



*Welcome Folder for New International Parents  
--Anton Bruckner International School*

 **Kreuzschwestern**  
Anton-Bruckner-International-School

# **WELCOME FOLDER FOR NEW INTERNATIONAL PARENTS**

**ANTON BRUCKNER INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL**

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**Phone : +43 (0) 732 75 70 61**



## Introduction

Dear Parents,

Herzlich Willkommen in Österreich und in Linz!  
Welcome to Austria and Anton Bruckner International School!

The purpose of the Welcome Folder is to provide useful information about procedures concerning ANTON BRUCKNER INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL and about the Linz area in order to support your relocation efforts.

While the information in this folder is extensive, it does not cover everything that happens in and around school. Please ask your child's teachers and/or in the school office if you have any additional queries.

We would also like to warmly welcome you to the "Morning Coffee" at ANTON BRUCKNER INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL (see [www.antonbruckner-is.at](http://www.antonbruckner-is.at))

Our doors are always open for you with the assurance we will be at your family's side providing support and assistance to the very best of our abilities.

Kind regards,  
Gabi Untersperger  
Principal  
ANTON BRUCKNER INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Thanks for your help and support:  
Rachel Drzewicki, Member of PTO  
Barbara Gitsch, Member of PTO  
Petra Litzlbauer, Member of PTO  
Kelli Murphy, Member of PTO

"Man cannot discover new oceans unless he has the courage to  
lose sight of the shore."

- Andre Gide



# Logistics & Bureaucracy in Linz

In order to streamline the process of acquiring necessary paperwork for your family, we have included a brief overview of government agencies and the procedures necessary to obtain family allowance and bus passes for school transportation.

## Family Allowance and Tax Credit for Children in Austria

Parents who are Austrian citizens are entitled to **family allowance** for their children until they come of age, regardless of their income, if their main (permanent) residence is in Austria and the child is also a permanent resident of Austria.

The additional requirement for non-Austrian parents is that the parent and child are lawful residents of Austria under Sec. 8 and 9 of the Austrian Settlement and Residence Act.

Please note: In cross-border cases within the EU, special rules for family benefits apply under European law! Family Allowance may be granted for children from the time they come of age until they turn 24 if they are training for an occupation, in some exceptional cases up to 25 years of age, as well as for children doing volunteer work with a non-private organization up to the age of 24.

There is no entitlement to family allowance during periods of military or civilian service and for children for whom (ex-)spouses are obliged to pay maintenance.

The family allowance varies according to the age of the child. General family allowance is EUR 105.40; EUR 112.70 are granted for children over 3 years of age, and the respective amounts for children over 10 and over 19 are EUR 130.90 and 152.70. The total number of children is taken into account via supplements (=sibling supplement scale).

The **tax credit for children ("Kinderabsetzbetrag")**, which is transferred along with the family allowance, continues to be paid twelve times a year. **The application for family allowance has to be filed with the Tax Office** in charge of the residential address<sup>1</sup> of the family. The tax credit for children is transferred without requiring a separate application. It is not an allowance in the strict sense of the word but a fiscal measure which is paid out in cash to all parents entitled to family allowance as a kind of negative tax and is funded from the general budget. The tax credit for children is EUR 57,40 per child per month.

Further information:

<http://www.en.bmwfj.gv.at/Family/Family%20benefits/Seiten/default.aspx>.

## Free Transport for Schoolchildren, "Schülerfreifahrt"

The burden of parents whose children attend school is relieved because the Austrian government pays for most of the costs incurred for travel to school. Parents only have to pay a small contribution towards costs for the public transport season tickets. Two requirements must be fulfilled for schoolchildren to use public transport free of charge for the travel from their residence to school: **family allowance** must be received for the child and the school must be state-run or have public status if it is a private school. Free use of public transport will be only granted for travel

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<sup>1</sup> Finanzamt Linz, Bahnhofplatz 7, 4020 Linz, T: +43 (0)732 6998 528000, <https://bmf.gv.at>.



