



CHANCENLAND VORARLBERG

LIVING AND WORKING BROCHURE

GETTING STARTED MANUAL FOR
YOUR LIFE IN VORARLBERG
2014/2015



IMPRINT
 Issue 3 | March 2014

COPYRIGHT
 Wirtschafts-Standort Vorarlberg GmbH (WISTO)
 Hintere Achmühlerstrasse 1, 6850 Dornbirn, AUSTRIA
www.wisto.at

CHANCENLAND VORARLBERG
www.chancenland.at | info@chancenland.at

Photo credits are listed on the respective pages. All rights reserved.
 Information is subject to change.

01 INTRODUCTION

- 01.01 Economy
- 01.02 Language

02 REGISTRATION

- 02.01 As EU/EEA-Citizen
- 02.02 As Third-Country Citizen

03 ADMINISTRATIVE STEPS

04 TRANSPORTATION

- 04.01 By Train
- 04.02 By Bus
- 04.03 By Car
- 04.04 Driving Safety
- 04.05 By Bike

05 PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

- 05.01 Municipal Office
- 05.02 District Authority
- 05.03 State Government
- 05.04 Embassies

06 MONEY

- 06.01 Costs of Living

07 ACCOMMODATION

- 07.01 Find your new Home
- 07.02 Got It
- 07.03 Buy Furniture

08 COMMUNICATION

- 08.01 Mobile
- 08.02 Internet

09 WORKING

- 09.01 Find a Job
- 09.02 Apply for It
- 09.03 Working Conditions
- 09.04 Income Tax

10 HEALTH SYSTEM

11 INSURANCE

- 11.01 Health Insurance
- 11.02 Accident Insurance
- 11.03 Unemployment Insurance
- 11.04 Retirement Pension Insurance
- 11.05 Additional Information

12 EDUCATION

- 12.01 Studying
- 12.02 Schools

13 LEISURE

- 13.01 Sports Clubs
- 13.02 Shopping
- 13.03 International Friends

14 NEWS AND EVENTS

- 14.01 News and Media
- 14.02 Events
- 14.03 Cinema
- 14.04 Nightlife



Welcome to Vorarlberg! We are happy that you have chosen our region. With this brochure we want to provide relevant information and helpful hints, so that you are in good hands right from the beginning. All the best! | ©Silvretta Montafon

01 INTRODUCTION TO THE REGION

Vorarlberg is the most western federal state of Austria and borders Switzerland, Germany, Liechtenstein and Tyrol.

It is divided into four districts – Bregenz, Dornbirn, Feldkirch and Bludenz. 376,300 inhabitants live in Vorarlberg on an area of 2.601 km².

Besides Vienna Vorarlberg has the highest population density in Austria. With 47,000 inhabitants, Dornbirn is the largest city of Vorarlberg and tenth largest in Austria. The capital city Bregenz counts 28,400 inhabitants. Due to its unique geographical situation Vorarlberg looks back on long tradition of immigration and commuting. Therefore people are open-minded and the economy is internationally oriented.

01.01 ECONOMY

Vorarlberg has been one of the leading textile manufacturing hotspots in Europe, until far-reaching changes in the textile market have triggered an extensive transformation of the local economic structure. Not many regions are able to transform a structural change as successfully as Vorarlberg. Today, the region's industry accounts for about 30 % of Vorarlberg's economy with metalworking, mechanical and electrical engineering, electronics and IT as major branches. The goods produced are targeted to various applications and markets for use by both B2B and B2C customers. This variety brings the region a high resistance to economic crises.

Vorarlberg's industry production by branches



Vorarlberg is Austria's

- most industrialized,
- most export oriented and
- most innovative state.

Many of Vorarlberg's companies have established powerful brands, like Head (ski and tennis rackets | www.head.com), Wolford (fashion | www.wolford.com), Zumtobel (lighting systems | www.zumtobel.com), Rauch (fruit juices and beverages | www.rauch.cc) and Doppelmayr (cable cars and ski lifts | www.doppelmayr.com).

Additionally, due to the attractive business conditions, a number of international corporations have settled in Vorarlberg, like Liebherr (cranes | www.liebherr.com), Mondelēz International (Milka chocolate | www.mondelezinternational.com), Hilti (construction equipment | www.hilti.com)



Vorarlberg is home to powerful brands – with Wolford being one of it. The producer of luxury fashion successfully sells its products around the world. ©Wolford AG | RIGHT Language courses are held in small groups and are a good way to find new friends. ©WISTO

and Red Bull (energy drink | www.redbull.at).

For more information about Vorarlberg's economy visit www.chancenland.at or download the Location Brochure at www.chancenland.at/locationbrochure.pdf.

01.02 LANGUAGE

German is the official language in Austria and thus a prerequisite for permanently living and working in Vorarlberg. Some may find that the dialect used in this area is somewhat far away from Standard German, however, this is probably the case for most regional dialects in every language. The good news is that you will find no problems getting around with Standard German and English.

02 REGISTRATION

02.01 AS EU/EEA-CITIZEN

If you are citizen of the European Union or EEA (Norway, Liechtenstein, Switzerland and Iceland), you are allowed to live in Austria without any notification besides your passport or identity card for three months.

