HTU Graz
Vertretung. Beratung. Service.

Graz, am 20.10.2026

Bericht für die 1. ordentliche Sitzung im Wintersemester 2026 der Universitätsvertretung der HTU Graz am 20.10.2026

Referat für Austauschstudierende

Organisational Updates and Internal Development

Over the summer break, our focus shifted towards internal restructuring, onboarding, and preparing to host the ESN Austria National Assembly (NA) in Graz this November. We held a handover meeting between the outgoing and incoming board members, and held three onboarding sessions in a new format, welcoming 25 new team members.

To support our growing team, we reorganised and automated event planning workflows, making coordination simpler for organisers. We also launched our new website and a redesigned buddy platform, successfully replacing the legacy platform. In parallel, we arranged new contracts to continue our cooperation agreements with KUG and FH.

Events and Social Programme

With the arrival of exchange students in September, we launched a full calendar of social, outdoor, and cultural events. Over the past two months, we have organised more than twenty events, including:

- **Cultural and city tours:** Old Town walking tours, Schlossberg, and an Aufsteiern get-together.
- **Excursions and outdoor activities:** Rettenbachklamm and Bärenschutzklamm hikes and a minigolf hike.
- **Sports and social gatherings:** Two social runs, Quadball try-outs, bowling, an arts and crafts night, board game evenings, and an International Dinner.
- **Major events:** A Visa trip, a large Welcome Party organised in collaboration with StV Social Studies (Uni Graz), and this Thursday we will have our annual Sturm- und Spritzerstand at Alte Technik campus.

Our weekly regular's table continues as scheduled, sometimes including special activities such as pub quizzes, speed friending and a traffic light party. We are also piloting a second weekly regular's table focused on karaoke at Stockwerk to reduce the load of our main one.

Buddy Programme and Arrival Services

The rollout of our new buddy platform proved to be a major success. As of 5 October, 57 local buddies have been matched with 113 incoming exchange students. For comparison, the programme supported 16 buddies and 25 students during the previous winter semester.

Our new online pickup request form on the website also saw unprecedented demand. We received 46 individual requests (compared to fewer than 10 in previous semesters) and completed all of them throughout August and September, helping students settle in smoothly.

Welcome Presentations and Office Hours

To assist incoming students during their first weeks in Graz, we hosted seven special office hours featuring comprehensive welcome presentations. These were complemented by 13 regular weekly office hours dedicated to answering individual inquiries, processing event registrations, and issuing ESNcards.

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