**Free Transport for  
Schoolchildren,  
“Schülerfreifahrt”**

to domestic schools or schools close to the border.

The application form and confirmation of school attendance has to be filed with the regional transport company, e.g. Linz AG or ÖBB (Österreichische Bundesbahnen). The family contribution towards costs per schoolchild per year is EUR 19.60.

**What kind of documents are necessary to issue a Free School Transportation-Card?**

1. Family Allowance must be obtained by the parents.
2. The application form has to be picked up at the school office at any time of the year.  
The application form must be filled out by the parents. Please note, that the transportation must be used four times a week from the child's home to school.
3. The completed form needs to be stamped and signed in the school office.
4. Parents bring the application form, proof of payment and a passport photo of the child to the regional transport company.
5. The regional transport company then issues the transportation card. Please be aware at the beginning of the school year you may experience a long wait due to high demand.
6. The child must carry the school transportation card, when using public transportation.

Children who are not eligible to the free transportation card only receive a “Freizeitausweis” and can buy a monthly pass (“Monatskarte”), provided by the regional transport board. The fee for a monthly pass (“Monatskarte”) is EUR 7,00 per child per month.

Further information: [www.ooevv.at](http://www.ooevv.at) (in German).



# Living in Linz

Below you will find pertinent information regarding emergency numbers, local hospitals, shopping and other helpful hints to have at your fingertips.

We are confident that once your family has settled in and all logistical matters are taken care of, you will be eager to explore the city of Linz! Therefore, we have included a list of popular attractions and leisure activities for families in the city.

## Emergency Phone Numbers in Austria

In case of an emergency call:

**Fire** – Emergency: 122

**Police** – Emergency: 133

**Ambulance** – Emergency: 144

**Emergency service hotline for poisoning:** +43 (0)1/406 43 43

## Local Hospitals & Medical doctors

**Krankenhaus Barmherzige Brüder**, Seilerstätte 2, +43 (0)732/7897-0

**Krankenhaus Barmherzige Schwestern**, Seilerstätte 4, +43 (0)732/7677-0

**Allgemeines Krankenhaus Linz (AKH)**, Krankenhausstr. 9,

+43 (0)732/7806-0

**Diakonissen-Krankenhaus Linz**, Weißenwolffstr. 15, +43(0)732/7675-0

**Krankenhaus der Elisabethinen**, Fadingerstr. 1, +43 (0)732/7676-0

**Landes-Frauen- u. Kinderklinik Linz**, Krankenhausstr. 26,

+43 (0)50554-630

**Landes-Nervenklinik Wagner-Jauregg**, Wagner-Jauregg-Weg 15,

+43 (0)50554-620

**Unfallkrankenhaus der AUVA (UKH)**, Garnisonstr. 7, +43 (0)732/6920-0

**Childrens' dentist: Dr. Gugler:** Untere Donaulände 21 -25, 4020 Linz;  
<http://www.kinderzahnarzt.at/>

**Please note:** You must call the hospital before going there to find out which hospital is taking patients on this particular day.

**In a medical emergency always call 144.**

Further Information (Hospital Admission Days in Linz): <http://www.linz.at/akh/1489.asp>  
(in German).

In Austria, **all medications can only be purchased** in "Apotheken"  
(pharmacies).

## Local Supermarket Chains

Billa, Hofer, Interspar, Merkur, Denn's Biomarkt, Spar,

## Local Green/Farmer's Markets

Südbahnhofmarkt

Farmer's Market am Hauptplatz (Main Square)

Urfahr Green Market

## Local Opening Times

**Shops/Supermarkets:** Generally 08:00 - 18:00 (Mon to Sat)

**Banks:** Generally Mon to Fri 08:00 - 12:30 and 13:30 to 15:00 (Thursday until 17:30)

**Restaurants:** Generally between 11:00 - 15:00 and 18:00 – midnight.

**Please note:** All banks and most shops/supermarkets are **closed on Sundays** and on **National Holidays**. Many restaurants in Linz are closed on Sundays.