If you intend to stay longer, you have to apply for a registration certificate within four months, starting from the day of your arrival in Austria. The application has to be made to the district authority (see 05.02) and costs 15 €. For the application process you need to provide the following documents:

- Your passport
- A copy of your employment contract
- A confirmation that you are covered by health insurance. (In most cases the insurance provider will be VGKK. www.vgkk.at)
- For spouse and children: marriage certificate or birth certificate

02.02 AS THIRD-COUNTRY CITIZEN

Citizens from non EU/EEA-countries, who want to stay in Austria for more than six months, need to have a residence permit and a working permission. There are different options for residence permits (e.g. Rot-Weiss-Rot Card).



LEARNING GERMAN

German language courses are offered at

Volkshochschule (VHS)

Bludenz www.vhs-bludenz.at

Bregenz www.vhs-bregenz.at

Götzis www.vhs-goetzis.at

Hohenems www.vhs-hohenems.at

WIFI www.vbg.wifi.at

AK-Bildungszentrum www.ak-vorarlberg.at

Inlingua Vorarlberg www.inlingua-vbg.at

Creative Center www.creative-english.at

The Rot-Weiss-Rot Card regulates immigration to Austria dependent on criteria like qualification, work experience, language skills and age. The card is valid for one year and entitles for settlement and employment with a certain employer. Find more information at www.help.gv.at or contact the district authority.

Bezirkshauptmannschaft Dornbirn

Klaudiastrasse 2, 6850 Dornbirn

bhdornbirn@vorarlberg.at

+43 (0)5572 308 0

03 ADMINISTRATIVE STEPS

Within three days after moving to Vorarlberg, you have to register at the municipal office (Meldeamt – see 05.01) in your municipality. Therefore you need to fill in the registration form (Meldebestätigung) and bring your passport as well as a copy and the original document of your academic degree.

- Download the registration form at <https://www.help.gv.at/Portal.Node/hlpd/public/resources/documents/meldez.pdf>
- Fill in the registration form (see p. 18)
- Get the signature of your landlord
- Go to the municipal office and hand in the filled registration form

Be aware that office hours are mostly between 8-12am and 1-4pm. Offices are closed on weekends. And please note: The registration form is a very important document, so keep it in safe custody. If you move, you have to report to the municipal office again, since it collects data of inhabitants in order to generate statistics and inform you in case of emergencies.

Additionally to your registration at the municipal office, you have to register at the district authority (see 02.01).



BUSINESS HOURS

In Vorarlberg most shops are open from 9am to 6pm, Monday to Saturday. Some grocery stores have extensive business hours, opening at 7.30am and closing at 7pm. Only when fulfilling certain conditions groceries are allowed to open at Sundays too, e.g. Sutterlüty at Dornbirn's main train station or Spar in tourist places like Schruns. Out of regular shop hours most gas stations offer small shops that sell food and drinks.

Banks, doctors, pharmacies and offices are usually manned from 8-12am and 1-5pm.

04 TRANSPORTATION

The distances in Vorarlberg are easily manageable, since the roads and the public transport system are highly developed. From Partenen, the most southern village of Vorarlberg, it takes about an hour by car to get to the most northern municipal Hörbranz.

04.01 BY TRAIN

The railway system of ÖBB (Austrian railway company) connects every city at the direct route from Bregenz to Schruns (see map on p. 001). Additionally Zurich, Munich, Innsbruck and Vienna can be reached directly.

Be aware, that you have to buy your train ticket before boarding the train – either at a ticket machine, at a ticket counter at the railway station, online or via the ÖBB Ticket app. If you plan your trips some weeks ahead, you can get great ticket deals online. Find schedules and prices at www.oebb.at. When travelling frequently you should invest in a VORTEILScard that allows you up to 50 % discount on all routes. The VORTEILScard can be bought online. It costs 99 € per year, 19 € for anyone under the age of 26.

There are different types of trains running in Vorarlberg. The S-Bahn is the slowest one and stops at every station on the route (67 min from Bregenz to Bludenz). Regionalexpress (REX) is a fast train, that only stops in larger stations (such as Bregenz, Dornbirn, Hohenems, Feldkirch and Bludenz). And railjet, InterCity, Euro City are international trains, that pass Vorarlberg on their way to Zurich, Vienna or Munich. They stop only at the larger stations, too and are the fastest (45 min from Bregenz to Bludenz).

When travelling to Montafon by train, you switch from ÖBB to the red-yellow Montafonerbahn (MBS) in Bludenz. This private train runs from Bludenz to Schruns in 20 minutes and stops at every station. Timetables and tickets are coordinated with the ÖBB, therefore you can also buy your ticket online at www.oebb.at or at the ticket machines.

Also the region of Bregenzerwald has its own private train, it is called Wälderbähnle. But it is more of an attraction than a real means of trans-

portation. The old steam locomotive runs from Bezau to Andelsbuch on Saturdays, Sundays and special occasions. www.waelderbaehne.at

04.02 BY BUS

Thanks to the association Vorarlberger Verkehrsverbund (VvV) the railway network is directly connected to the bus system. Therefore most tickets are valid for trains and busses equally. You can buy them directly in the bus. Find schedules and prices at www.vmobil.at.

