STUDY YEAR ABROAD · SEP 2025 – JUN 2026

# A Year in Vienna

Research, study & life on Year Abroad at TU Wien – reflections from an MChem placement year.

## 01 · Introduction

Studying abroad as an integrated-master student: I headed to Vienna and spent nine months as a student, chemist and traveller.

The year abroad was split in two: half in the research lab, half in lecture rooms – and every spare hour exploring Europe.

## 02 · Host University



### Technische Universität Wien

Founded in 1815 · a leading European technical university · campus in the heart of Vienna.

- 26 000 students across 8 faculties
- Teaching in German and English
- Strong in synthetic and green chemistry
- Home of the Institute of Applied Synthetic Chemistry

## 03 · Getting There

**MAR 2025**
Offer received — preparations begin

**APR 2025**
Room secured in a shared flat

**JUN 2025**
Visa appointments & insurance arranged

**15 SEP 2025**
Moved in · Vienna Discovery Programme — dining & city tours

**OCT 2025**
Winter semester & research project begin

**JUN 2026**
Placement complete

## 04 · Research Project

### Synthesis & Optimisation of Diazirine-Containing Building Blocks for Chemical Biology

`Bioorganic Synthetic Chemistry`

`50% of placement`

Supervised by Dominik Schnalzer & Viktor Savić.

METHODS & TECHNIQUES

- Synthesis of a TPD (trifluoromethyl-phenyldiazirine) core
- Solvent screening, optimisation & degassing
- Asymmetric catalytic alkylation
- Solid-phase peptide synthesis
- MPLC purification
- Diaziridine ring closure — monitored under dry ice / ammonia
- Careful handling of $CCl_4$ (now rarely used — toxic & environmentally harmful)

## 05 · Chemistry

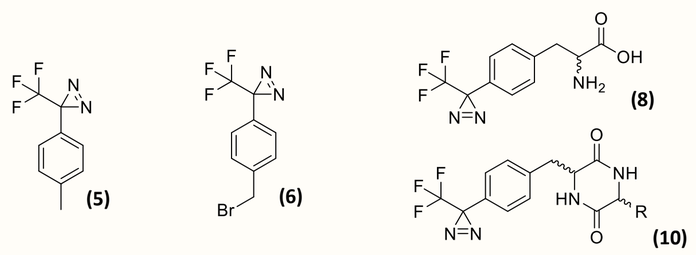


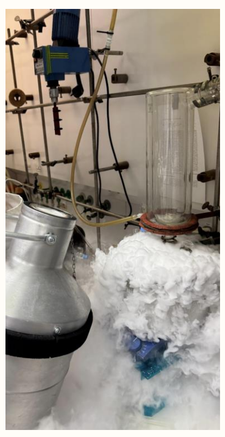

*Fig. 1 – Key chemical structures prepared during the optimisation of a diazirine building block synthesis and demonstration of its synthetic utility.*

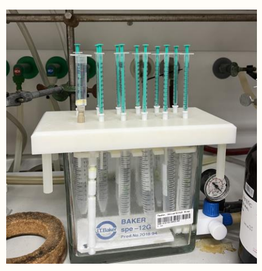
## 06 · Take Aways

An optimised route toward diazirine building blocks — and a synthetic toolkit spanning small-molecule synthesis, peptide chemistry and advanced purification.

**9** modules studied

**8+** new lab techniques





## 07 · Modules Studied

`Medicinal Chemistry` `Green Chemistry`

`Data Science for Green Chem & Eng.`

`Materials in Nuclear Applications` `$H_2$ Technologies`

`Physiology & Basics of Pathology` `Toxicology`

`Separation Technology`

`Energy Systems (Winter/Summer School)`

## 08 · Life & Travel

**13** cities in nine months — a busy, sociable year.




`Bratislava` `Brno` `Prague` `Graz` `Munich` `Paris`

`Copenhagen` `Barcelona` `Lisbon` `Amsterdam` `Geneva`

`Strasbourg` `Budapest · 21st 🎂`

Thanks to this year abroad, I made friends from Portugal, France, Switzerland, Sweden, Norway, Brazil, Paraguay, Germany and Austria – friendships that lasted all year and still up until now.
Add over 20 Christmas markets, the *Lange Nacht der Museen*, wine taverns, hikes, snowmen, jazz & comedy clubs, German classes, a language café where I taught French, Piloxing, rowing and techno events! Take me back..







## 09 · REFLECTION

**A formative, sociable, genuinely happy year — I came home a more confident chemist and a more independent person, with friends right across Europe.**

### Thinking of a year abroad in Vienna? Do it.

- World-class research, in English
- A city that's endlessly liveable
- A ready-made international community (ESN)

REFERENCES


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THE BATH AWARD
Engagement · Skills · Reflection
50+ HRS LOGGED