### Shopping in and around Linz

<http://www.come2upperaustria.com/I+enjoy/Shopping+%2526+Style/Shopping+in+Linz/106>)

Plus City Shopping Mall in Pasching,

Haid Center with IKEA in Ansfelden

KIKA, Lutz and Leiner – Household goods and furniture.

### Highlights of Linz

**Ars Electronica Center** – The interactive experience. Exciting exhibitions of digital technology are at home here in the building with its brightly lit animated façade.

**Botanical Garden Linz** – It is among the most beautiful gardens in Europe. Over an area of 43.000m<sup>2</sup> are more than 10.000 various types of plants to admire.

**Voestalpine Stahlwelt** – An interactive, multi-media experience based on the world of steel. A walk-in work of art where technology and people meet.

**Castle Museum Linz** – The largest universal museum in Austria accommodates permanent exhibitions of nature and technology as well as current special exhibitions.

**Landstraße** – The central shopping district. Aside from Vienna's Mariahilfer Strasse the most important shopping promenade in Austria.

**Lentos Kunstmuseum** – The museum of contemporary and modern art.

**New Cathedral (Mariendom)** – Austria's largest cathedral. The neo-Gothic church impresses with its tower, which is only a feet lower than the St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna.

**Kaffeehaus Jindrak - Linzer Torte** - The sweet ambassador. The first recipe originated in 1653, making it the oldest cake recipe in the world.

**Main Square** - The main square (Hauptplatz) in Linz is not only the largest urban square in Europe but with its baroque façades and the impressive Trinity Column a highlight of the city and perfect starting point for a scenic day excursion.

**Pöstlingberg** – One of the town's landmarks. The distinctive Wallfahrtsbasilika (parish church) stands picturesquely above Linz. The "Grottenbahn" and splendid panoramic view of the provincial capital await you.

Further information for leisure programs is available in the folder "Linz City Experience – Tips for Families": [http://www.linz.at/images/LinzDonau\\_E.pdf](http://www.linz.at/images/LinzDonau_E.pdf).

**Pöstlingberg Zoo** – 600 exotic and domestic animals from about 100 different species can be visited and watched <http://www.zoo-linz.at>

**Hochseilgarten Kirchschiag** – 10 minutes outside of Linz the whole family can experience very special challenges – team spirit, ability and courage – while walking and balancing through the forests <http://www.linz.at/tourismus/36975.asp>

**Welios in Wels** – Science center with an emphasis on energy and renewable energy <http://www.welios.at/de/startseite.html>

**Baumkronenweg Kopfung** – a 2.5 km hiking trail on the roof of the forest including hotel and restaurant. <http://www.baumkronenweg.at/>

**Hallstatt Saltmine** - On the trail of the "Man in Salt" in the oldest salt mine in the world! <http://www.salzwelten.at/en/hallstatt/saltmine/>

**Gmunden** - visit the city with its famous ceramic factory and have a tour on the lake with Gisela, the old paddle steamer

**Mondsee** - the old church and the wonderful lake is definitely worth a visit

### Places of Excursions in Upper Austria – suitable for children



**Bad Ischl** - the old "Kaiserstadt" where the Emperor of Austria spent his summers  
[www.badischl.salzkammergut.at](http://www.badischl.salzkammergut.at)

**Sound of Music Tour** - Watch the hills come alive on this wonderful ride that gives you breathtaking views of the landscape as it appears on the opening scenes of the film and the classic architecture associated with the movie.

**Courses and  
Evening  
School  
Courses (e.g.  
German as a  
foreign  
language)**

Several institutions in Linz offer German language learning courses ("Deutsch"-classes) for non-German speakers as well as courses to learn other languages:

**German as a foreign language:**

Volkshochschule Linz Wissensturm, Kärntnerstraße 26, 4020 Linz, T: +43 (0)732-7070-0, <https://vhskurs.linz.gv.at/index.php?kathaupt=1&katid=63&katvaterid=57>.

WIFI Oberösterreich, Wiener Straße Nr. 150, 4021 Linz, T: +43 (0)5-7000-77,  
[www.ooe.wifi.at](http://www.ooe.wifi.at).