If you are going to work by bus or train daily, it is advisable to buy monthly or annual tickets. Get information from the bus driver or at the train station ticket counter. There are different ticket types available, e.g. the Maximo ticket allows you to take busses and trains in Vorarlberg all year round. This ticket costs 192 € for everyone under the age of 26 and 365 € for adults.

04.03 BY CAR

All highways in Austria are subject to toll, therefore you have to buy a badge (Vignette) in advance for using it. The badge is available at gas stations and kiosks. There are different types of badges for cars:

10-day badge	8.50 €
2-month badge	24.80 €
1-year badge	82.70 €

If you bring your own car to Austria, it has to be registered within the first month. Please contact the insurance company of your choice for help ([see a list of insurances on p. 017](#)).

In Austria third-party car insurance (Haftpflichtversicherung) is compulsory. This also has to be arranged with the insurance company. You have to get insurance coverage before you can have your car licence plate and car registration document (Zulassungsschein).

Valid driving licenses issued by the EU, Liechtenstein, Norway and Iceland are accepted in Austria. You don't have to rewrite your license.

All others (Switzerland included) have to rewrite their license within six months after moving to Austria. You can arrange this at a district authority ([see 05.02](#)), where you bring your passport, foreign driving license, a translation of the driving license, when not in English or in German, one valid passport photo (35 mm x 45 mm) not older than six months, a medical report and the residence registration form.

04.04 DRIVING SAFETY

The maximum speed limits (if not indicated otherwise) for cars and motorcycles are:

- In town: 50 km/h, often 40 km/h
- On country roads: 100 km/h
- On highways: 130 km/h

Please make sure you always wear seat belts and carry along a reflective vest, a breakdown triangle and a first aid kit in your car. Otherwise you risk a fine. Between November 1st and April 15th the use of snow tires is compulsory in Austria. For more information about fines, alcohol limits, speed limits and traffic rules visit www.help.gv.at (section Freetime and Mobility).



365 € will bring you through Vorarlberg by bus and train all year long. ©flickr.com Kecko | LEFT Buongustaio shop and restaurant in Dornbirn and Bregenz offers delicious Italian food and wine. ©Buongustaio

The main motoring organisations in Austria are ÖAMTC and ARBÖ. They offer a variety of insurance coverage, breakdown assistance and other services. www.oeamtc.at, www.arboe.at

04.05 BY BIKE

Vorarlberg's citizen love to cycle and the region is voted as bike-friendliest in Austria. This is shown by the properly tended cycling routes all over the landscape and the more than 1,500 km of marked mountainbike trails. Even though Austria's criminality rate is low, it is advisable to lock your bike when parking and use bike lights in the dark.

You can buy used bicycles at reasonable prices at special bike markets, that regularly take place in major cities (e.g. Bregenz, Dornbirn, Feldkirch, Bludenz). Find dates and details at the municipal office or the website of your city (www.bregenz.at, www.dornbirn.at, www.feldkirch.at, www.bludenz.at) or check www.laendleanzeiger.at for online bargains.

Two companies from Vorarlberg are internationally known for high quality bikes: Simplon and Kraftstoff. The latter produces bikes that are individually equipped and designed according to your idea. www.simplon.com and www.kraftstoff-bikes.com

FOOD AND DRINKS

Common grocery stores in Vorarlberg are:

Spar, Eurospar, Interspar www.spar.at
Sutterlüty www.sutterluety.at
Hofer (Aldi) www.hofer.at
Lidl www.lidl.at



05 PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

There are some public authorities you will sooner or later get in contact with:

05.01 MUNICIPAL OFFICE

The municipal office is responsible for all kinds of public services. A list of all 96 municipal offices in Vorarlberg with contact details is available at www.chancenland.at/municipal-offices.pdf.

When moving to Austria you have to register at the municipal office and the district authority (see 03).

05.02 DISTRICT AUTHORITY

Contact the district authority to register in Vorarlberg after arrival (see 02.01) or to confirm your foreign driving license.

Bezirkshauptmannschaft Bregenz
www.vorarlberg.at/bhbregenz

Bezirkshauptmannschaft Dornbirn
www.vorarlberg.at/bhdornbirn

Bezirkshauptmannschaft Feldkirch
www.vorarlberg.at/bhfeldkirch

Bezirkshauptmannschaft Bludenz
www.vorarlberg.at/bhbludenz

05.03 STATE GOVERNMENT

Applying to the Austrian citizenship is done at the Vorarlberg's state government in Bregenz. In order to be allowed to acquire the citizenship you have to live in Austria for more than ten years.

Amt der Vorarlberger Landesregierung
Landhaus, 6900 Bregenz
www.vorarlberg.at

05.04 EMBASSIES

For renewing your foreign passport you have to contact the embassy of your home country. Find a list of foreign representation agencies at www.chancenland.at/documents/embassies.pdf.

