

“What I wish I had known before coming to IIASA”

Research

- Three months is not a long time for research. You should have a very clear idea of what your intended project is when you arrive at IIASA. This includes having done some background research on your subject, and communicating with your IIASA supervisor before leaving your home institute. In order to avoid frustration and wasted time at the beginning of the summer, you should be able to plan your work by yourself.
- It is important to get details of the actual work going on in the project by communicating to a staff member before you arrive.
- The unofficial motto of IIASA should be: “if you don’t do it, it won’t get done. In other words, you need to take the initiative if you are going to benefit from your summer at IIASA. This includes getting feedback from your supervisor, having discussions with other staff members, solving problems with computers, arranging seminars or collaborative projects among the YSSPers, etc. There are social events and seminars arranged especially for the YSSP (and these should be taken full advantage of) but the overall research agenda is not specifically designed for, or tailored to, the YSSP.
- If you are still unsure about your research topic, come with a couple of alternative topics in mind, possibly with some kind of outline or plan for each.
- By the end of the summer you will be asked to submit a paper about the research conducted during your summer at IIASA. This is essential if you wish to compete for one of the YSSP Awards (Peccei/Mikhalevich) which will enable you to return for a 3 month fellowship period. With the approval by the relevant Program Director this paper will eventually turn into a publishable Interim Report.
- IIASA can be a unique opportunity to contact a large number of scientists doing modeling in academic fields adjacent to yours. For many YSSPers it is a refreshing experience to meet other researchers (both staff and YSSP) with similar outlooks. These contacts are entirely the result of your own initiative.

Literature Search and IIASA library

- Before doing a literature search you should talk to your IIASA supervisors to get his/her recommendations for literature sources, and then search the IIAS library listings.
- The IIASA Library provides literature for research and study for participants in the Young Scientists Summer Program (YSSP). You can borrow any of the library’s 30,000 volumes and 20,000 reports by visiting the library in person or by browsing the online

library catalog. If the publication is on the library shelves, you can borrow it by completing a loan slip at any time (24 hours, 7 days a week). You can automatically access any articles from over 5,500 periodicals subscribed to by the IIASA library from any computer within IIASA's IP range.

- You can also access SCOPUS, the largest available abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed literature, which features smart tools to discover and track research papers. In addition, the IIASA Library provides access to all publications of the OECD library and to a large amount of IEA statistics as well as to over 600 e-books from various research areas

Arts and Culture in Vienna

- Vienna has a lot to offer in the arts. With all the opportunities for travel outside the city, be careful to plan trips to the galleries, museums, etc. or else the summer will pass and you'll never visit them. Also, be sure to check out Vienna's big cultural attractions (Opera, Symphony, Vienna boys choir, Open Air Festivals, etc).

Camping

- If you are an avid camper (and would like to camp in the Austrian countryside) you should bring basic camping equipment (sleeping bag and tent) because you will find many opportunities to go out and camp on the weekends.

Learning German

- Although it is not necessary to know German to survive in Vienna (most people in the city are able to communicate in English), it still helps to learn German for practical life. For that reason, IIASA is offering German classes for various levels.

Commuting by bike

- Vienna and the surrounding area offer excellent cycling paths. You therefore maybe want to consider bringing your bike with you if it is your customary form of transportation. Many airlines let you take it as checked baggage at no charge — check this out. Reckon on about a 40 min -1 hour ride from the hostel to IIASA. Bicycles may be taken on the underground and Schnellbahn as well.

Ticks

- Certain wooded areas in Austria are the habitat of the tick. Some of these ticks can be infected and their bite can cause meningoencephalitis. Therefore, all YSSP participants (and their family members) will receive a precautionary vaccination at the beginning of the summer.