Berufsförderungsinstitut OÖ, Raimundstr. 3, 4021 Linz, T: +43 (0)732 6922-0,  
[www.bfi-ooe.at](http://www.bfi-ooe.at).

**Music lessons for school children:** Musikschule Linz, Fabrikstraße 10, 4020 Linz, T: +43 (0)732/7070-0, <http://www.linz.at/musikschule/> (in German).

**Sport  
Associations  
& Clubs**

[www.linz.at/english/life/health.asp](http://www.linz.at/english/life/health.asp)

<http://portal.linz.gv.at/Serviceguide/viewChapter.html?chapterid=121390> (in German)

<http://www.come2upperaustria.com/l+enjoy/Sports/Sports+Associations+%2526+Clubs+in+Upper+Austria/104>.

**Useful  
Documents  
for Families**

**Activpass:** For people who are not working, Linz offers the "Activpass". With it, you get discounts on Volkshochschule-classes, the library, museums, and Linz AG passes. To be eligible, one must earn less than 1000 EUR per month and be registered as a Linz citizen. With a passport, a passport photo, and proof of Linz residency, one can apply at the city library, the Bürgerservice center, and elsewhere.

Further information: <http://portal.linz.gv.at/Serviceguide/viewChapter.html?chapterid=121421> (in German).

**Familienkarte:** Offers good discounts to museums, events, and ÖBB train tickets. The application is at [www.Familienkarte.at](http://www.Familienkarte.at).



# The Austrian Education System

## Education System in Austria - a brief overview

There are **nine years of compulsory education** in Austria, beginning at the age of six, children attend primary schools. Children of school age who are not ready for school are enrolled in the preparatory pre-school program of primary schools. After four years of primary school education, for the first time the system branches out to three types of general education schools, i.e.

- the general secondary school (Hauptschule) and
- academic secondary school (Allgemein Bildende Höhere Schule ("Gymnasium"), e.g. **LISA**), and
- the new breed of "comprehensive schools" (Neue Mittelschule).

Upon completion of the **secondary level I** (year 5-8), young people move on to **secondary level II** (year 9-12). They may choose between a total of four education pathways: level II academic secondary schools, secondary technical and vocational colleges (BHS), secondary technical and vocational schools (BMS), as well as a pre-vocational year (one-year course).

Young people who graduate from upper-level secondary courses providing general or vocational education and training may enroll in universities, universities of applied sciences, academies, and post-secondary colleges. Standard matriculation examinations (Matura), entrance examinations (Studienberechtigungsprüfung) or vocational matriculation examinations (Berufsreifepfung) provide access to **tertiary-level education**. Those having completed vocational training may attend a school for master craftsmen/craftswomen or foremen/forewomen.

Previous diploma courses have been gradually replaced by bachelor courses (six to eight semesters) followed by master courses (another two to four semesters). The formally highest post-graduate qualification is a PhD. In the field of education, lawmaking and law enforcement powers are shared by the Federal Government and the Länder (federal states). The Federal Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture (BMUKK) is the supreme supervisory authority for primary and secondary education, while the Federal Ministry of Science and Research (BMWF) is responsible for tertiary education.

The institutional framework and formal structure of the Austrian education system is illustrated on the next page.

Information concerning IB courses in LISA: -> "Welcome Folder for Students", LISA.

## Universities

**Johannes Kepler Universität Linz**, Altenbergerstr. 69, 4040 Linz, [www.jku.at](http://www.jku.at), (a short walk from LISA, nice recreation area, too).

**Universität für künstlerische und industrielle Gestaltung** (University of Art and Industrial Design), Hauptplatz 8, 4010 Linz, [www.ufg.ac.at](http://www.ufg.ac.at).

**Anton Bruckner Privatuniversität** (Private Musical University), Wildbergstr. 18, 4040 Linz, [www.bruckneruni.at](http://www.bruckneruni.at).

**Katholisch-Theologische Privatuniversität Linz** (Private Catholic Theological University), Bethlehemstr. 20, 4020 Linz, <http://www.ktu-linz.ac.at/>.