Honorary Consulate of Italy
Churerstrasse 42/8, 6830 Rankweil
italconsul-vorarlberg@vol.at

Honorary Consulate of Norway
Kaiserstrasse 33, 6900 Bregenz
norwegen.konsulat.vbg@btv.at

Honorary Consulate of Portugal
Maria Theresien Strasse 21-23, 6020 Innsbruck
port.konsulat@chello.at

Honorary Consulate of Spain
Wimmatweg 4, 6830 Rankweil
consulado@kulturkontakt.at

COUNTRY CODE

For international telephone calls to Austria dial +43 or 0043. The zero of the area code is excluded, when making international phone calls, e.g. +43 5572...

06 MONEY

Austria is member of the European Union (EU) and its currency is Euro (€). 1 € equals 100 Cent.

For receiving your wage, paying your rent and realising other monetary transactions you will be asked to have an Austrian bank account. You can easily open an account at one of the local banks, e.g. at Hypo (offering Online Banking in English). www.hypovbg.at

Find a list of additional banks at [page 017](#). Don't forget to bring your passport.

Most shops, restaurants and bars accept credit

cards. You find ATMs/cash machines at banks or frequented places, it doesn't matter which one you are using, fees are the same.

06.01 COSTS OF LIVING

Vorarlberg offers the highest standard of living in Austria, therefore prices are slightly higher than in other regions. However, this is compensated by higher wages.

Cosmetics are mostly available at groceries, for a broader range visit the shops dm (www.dm-drogeriemarkt.at) or Bipa (www.bipa.at). Prescription drugs can only be bought at pharmacies, alcohol is available in every grocery store.

07 ACCOMMODATION

07.01 FIND YOUR NEW HOME

The best way to find an apartment is online, e.g. at www.laendleimmo.at or www.immo-agent.at. For shared flats check www.easywg.at or www.fhv.at/campus-fhv/wohnungsboerse.

Additionally check adverts in regional newspapers like WANN & WO and Vorarlberger Nachrichten (VN). WANN & WO is free of charge, is published every Wednesday and Sunday and freely delivered to every household. VN is the most common regional newspaper. It costs 1.70 € on weekdays, 2.00 € on weekends and has a special real estate section every Saturday. Both papers are products of Russmedia. www.russmedia.com



In Vorarlberg people are ambitious and work hard, but they also know how to spend their freetime and how to relax. ©Matthias Weissengruber | LEFT Common grocery stores in Vorarlberg. ©Flickr.com ArialCrime



RENTING COSTS

The average rent for a nice apartment (up to 65 m²) in good location without running costs is about

- Bregenz 8.50 €/m²
- Dornbirn 8.30 €/m²
- Lustenau 7.00 €/m²
- Hohenems 6.90 €/m²
- Götzis 7.20 €/m²
- Feldkirch 7.80 €/m²
- Bludenz 6.70 €/m²
- Schruns 7.00 €/m²

Therefore you can expect monthly renting costs for a flat with 65 m² of about 540 € without gas, electricity, etc.

07.02 GOT IT

After signing the rental contract you normally can move out in accordance to a 3-month-cancellation period or if you find a new tenant.

It is common that your landlord asks you for a deposit, that is about three times the monthly rent. Best you deliver the deposit in form of a savings book, since you get interest rates for the money while it is in your landlords' custody.

It is also common that you are asked to paint the rooms – either when you are moving in or moving out. You can see yourself if the flat needs paint and decide what's best for you.

In most cases you are supposed to pay for water, gas, electricity, internet and GIS yourself. In Austria you are expected to register your TV and radio set for a monthly fee, which is rai-

CHECKLIST RENTING A FLAT

Before signing the contract ask about commission and contract fees as well as limitations of the contract.

After signing the contract:

- pay deposit via savings book
- register for electricity/gas www.vkw.at
- register for internet
see list of providers on [page 017](#)
- register for GIS www.gis.at
- register at the municipal office with your new address - see [03](#)

sed by GIS. Registration can be made online at www.gis.at and costs 19.78 € per month.

Ask your landlord about electricity and gas, because in some cases you have to register for it yourself (www.vkw.at). The costs will be calculated according to your previous tenants demand and paid monthly. Once a year the real consumption is being calculated and invoiced at real costs.

It is common to pay a mandatory garbage fee to the municipal office. This is annually collected to pay communal waste disposal and you will get some waste bags in return.

Please try to separate garbage in paper, glass, metal, plastic, bio and residual waste. The last three will be picked up regularly from your home. Paper, glass and metal waste is supposed to be brought to special garbage stations. Ask your landlord or at the municipal office for details.

07.03 BUY FURNITURE

The most common stores for buying furniture are Lutz (www.xxxlutz.at), Mömax (www.moe-max.at) and Kika (www.kika.at). If you need any stuff for home or garden improvement (e.g. paint, tools, plants) visit Baumax (www.baumax.at) or Schmidt's (www.schmidt-s.at).

