

A letter from the Program Director:

“A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step.” – Lao Tzu

Congratulations! The first step is made! Your student has expressed interest in our program, has considered the possibility of studying abroad, or has already applied to the Innsbruck Summer School. Now the journey can begin – and what a journey it will be!

First, I would like to thank you, the parent, for taking an interest in your child’s plan to study with us in Innsbruck, and for your support along the way. On our end, we will do our best to help you navigate the rest of the journey – before, during, and after Innsbruck. Every member of the team here is very proud to be part of this program. We take pride in its long-standing history, its academic excellence that has been maintained for over 40 years, and in being part of the “Innsbruck family” that has affected and changed so many lives.

Since 1976, 10,000 U.S. students have studied in Innsbruck with this program, over 1,000 Austrian students have participated as well, and hundreds of faculty members have taught and inspired their classes. Recently, we have seen enrollment by 2nd generation participants, whose parents went to Innsbruck in the 70s and 80s! Over the years, the program has prompted partnerships between universities, the establishment of UNO’s Center Austria, an Academic Year Program in Innsbruck guided by a Resident Director, thousands of Austrian students who have chosen to study at UNO, a sister-city agreement between Innsbruck and New Orleans, an international art exchange, a Jazz Festival in Innsbruck, multiple academic conferences and publications, and even a number of transatlantic marriages!

I look forward to working with you and your student over the next few months and to meeting him or her personally in Innsbruck – or before. Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time with your questions or concerns. My hope is that your child, when returning home, will agree with the statement below and begin to see the returns on this personal and academic investment:

“Once you have traveled, the voyage never ends, but is played out over and over again in the quietest chambers. The mind can never break off from the journey.” – Pat Conroy

Sincerely,

Irene Ziegler

Irene B. Ziegler, Ph.D.
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