positive.

Ellen Frost: that's awesome so kind of along those lines, what are some of your favorite memories from living in Vienna so particularly specific to the Ghana and then maybe either Austria or places that you visited. outside of Ghana so let's. Start first what were some of your favorite memories from. living in Vienna.

jenniferboase: that's a tough one. Honestly, the one that comes to mind first is not necessarily a great thing, but we were on the subway one time we rode it too far. So you rode it to where they park and didn't notice and the doors don't open and we're kind of freaking out for a couple minutes like oh. How do we get off what do we do, and then three minutes later that conductor came by knocked on the door, where we were just wave to us and pointed and then five minutes later going the other direction. So it's not necessarily anything like super interesting but we got to see as a part of the metro that no one sees and all the control words, everything which was just like insightful kind of how things work, and it was really funny to. Other than that, they also have this big local mansion of a family that used to live there and they had an outdoor offer one night, which is pretty popular so Vienna, so we went there and it was absolutely packed and it was. created to wait three times to get a measure that had space for us to arrive to the venue but we like sat out on the lawn and that's one of the most memorable nights it's just all of the locals all of international students everyone came together and enjoyed it.

Ellen Frost: that's awesome And what about places outside of Vienna either other places in Australia or places you traveled to what were some of your favorites there.

jenniferboase: So I went to Croatia for a weekend and didn't spend much time in the city is what they had a National Park, about two hours away from the capital and it's just. Essentially, like one big walking loop a bunch of math natural lakes and waterfalls coming together and that was by far my favorite favorite weekend excursion we can track that I went on. He also went to Berlin for a weekend and the street art there was insane a coffee table book full of all the pictures and everything that we saw this to stand out. yeah.

Ellen Frost: that's awesome and I think one of the benefits of a semester. program is that you're there long enough, where you can experience the city that you're living in, but you can also. Travel going back to the university experience. What is vienna's campus like or how does it compare the US or the united. like an nc state campus.

jenniferboase: yeah it's actually not too far off from an empty state campus if you take out centennial and just think the main campus that's essentially what bns was like. The architecture was far different because vienna's into the modernization of everything, so they had a lot of buildings that just looks. flat and then had geometric designs over the front of them, but it was essentially in between two different metro stations, the whole campus was back there. And the buildings were huge in comparison to stay there, and probably a lot taller but everyone kind of hung out in the middle of Kansas, and all of the restaurants grocery store bookstore all of that was right there.

Ellen Frost: awesome so kind of wrapping up. kind of thoughts about your semester abroad, what were some of the lessons that you learned, while abroad or, put another way, how did you grow when you were living in Vienna and in Austria.

jenniferboase: These patients will have a big one for me, but especially going back to this group projects that we talked about the American culture and people classmates that i've worked with

in the US. Like fill out your schedule to get this done see where you're going to do, whereas a lot of the cultures that we interacted with. didn't have the same kind of urgency, and you know it's high priority for them as well, they just kind of manifest that differently so it's. Working out, you know how patients one but also just how to interact with people who come from a different background than you and realize that you're all working towards that same goal. And then flexibility to I know we mentioned that a lot or study abroad, but you really can't say it enough there plenty of times when plans change or wrong metro station, or you got somewhere, it was actually closed and we just had to find something new to do but. Adapting on the fly was. wasn't is very important to study abroad and it definitely build up my skills in that a good amount of semester.

Ellen Frost: yeah i'm sure I think sometimes some of the best memories are when things don't. go according to plan, and as long as you can be flexible and adapt and keep a positive outlook those sometimes turn into the best moments of your time abroad so last question. You know you've had this experience couple semesters ago semesters ago even couple years ago, how does studying abroad, continue to impact you.

jenniferboase: So actually I draw on those skills, a lot in my current role Sharma recruiters for a local company that I work on an international team, so we work very closely with people in the United Kingdom in Germany so just. Knowing that I need to be aware of their cultural backgrounds and what they expect as far as workflow and timing goes has made me, so I can be more successful working in that team, whereas other people in our office have hired a harder time adapting to it that's about the most. yeah.

Ellen Frost: that's awesome well thanks so much for joining us today, and so we could. hear a little bit more about your time in Vienna, it sounds like it was amazing experience that you still effects you a lot today, so we really appreciate.

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### **Closing**

Thank you to Jennie for joining us today and sharing their experience studying abroad at Vienna University of Economics and Business in Vienna, Austria. I enjoyed hearing their stories from living in Vienna and the ways that those memories continue to stay with them. I hope you enjoyed listening. Maybe you are even starting to picture yourself living and studying abroad. Thanks for listening to this episode of Global, Here and Now presented by the Poole College of Management at NC State. For more information and to listen to other episodes, please visit our website at [go.ncsu.edu/pooleglobal](http://go.ncsu.edu/pooleglobal). Stay safe, stay well and stay globally engaged.

*[Closing Music]*