Additionally there is IKEA in Innsbruck, Ulm (DE) and St. Gallen (CH), or order online. www.ikea.at

08 COMMUNICATION

08.01 MOBILE

Austria has four major telephone providers:

- A1 Telekom Austria www.a1.net
- Drei www.drei.at
- Telering www.telering.at
- T-Mobile www.t-mobile.at

Rates are relatively cheap compared to other European countries. Check www.tarife.at for the most suitable one. There are also some prepaid providers, e.g. Bob (www.bob.at) and Yesss (www.yesss.at). Note: Compare costs for international calls and roaming in advance.

08.02 INTERNET

In some flats you will find an Internet connection port, that can be activated with different providers, see a list of providers on [page 017](#).

If you don't have a port in your flat you can use an Internet mobile stick. You can get one at the mobile providers stated above. The rates for mobile sticks are relatively cheap compared to other European countries and the connections are good. In rural areas it is still advisable to check the connection first.

09 WORKING

09.01 FIND A JOB

If you are looking for a job in Vorarlberg, check www.chancenland.at. The site features details about the region, working conditions and

ELECTRICITY

Austria uses 220 volts (50 Hz) electricity. If you don't use Type C plug-ins (plug-in with two round prongs) in your country, keep in mind to bring an adapter for your notebook and other electrical appliances.



companies. In the job-database you can find open positions suitable for your interests and knowhow. The website is directed especially towards engineers and IT specialists. Additionally you can find jobs online at www.laendlejob.at and www.westjob.ch (in German).

Also take a look at the regional newspaper Vorarlberger Nachrichten (VN), offering a special career section on Saturdays – together with a section for rentals and housing.

09.02 APPLY FOR IT

When applying for a position it helps to have your application documents in proper German. It is common to send your CV with a portrait photo, an application letter and relevant certificates. It is important that you adapt your CV and application letter directly to the specific position and company you are applying for.

For an interview bring your CV, dress appropriately, prepare relevant questions to show your



Vorarlbergs biggest ski resort Silvretta Montafon features 155 km prepared ski slopes, an amazing fun park, great deals for families, high class restaurants and latest infrastructure. ©Michael Marte | LEFT Modern Business Park (CCR) in Lustenau. ©Marcel Hagen (PRISMA Group)

HR CONSULTANTS

There are several HR consultants that can be contacted for extensive career support.

CCR Management www.ccr-management.com

Eduard Konzett www.konzett.at

Giesinger&Partner www.giesinger.jobs

HRM-Institut www.hrm-institut.at

Kathan&Sepp www.die-personalberater.at

Klien Executive Search www.klien-search.com

Mayer Gruppe www.mayer.co.at

interest in the position and be on time. Being properly informed about the company will significantly increase your chances.

09.03 WORKING CONDITIONS

By law working hours in Austria are up to 8 hours a day, up to 40 hours a week. Employees are entitled to take 5 weeks of paid vacation a year (equals 25 working days).

Wage is usually paid monthly. Additionally to 12 regular wages, Austrian employees receive two extra salaries, one paid in summer (for vacation) and one paid in winter (for Christmas).

Usually the first month of work is probational. Afterwards there is mostly a cancellation period of three months, if not stated otherwise.

09.04 INCOME TAX

If you live in Austria for more than six months

a year, you have to pay income tax. The income tax will be deducted directly from your salary. The tax rate in Austria is progressive, the more you earn the higher your tax rate.

At the end of a year it is recommended to do an end-year adjustment (Arbeitnehmerveranlagung) to make sure you have paid the proper amount of taxes and to take advantage of certain tax-cuts. Register at <https://finanzonline.bmf.gv.at> and follow the instructions.

At <http://bruttonetto.arbeiterkammer.at> you can calculate your brutto (before deductions) and netto wage (after deductions), income tax and social insurance dues.

10 HEALTH SYSTEM

In international comparison Austria ranks amongst the top nations regarding quality of life and health system. 94 % of Austrian inhabitants are satisfied with the nation's health offerings, resulting in second place after Belgium.

The Austrian medical system is excellent. As soon as you start working fulltime you are insured and health insurance is directly deducted from your salary. Different to Switzerland and other countries health insurance is therefore compulsory and you are automatically insured with one provider, depending on the job and branch you are in.

Almost all employees are covered by VGKK, though doctors, farmers and people working in public institutions for example have a special



Start your career at one of Vorarlberg's innovative companies, especially mechanical and software engineers are wanted. ©Matthias Weissengrub (inet-logistics GmbH) | RIGHT The combination of sports and music for the greatest fun at festivals. ©Matthias Rhomberg (Freakwave Festival)

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

The following 13 days are public holidays in Austria and therefore non-working days.

January 1st	New Year
January 6th	Epiphany
March/April	Easter Monday
May 1st	Labour Day
May	Ascension Day
May/June	Pentecost/Whit Monday
May/June	Corpus Christi
August 15th	Assumption Day
October 26th	National Day
November 1st	All Saints Day
December 8th	Immaculate Conception
December 25th	Christmas Day
December 26th	St. Stephen's Day

insurance provider. With the e-card you can engage the service of the doctor of your choice.

