Checklist for international staff

Congratulations on a job offer by an institute or service department of TU Graz. The International Office – Welcome Center provides a checklist on multiple steps for a successful start and time at Graz University of Technology (TU Graz).

Prior to arrival

☐ Contact the Welcome Center of TU Graz. We are happy to assist you during your preparation phase.
☐ 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. Third country nationals staying for less than 6 months need a visa D with the addendum “Gainful Employment”, for more than 6 months a residence permit is required.
☐ 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 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.).

If required

☐ In case you move to Graz with your spouse/life partner or family, please contact us. We are happy to provide you with relevant information on spouse and family-related matters.

At the beginning of your stay

☐ Sign your rental contract/agreement.
☐ Contact the Welcome Center (Lessingstraße 32/I, 8010 Graz).
☐ 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 (Schmiedgassee 26, 8010 Graz) (also referred to as Meldezettel).
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 permit and the collection of the residence 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).

Check whether you are entitled to a favourable tax treatment for highly qualified researchers (Zuzugsbegünstigungsverordnung) by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Finance. For further information and advice, please consult a professional tax advisor.

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 permit; they cannot start their employment before. Please bring your residence card 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

For organizational matters (i.e. workplace, email account, TU Graz Card, etc.) please contact the relevant institute or service department of the university.

Attend the Welcome@TU Graz information session offered through the In-House Training to become familiar with 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.
- Register for the ORF (broadcast) contribution.
- 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 (275 Euros) or if one opts for the KlimaTicket Steiermark (the public transport pass), TU Graz rewards them with in GrazGutscheine (Graz Vouchers) worth 150 Euros. Prerequisite: > 1,500 m distance between your home address and the institute for the public transport pass).

Please check that your vaccination records are in accordance with the Austrian vaccination recommendations (e.g. Covid-19, tick-borne encephalitis).

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.).
- 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 (City of Graz, Local Immigration Authority), the Tax Office (Finanzamt), APK Vorsorgekasse, VBV Vorsorgekasse, etc. For more information in German on the latter 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!

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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.