

Study Abroad Return Report

FOR APAC International
Austrian-EU Summer School 2026
University of Salzburg

Overall Program Experience

I had always wanted to travel to Belgium. I chose this program because Belgium was included in the schedule. The program started in France and continued to Belgium, Germany, and Austria. We took classes and joined many tours and field trips in each country. This was my first international program. Before I left Korea, I was worried about meeting foreign students and living in a new environment. However, I became close with the other students faster than I expected. I also adapted to life abroad quite quickly. During the program, I took classes about European culture, history, international relations, and many other topics. These classes helped me understand Europe from different perspectives. Outside of class, I visited many famous places with the other students. We spent a lot of time together and made many good memories.

Classes

Most of the lectures were about European history and politics. We also had classes about art, the humanities, and international relations. I major in Korean History, so I didn't have much knowledge about European history. Before the classes, I carefully read the materials provided by the universities. I also tried my best to concentrate during every lecture. However, it was not easy to understand unfamiliar topics in English. Sometimes I had to use translation tools during class. It was also difficult to stay focused during long lectures in English. I didn't want to waste the valuable chance to study at universities abroad, so I tried to follow the classes as much as possible.

Among all the lectures, the classes about the piano and the bagpipes were the most memorable for me. The professors encouraged students to participate in class. One professor also played the bagpipes in front of us. Because of this, the class felt more interesting and active. I could enjoy the class without feeling bored. I also enjoyed a lecture about cultural sustainability and intangible cultural heritage. I had studied similar topics before in a major course about cultural heritage. Because the topic was familiar to me, it was easier to understand and more interesting. It was also interesting to learn about a familiar subject from a different perspective.

This was my first time taking many university classes in English. It was difficult for me to participate actively and express my opinions in English. Still, it was a valuable experience. I had the chance to learn about many different subjects from professors in Europe.

Tours and Field Visits

The program included many tours and field visits as well as classes. We visited different landmarks and institutions in each country. The visit to the European Parliament was the most impressive field visit for me. I had learned about European politics and international relations in class. Visiting the European Parliament helped me understand these topics more clearly. It was interesting to see a place where European countries work together and make important decisions. Before the visit, the European Union felt quite distant to me. Seeing the institution in person made it feel much more real. In France, I visited the Palace of Versailles. I looked around the beautiful rooms inside the palace and then visited the gardens. The inside of the palace was impressive, but I especially enjoyed the gardens. I took many photos there and was happy to keep those moments as memories. Another memorable experience was the light show at Notre-Dame Cathedral at night. Lights and images were projected onto the outside of the cathedral. It looked very different from the cathedral during the day. I liked how the historic building was shown in a modern way. It was one of the most beautiful moments of the whole program. In Austria, I especially enjoyed the places where I could see beautiful natural scenery. In Hallstatt, I enjoyed the view of the lake, mountains, and village. At Lake Wolfgang, we had a meal at a restaurant with a view of the lake. After that, we took a boat ride. I really enjoyed the boat ride because I like nature and beautiful scenery. I could slowly look at the lake and the mountains from the boat. Our program schedule was often busy because we moved between many cities. Therefore, this peaceful time at Lake Wolfgang was even more special to me. I also visited Großglockner and went high up into the mountains. I was able to see the Alps from a very high place. I also saw many people riding motorcycles on the mountain roads. It was a very unusual and interesting sight for me.

Sometimes the weather during the tours was too hot or very rainy. This was a little disappointing. However, I was still glad that I could visit many places that would have been difficult to visit alone. Through the program, I experienced political institutions, historic buildings, local culture, and beautiful nature. These experiences helped me see many different sides of Europe.