Health insurance covers the whole family (spouse and children) automatically without additional costs. The insurance includes services e.g. treatments by doctors and dentists, medicines, psychotherapy, hospital care and maternity allowance.

For medical emergencies go directly to the nearest hospital in Bludenz, Feldkirch, Rankweil, Hohenems, Dornbirn or Bregenz. Otherwise make an appointment with a doctor. At www.arztinvorarlberg.at you find a list of doctors according to your location and needs. Pay attention that you choose a doctor partnering VGKK (if that is your insurance provider), if you consult a private doctor you have to pay for the services yourself.

11 INSURANCE

In Austria employers are obliged to sign up their employees for social insurance. The costs are automatically deducted from the salary and the insurance comprises health, accident, unemployment and retirement pension insurance.

11.01 HEALTH INSURANCE

The health insurance covers costs caused by



SPORTIVE FESTIVALS

Several of the festivals held in Vorarlberg are combined with sports activities. The Freakwave Festival draws wakeboarders to Bregenz, the Silvretta Montafon Festival has established as hotspot for freeriders. And the King of Water Tour challenges skiers, by crossing a water basins with skis.

diseases as well as maternity leave. 14 days after registration (that will be arranged by the employer) you will receive an electronic chip card called e-card, containing your social insurance number. With this card you can use services of doctors and hospitals free of charge. It is recommended that you always carry it with you (e.g. in your purse) – even abroad, since the e-card also covers costs of doctors in other EU-member states. www.sozialversicherung.at

If you feel sick, inform your company immediately, that you are not able to work, and visit a doctor. Your employer can – and mostly will – asks for a doctor's verification of your inability to work (see 10).

11.02 ACCIDENT INSURANCE

The accident insurance covers costs of accidents at work, traveling from or to workplace and diseases caused by work. Accidents during leisure time are not covered. www.auva.at

Since the insurance only covers accidents directly connected to your job, it is recommended to conclude an additional private accident insurance, see list of insurances on [p. 017](#).

11.03 UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

If you have worked in Austria for at least 52 weeks within the last two years, you can apply for jobseeker's allowance, in case of unemployment. The rate of the allowance is calculated on the basis of the previous income. Find regulations, criteria and conditions at www.ams.at.

11.04 RETIREMENT PENSION INSURANCE

Entitlement for a pension starts after working in Austria for more than 15 years. The retirement age in Austria is 60.5 years for women and 65 years for men. The level of pension depends on the wage earned, the years worked and the age retired.

Inhabitants of EU-member states and Switzerland receive a pension according to Austrian law if they have worked in Austria for more than a year. www.sozialversicherung.at

11.05 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you earn less than 395.31 € a month, you are enrolled to the accident insurance only. Then you should think about concluding an optional pension and health insurance.

The staff provision fund (Mitarbeitervorsorgekasse) is an additional social programme in Austria. Employers pay 1.53 % of the employee's brutto wage monthly into a fund, that is paid off as a lump sum when retiring.

12 EDUCATION

12.01 STUDYING

In Austria universities can decide for themselves whether to raise study fees or not. At Vorarlberg's University of Applied Sciences (FHV) in Dornbirn and at Pädagogische Hochschule (university of education) in Feldkirch, studying is free of charge.

FHV offers 12 full- and parttime study programmes with bachelor's and master's degrees and a high practical as well as international orientation (see factbox). In autumn 2014 FHV launches its new bachelor programme Electrical Engineering. The dual programme combines theoretical courses at the university with vocational training in a company. www.fhv.at



FHV STUDY PROGRAMMES

- International Business (BA)
- Mechatronics (BSc/MSc)
- Mechanical Engineering (BSc)
- Electrical Engineering/Electronics (BSc)
- Electrical Engineering Dual (BSc)
- Engineering&Business Administration (BSc)
- Computer Sciences (BSc/MSc)
- Social Work (BA/MA)
- InterMedia (BA/MA)
- Business Process Engineering (MA)
- Controlling & Finance (MA)
- Marketing & Sales (MA)
- Energy Technology & Economy (MSc)

POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMMES^{INTERN}

- Innovation, Product Development (MSc)
- Organisational Development (MSc)
- Public Health Governance (MSc PHG)
- Location and Region Management (MSc)
- Life Cycle Management (MSc)
- Cable Cars – Engineering & MGT (MSc)
- Micro- and Nanotechnology (MSc)

Additionally the centre for postgraduate education Schloss Hofen offers attractive studies in cooperation with international universities (see factbox). www.schlosshofen.at

12.02 SCHOOLS

Find a list of all schools in Vorarlberg at www.vobs.at (in German). For general information about the Austrian education system see

CHANCENLAND VORARLBERG Location Brochure. (www.chancenland.at/locationbrochure.pdf)

13 LEISURE

In Vorarlberg people are indeed hard-working and ambitious about their career, but in free-time they are impressingly spontaneous with embracing the nature around them. Skiing, hiking, rock-climbing – it is not just a myth, people live it. They take their vacations very seriously, love to travel and are adventuresome. Find information about leisure activities and some highlights at www.chancenland.at and www.vorarlberg.travel.

