Checklist for international doctoral students with contract of employment

Congratulations on a job offer by an institute of TU Graz. The International Office – Welcome Center provides a checklist on multiple steps for a successful start and time of your employment as well as the doctoral programme at Graz University of Technology (TU Graz).

Prior to arrival

☐ Contact the Welcome Center of TU Graz to assist you during the preparation phase.
☐ Check the basic conditions for international doctoral students if you have not yet applied for admission to the doctoral programme. Submit all necessary documents for admission by post or in person to the Registrar’s Office within the admission period.
☐ Check the basic conditions for your stay (start of work, duration of stay, field of activity, etc.) as well as the necessary documents for your employment contract at TU Graz if applicable. Please ask the institute to confirm the arranged conditions in writing. Please note that personal documents issued in languages other than German or English require an official translation and sometimes even a legalization.
☐ Find out whether you (and your family) need an entry or residence permit for your stay in Austria.
☐ From the beginning of your employment at TU Graz (if your monthly salary exceeds the minimum of € 518.44 as of 2024) you will be covered by health, personal accident and retirement insurance. Your public health insurance provider is BVAEB. You have the opportunity of co-insuring your family members. Please bring along any medical and/or vaccination records. Please make sure to take out a travel insurance for the period up to the start of your contract.
☐ Search for an apartment or accommodation in Graz (list of accommodation).
☐ Please make sure to obtain translations and legalizations of important documents (diploma degrees, birth certificate(s), marriage certificate, etc.).
☐ Keep any receipts and bills that are connected to your relocation (e.g. fees paid for legalization of personal documents, visa/residence title, travel expenses, etc.)

If required

☐ In case you move to Graz with your spouse/life partner or family: Contact the Welcome Center, we are happy to provide you with relevant information on family-related matters.

At the beginning of your stay

☐ Contact the Welcome Center (Lessingstraße 32/ 1nd floor, 8010 Graz).
- Sign your rental contract/agreement.
- Persons living in Austria are required to register within three days of their arrival. You must register at the Service Center of the City of Graz (Schmiedgasse 26, 8010 Graz) (also referred to as Meldezettel).
- Complete your registration as a doctoral student at the Registrar's Office (Rechbauerstraße 12, 8010 Graz).
- For Third Country nationals living in Graz, the Local Styrian Government (Paulustorgasse 4, 8010 Graz) is the responsible authority for the application (and extension) of the residence title and the collection of the residence/settlement permit card.
- EU, EEA or Swiss nationals, who intend to stay for more than three months, are required to obtain a specific registration certificate (Anmeldebescheinigung). It needs to be applied for at the Local Styrian Government (Paulustorgasse 4, 8010 Graz).
- As an employee of TU Graz, you must sign your employment contract on your first working day at the Personnel Department (Mandellstraße 9/ground floor, 8010 Graz). Note: Third country nationals who entered Austria visa-free may only sign their contract after they have received their residence title; Please bring your settlement permit card and passport when signing your contract.
- Arrange an appointment for the photograph of your health insurance card (eCard) via https://www.chipkarte.at/cdscontent/?contentid=10007.853309&portal=ecardportal
- Check out the International Welcome Days for a successful start to your doctoral studies. Visit the website and watch the information videos to get further information for a successful and smooth start of your study programme at TU Graz.
- Attend the Welcome@TU Graz information session offered through the In-House Training to become familiar with TU Graz (registration via TU Graz In-house training)
- For organizational matters (i.e. workplace, email account, TU Graz Card etc.) please contact your institute or the relevant service department of the university.
- Contact the Coordination Office Doctoral Studies if you have any questions regarding your doctoral programme doctoralstudies@tugraz.at
- The Student Union of TU Graz (HTU Graz) advises you concerning study and examination law.
- Contact the PhD Union (doktorat@tugraz.at) – the official representative body of doctoral candidates at TU Graz and subscribe to their social media channels in order to receive information on their events (talks, workshops, excursions and after-work get-togethers).
- Information on student union fee, tuition fees and tuition fee waiver at TU Graz.
- Write your full name on your postal box so that important mail gets delivered to you. This is especially important as you might receive your residence permit card via postal mail! If you are not at home when it arrives, you will receive a yellow shipment notification by the Austrian postal service, which means that you have to go to the post office to pick it up.
Apply for the TU Graz Card. It is your ID card as a TU Graz staff member, it has a key function (to open door and gates to parking lots) and it acts as the library card. You can also use the TU Graz Card for discounts at companies that have agreements with the Works Council for offering employees of TU Graz certain benefits, e.g. discounted theatre tickets. For more information see TU4U

If required

- Open a bank account in Austria.
- Sign a mobile phone contract with an Austrian provider.
- Take out household insurance.
- Holders of a non-EU/EEA driving licence who move their place of residence to Austria may usually continue driving vehicles for six months. After this point, their licence will expire and must be converted, this process usually takes 3-6 months.
- Staff members have the possibility of obtaining a TU bike at a reduced price (295 Euros) or if one opts for the KlimaTicket Steiermark (the public transport pass), TU Graz rewards them with GrazGutscheine (Graz Vouchers) worth 150 Euros. Prerequisite: > 1,500 m distance between your home address and the institute for the public transport pass.
- Register for the ORF (broadcast) contribution.
- Please check that your vaccination records are in accordance with the Austrian vaccination recommendations (e.g. Covid-19, tick-borne encephalitis).
- Some important service facilities are available at TU Graz e.g.:
  - University Library.
  - CopyShop of HTU Graz or the Print and Copy Center of TU Graz

During your stay

- Contact the Works Council (for Academic or Administrative personnel) of TU Graz if you have questions regarding labour law (employee law & protection, law on working times, labour constitution, social insurance, etc.).
- Check out the training programme offered by the personnel department for doctoral students, among them events and workshops such as “High Potential Coaching”, “Young Leaders Programme” and “Application Training for the Academic Job Market”, as well as the information and discussion event “Meeting Point Dissertation”
- Sign up for the mailing list bgm@tugraz.at offered by the workplace health management to receive information on courses, workshops and action days (e.g. on stand-up paddling, bouldering) which serve to maintain and promote mental and physical health.
- Employees may hand in a yearly “Simplified Austrian Income Tax Return” (Arbeitnehmerveranlagung) with the financial authorities (Finanzamt). Within the framework of this declaration, you may claim back part of the taxes that were deducted.
from your salary. If you have questions, please consult a professional tax advisor (Steuerberater*in).

☐ Keep any important mail that you receive from e.g. your bank, any local authority (e.g. City of Graz, Local Immigration Authority), the Tax Office (Finanzamt), APK Vorsorgekasse, VBV Vorsorgekasse, etc. For more information in German on the later two please see also TU4U (APK and VBV)

☐ Use the possibilities of TU Graz staff mobility. Find out more in TU4U

☐ To receive news and information about language classes, social activities and events offered by the Welcome Center, please complete the consent form.

Feel free to contact the Welcome Center of TU Graz for help!

As an employee of TU Graz, you can use the services of Club International (CINT) free of charge. Upon request, the Welcome Center is happy to establish the contact!

Please note that this checklist is only for orientation and guidance purposes. No warranty can be given in respect of the accuracy, reliability or completeness of this information.

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