

Fully-funded PhD positions in Astronomy, Biology, Computer Science, Chemistry & Materials, Data Science & Scientific Computing, Earth Science, Mathematics, Neuroscience, and Physics



ISTA

PhD Call for Applications

DEADLINE:
JANUARY 8, 2026

Mathematical & Physical Sciences
Life Sciences
Information & System Sciences

APPLY NOW →

The Institute of Science and Technology Austria - ISTA is looking for highly qualified candidates with Bachelor's or Master's degrees to apply for the PhD program. We offer **fully-funded PhD positions in [Astronomy, Biology, Computer Science, Chemistry & Materials, Data Science & Scientific Computing, Earth Science, Mathematics, Neuroscience, and Physics](#)**, in a world-class research environment on the outskirts of Vienna.

In 2019, ISTA was ranked #3 in the world-wide Nature Index ranking (normalized). In 2018, ISTA was ranked within the top ten of Nature Index Rising Stars "Top 30 academic institutions under 30" list.

All students are offered **5-year contracts**, they receive internationally competitive salaries, and full social security coverage. There is also financial support for students for attending scientific conferences and workshops.

The **application deadline is January 8, 2026 (2:59 PM, CET)** for a PhD start date in September 2026.

[APPLY NOW](#)

Join our Virtual Student Open Day on November 25!

[REGISTER NOW](#)

The Virtual Open Day is a great opportunity to explore our programs and campus virtually, wherever you are. The program includes a range of live sessions from the Graduate School Office, academics and students. You can find out about the PhD program, the ISTA research experience, the support services, the ISTA campus, and much more by attending one of the talks.

A promotional banner for the Virtual Student Open Day. The banner is divided into several sections. On the left, a dark green section contains the text '2025' in a small yellow box, followed by 'Virtual Student Open Day' in large white letters. To the right of this is a photograph of a man in a lab coat and blue gloves pouring liquid from a beaker into a container. Further right is a bright green section with the ISTA logo. Below the top row, on the left, is a photograph of a man and a woman looking at a computer screen. On the right, a light green section contains the date 'Tuesday, November 25, 2025' in dark green, followed by a bulleted list of activities: 'Live, interactive info sessions', 'Ask questions to our students & professors', 'Learn about campus life and Vienna', and 'Attend any of our scientific track sessions'. At the bottom right of this section is a dark green button with the text 'REGISTER NOW' in white.

2025

Virtual Student Open Day

Tuesday, November 25, 2025

- Live, interactive info sessions
- Ask questions to our students & professors
- Learn about campus life and Vienna
- Attend any of our scientific track sessions

[REGISTER NOW](#)

- **International and Diverse Scientific Community**

Our scientists, from professors to postdocs to students, hail from all corners of the world, representing over 80 different nationalities, and building on research and degrees earned from the finest global scientific institutes and universities.

- **English-Speaking**

We use English throughout the institute as the language of instruction and communication.

- **Interdisciplinary**

Our Graduate Program is characterized by modern comprehensive training with a special focus on [interdisciplinarity](#).

- **Cutting-edge Research Training**

Students work closely with outstanding faculty within small research groups and have access to first-rate facilities. Students spend the first year completing coursework and rotations before affiliating with a group.

This first phase of exploration allows students to be sure that the research topic, as well as the research group, are the best match for them before they embark on in-depth thesis research in the second phase.

- **Entry with a Bachelor's or Master's Degree**

We welcome students with a bachelor's or a master's in science to apply for our PhD program.

- **Funding**

In all fields of research, [funding](#) is a very important topic. ISTA relies on diverse funding sources to support all its researchers. The Grant Office is there to support ISTA scientists who would like to apply for external funding.

All PhD students are offered **5-year contracts**. All students making reasonable progress are fully funded until the time of their thesis defense.

Students also receive financial support to attend scientific conferences and workshops during their studies.

- **Careers**

Our distinguished alumni have gone on to successful [careers](#) after their PhD studies at ISTA.

PhD students receive support through our mentorship and career development programs which focus on training in transferable skills for academia and beyond. Throughout their

studies, PhD students are supported by Career Services, which provides career development advice and training.

There are also regular talks organized by the [XISTA Innovation](#), which aim to support researchers in the commercial development and use of their research results.

Skills/Qualifications

ISTA welcomes students with different academic backgrounds who can bring their skills and experiences to the scientific setting.

Students with a **Bachelor's or Master's degree** in Astronomy, Biology, Computer Science, Chemistry & Materials, Data Science & Scientific Computing, Earth Science, Mathematics, Neuroscience, and Physics are encouraged to apply.

ISTA processes applications for its PhD program once a year. To [apply](#), you have to create an online account, which will allow you to track your application through its various stages.

WHAT APPLICATION MATERIALS ARE REQUIRED?

We ask you to upload the following documents to the application portal:

- **CV**
- **Statement of purpose** that explains your research experience and your motivation for applying to the ISTA PhD program. It should be 1-2 pages maximum. In your statement, specify up to three research groups you find the most interesting. At this stage you do not need to contact potential supervisors.
- **University transcripts and diplomas** of all degree programs and all years you have attended and/or are currently enrolled in (in English and in original language)
- **Contact information of 3 referees**

All documents have to be submitted in English and copies of university transcripts also in their original language.