13.01 SPORTS CLUBS

If you want to enroll at a sports club, there are a lot to choose from. The Vorarlberger Sportverband (VSV) supports 900 clubs in 64 different sports with 85,000 members. www.vsv.at

In Vorarlberg most sports activities take place outdoor since nature and landscape offer almost unrestricted possibilities. In winter downhill skiing, ski tours, snowboarding and ice hockey are very popular. In summer it's hiking, trekking, golfing, swimming, paragliding and more. Soccer, handball, tennis, volleyball and squash are played all year around.

Vorarlbergs handball teams A1 Bregenz and Alpla Hard play at international level – the same applies for several winter sport athletes.

If you want to try canyoning, rafting, bungee

jumping or canoeing check out www.outdoor.at.

Vorarlberg is a region of associations. Most inhabitants are members of some kind of club or association, be it the volunteer fire brigade, some sports club or scouts. These associations are a good way to find new friends!

13.02 SHOPPING

In bigger cities like Bregenz, Dornbirn, Feldkirch and Bludenz, but also in most small municipalities you will find farmer markets at specific days where you can buy self-made regional products (e.g. cheese, bread, sausage, marmelade) and flowers. In Dornbirn the market takes place every Wednesday and Saturday forenoon and is a hotspot for people to meet, chat and drink a glass of sparkling wine.

The largest shopping centres are Messepark in Dornbirn (www.messepark.at) and Zimbapark in Bludenz-Bürs (www.zimbapark.at). There are also a lot of shops in the city centres of Bregenz, Dornbirn, Feldkirch and Bludenz.

For sport clothes visit Intersport (www.intersport.at), Hervis (www.hervis.at), Sajas (www.sajas.at) or Skinfit (www.skinfit.at). The latter brand is founded in Vorarlberg and is internationally established, especially in the marathon and triathlon scene.

13.03 INTERNATIONAL FRIENDS

Global Vorarlberg is an initiative to bring together people, that are interested in international friends and contacts. Everyone can join the



Dance performance at Feldkirch Festival in the medieval midtown, where James Bond has raced his car in the movie Quantum of Solace. ©Feldkirch Festival. | LEFT Increase your career chances and make new friends by studying at Vorarlberg's University of Applied Sciences. ©FHV

events and hikes. It is a great chance to meet new people and get to know the region. www.globalvorarlberg.com.

Events and activities, where you can make new friends, are also posted at www.facebook.com/chancenland.vorarlberg.

14 NEWS AND EVENTS

14.01 NEWS AND MEDIA

The most common news website in Vorarlberg is www.vol.at. There you can find latest happenings, information about weather, events, jobs and real estate.

14.02 EVENTS

Besides www.vol.at you can find current events at www.huet.at and www.kulturzeitschrift.at (for leisure events) or www.wirtschaftszeit.at (for business events).

Some annual highlights you shouldn't miss:

JANUARY

Der weiße Ring (ski race) www.derweissering.at

FEBRUARY

Carnival Parades and Parties

Traditional Funken www.vol.at/specials/funken
Schaaner Ried (Night Parade) www.faschingskomitee.com

MARCH

Silvretta Montafon Freeride Festival www.free-ridefestival.at

King of the Water Tour www.kingofthewater.com
Bregenzer Frühling www.bregenzerfruehling.at

APRIL

Vinobile Wine Fair Feldkirch www.feldkirch.at
Spring Fair SCHAU! www.messedornbirn.at
Emsiana Cultural Festival www.emsiana.at

MAY

Seelax Culture Festival www.seelax.at
Whitsun Parties in Schruns and Nüziders
Montfortspektakel www.feldkirch.at

JUNE

New Orleans Festival www.bregenz.travel
Tanz ist Festival www.tanzist.at

JULY

Poolbar Festival www.poolbar.at
Milka Chocolate Festival www.bludenz.travel
Gaukler (Juggler) Festival www.feldkirch.at
Origano Festival www.dornbirn.at
FOEN-X Kammgarn Festival www.foen-x.com
Sommer.Lust am Platz www.lustenau.at
Feldkirch Wine Festival www.feldkirch.at

AUGUST

Szene Open-Air Festival www.szeneopenair.at
Alpine Short Film Festival www.alpinale.net
City Festival Bregenz www.bregenz.travel
Bezau Beatz www.bezaubeatz.at
SommerERleben www.dornbirn.info
Bregenzer Hafenfest www.bregenz.travel

SEPTEMBER

Freakwave Festival www.freakwave.at
Altenstädter Kilbi www.kilbi.com
Schaulust Culture Festival www.schaulust.net
outdoortrophy www.outdoortrophy.com

OCTOBER

Kilbi Lustenau www.lustenau.at
Emser Oktoberfest www.oktoberfest.cc
Airport Race Days www.wildwestcrew.ws
Lange Nacht der Museen <http://langenacht.orf.at>
ArtDesign Feldkirch www.feldkirch.at/artdesign

NOVEMBER

Blosengelmarkt Feldkirch www.feldkirch.at
Martinimarkt Dornbirn www.dornbirn.at

DECEMBER

Christmas Markets
New Year's Parties and Fireworks

14.03 CINEMA

If you are a movie fan you can find cinemas all over Vorarlberg. Find locations and current movies at www.kino.vol.at.