**FH OÖ Management GmbH**, Franz-Fritsch-Str. 11/Top 3, 4600 Wels, [www.fh-ooe.at](http://www.fh-ooe.at).

**FH OÖ Studienbetriebs GmbH, Campus Hagenberg**, Softwarepark 11, 4232 Hagenberg, [www.fh-ooe.at/campus-hagenberg](http://www.fh-ooe.at/campus-hagenberg).

**FH OÖ Studienbetriebs GmbH, Campus Linz**, Garnisonstr. 21, 4020 Linz, [www.fh-ooe.at/campus-linz](http://www.fh-ooe.at/campus-linz).

**FH Studienbetriebs GmbH, Campus Wels**, Stelzhamerstr. 23, 4600 Wels, [www.fh-ooe.at/campus-wels](http://www.fh-ooe.at/campus-wels).

## Upper Austrian Colleges of Applied Science





## HELPFUL WEBSITES

- Borealis** <http://www.come2linz.com/>  
(Contents: Passports and Visas, International Events and Festivals, Pharmacies, Flora and Fauna in Austria...)
- Expats in Linz and Austria** <http://expatslinz.groupsie.com/main/summary>  
<http://www.internations.org/about/internations>
- Governmental Benefits for Schoolchildren** <http://www.en.bmwfj.gv.at/Family/Family%20benefits/Seiten/default.aspx>  
(Federal Ministry of Economy, Family and Youth. Contents: e.g. Family & Childcare Benefits, such as Family Allowance or Public Transportation to School...)
- General Tourist Information** <http://www.linz.at/english/tourism/209.asp>  
Link with all brochures, provided by Tourist Information: [http://www.linz.at/tourist/e\\_shop.asp](http://www.linz.at/tourist/e_shop.asp)  
Contact: Linz City Tourist Board, Hauptplatz 1, 4020 Linz, Tel. +43 732 (0)7070 2009,  
E-Mail: [tourist.info@linz.at](mailto:tourist.info@linz.at)
- Healthy in Linz** [www.linz.at/english/life/health.asp](http://www.linz.at/english/life/health.asp)  
(Contents: Hospital Admission Days, List of Doctors who speak English and other languages...)
- Information for Expatriates in Upper Austria** [http://www.tmg.at/2459\\_ENG\\_HTML.php](http://www.tmg.at/2459_ENG_HTML.php)  
(Download Folder for Expatriates in Upper Austria)
- Just Landed** <http://www.justlanded.com/english/Austria/>  
(Contents: Visas and Permits, Housing and Rentals, Language, Education, Culture, Jobs...)
- Linz City Experience – Tips for Families** [http://www.linz.at/images/LinzDonau\\_E.pdf](http://www.linz.at/images/LinzDonau_E.pdf)  
(Official brochure from Linz Tourism, including many interesting addresses)  
<http://www.linz.at/images/LinzStadterlebnis.pdf> (in German)
- LISA - Linz International School Auhof** [www.auhof.eduhi.at/lisa](http://www.auhof.eduhi.at/lisa)  
Middle School and High School – starting with year 5 (age 10). Special requirements for admission.
- English Speaking Clubs** Austro-American Society (Upper Austria): <http://www.aas-ooe.at/>  
<http://www.come2upperaustria.com/l+enjoy/Further+Education+%2526+Hobbies/English+Speaking+Club/245>
- Recreation Areas Around Linz** <http://www.come2upperaustria.com/l+enjoy/Discover+Upper+Austria/Linz+--+the+green+city/217>
- Restaurants in Linz** The Culinary Side of Linz:  
<http://www.come2upperaustria.com/l+enjoy/Culinary+Pleasure/The+Culinary+Side+of+Linz/88>  
Hotspots in Linz: <http://hotspots-linz.rise2reality.com/hotspots-gastronomie/restaurants/> (in German)  
Falstaff Restaurant Guide: <http://www.falstaff.at/guides-buecher.html> (in German)  
Linz Genießen: <http://www.linz.at/images/LinzGeniessen.pdf> (in German)