An exceptional cinema is Rio Kino in Feldkirch, it offers special evenings with delicious food and great program, e.g. Scottish evening with whiskey tasting. www.rauchgastronomie.at/rio

Great movies are also shown at ALPINALE Short Movie Festival, that takes place in Nenzing in August. www.alpinale.at



14.04 NIGHTLIFE

An extract of bars and clubs in Vorarlberg. The position on the map does not necessarily correspond with the real location.

Find events, clubs and bars also at www.wohintipp.at

CHECKLIST

	More Information at	Documents Needed/Info	Status
BEFORE COMING TO AUSTRIA			
Get a Job	www.chancenland.at	CV, Certificates, Application	<input type="checkbox"/>
Get an Apartment	www.laendleimmo.at	Bank account, Registration Form	<input type="checkbox"/>
Get a Flight	www.checkfelix.com	Fly to Zurich, Munich or Innsbruck	<input type="checkbox"/>
FIRST DAYS IN AUSTRIA			
Register at Meldeamt	Municipal Office	Registration Form, Passport	<input type="checkbox"/>
Open a Bank Account	see list below	Passport	<input type="checkbox"/>
Register for Gas and Electricity	www.vkw.at	Bank Account	<input type="checkbox"/>
Register for Internet	see list below	Bank Account	<input type="checkbox"/>
Register for GIS	www.gis.at	Bank Account	<input type="checkbox"/>
FIRST MONTHS IN AUSTRIA			
Get a Registration Certificate	District Authority	Registration Form, Passport	<input type="checkbox"/>
Get your e-card	www.vgkk.at	Allows you to consult doctors	<input type="checkbox"/>
Get your Working Contract	Employer	States your working conditions	<input type="checkbox"/>
Get a Car	www.laendleauto.at	Valid Driving License, Insurance	<input type="checkbox"/>

LIST OF PROVIDERS

In order to help you start your life in Vorarlberg we have summarized the most relevant internet providers, insurances and banks for you.

INTERNET PROVIDERS

A1 Telekom	www.a1.net
iPlace	www.iplace.at
Tele2	www.tele2.at
UPC	www.upc.at
vol.at	www.highspeed.vol.at

INSURANCES

Allianz	www.allianz.at
Uniqua	www.uniqua.at
VLV	www.vlv.at

BANKS

Bank Austria	www.bankaustria.at
BTV	www.btv.at
Hypo	www.hypovbg.at
ING DiBa	www.ing-diba.at
Raiffeisen	www.raiffeisen.at/vbg
Sparkasse	www.sparkasse.at
Volksbank	www.volksbank-vorarlberg.at



With its thrilling landscape Vorarlberg offers scenes and places for almost all sports. ©Michael Marte

REGISTRATION FORM Meldezettel

Please cross when applicable

SURNAME (in block letters), Academic Degree SMITH, MA				
FIRST NAME (according to passport) John				
SURNAME (before first marriage) -				
DATE OF BIRTH 01.01.1980	SEX Male <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>		RELIGION -	
PLACE OF BIRTH (according to passport, state and country) California (United States)				
MARRITAL STATUS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Married <input type="checkbox"/> Civil Union/Registered Partnership <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced <input type="checkbox"/> Resolved Registered Partnership <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed <input type="checkbox"/> Surviving Registered Partner				
CITIZENSHIP Austria <input type="checkbox"/> Other state <input type="checkbox"/> → Name of the state: United States				
INDICATION OF ZMR-NUMBER (if known) <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>				
TRAVEL DOCUMENT Type of Document, f.ex. Passport, ID card Number C01234567 Issue Date: 01.01.1990 Passport Issuing Authority Berkeley Post Office, California				
YOUR NEW ACCOMMODATION IS AT	Street Musterstraße	House No. 12	Stair	Door No.
	ZIP Code City, State 6850 Dornbirn			
IS THIS ACCOMMODATION YOUR MAIN RESIDENCE? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>				
IF NOT, WHERE IS YOUR MAIN RESIDENCE?	Street	House No.	Stair	Door No.
	ZIP Code City, State			
HAVE YOU MOVED FROM ABROAD? No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> → Name of the state: Virginia, US				
YOUR LAST ACCOMMODATION WAS AT ...	Street	House No.	Stair	Door No.
	ZIP Code City, State			
DO YOU MOVE TO A COUNTRY OUTSIDE OF AUSTRIA? No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> → Name of the state:				
NAME (IN BLOCK LETTERS) AND SIGNATURE OF LANDLORD, DATE Thomas Schmitt, 12.12.2012		DATE AND SIGNATURE 3		

1 ZMR-Number is an administration number that is given to you automatically by the administration software. You can leave the box unfilled.

2 These fields are only needed if you want to unregister a previous accommodation in Austria. If you move to Austria from abroad leave these fields empty.

3 Your Signature



WWW.CHANCENLAND.AT

CAREER

PLEASURE

SUCCESS