

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

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 Biology, Computer Science, Chemistry & Materials, Data Science & Scientific Computing, 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, 2024** for a Ph.D. start date in **15<sup>th</sup> September 2024**.

[Apply now](#)

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**Join us on our Virtual Student Open Day on November 16th, 2023!**

More information and registration: [here](#).

**Last edition of the Virtual Student Open Day, February 2nd:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XcOEnCZqDIU>

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.

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- **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 TWIST talks organized by the Technology Transfer Office, which aim to support researchers in the commercial development and use of their research results.

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### **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 in Biology, Computer Science, Chemistry & Materials, Data Science & Scientific Computing, Mathematics, Neuroscience, and Physics are encouraged to apply.

### **WHAT ARE THE SELECTION CRITERIA?**

The selection committee uses a collection of indicators to evaluate the applicant's preparedness, motivation, and potential. The following will be considered:

#### **Scientific promise:**

- undergraduate performance: overall, with a special focus on relevant field-specific courses
- reference letters provided by professors and senior scientists: one letter from industry is acceptable, but letters from an academic background are given priority; referees are asked to address analytical capabilities, technical proficiency, ability to work independently and motivation/commitment;

- statement of purpose: the applicant's past research experience and motivation for applying to this particular PhD program: is it a good academic fit? does the program contribute to the candidate's future career plans?, etc.;
- additional relevant skills (field-specific): demonstrated in, e.g., internships and/or participation in research projects, participation in science Olympiads, programming languages, lab techniques, etc.

**Background:**

- quality of the undergraduate background
- transferable skills: e.g. communication skills, experience with working in teams, previous mobility and international experiences, leadership experience as demonstrated in student organizations, etc.;
- diversity: e.g. a woman in computer science/math/physics; an applicant who switched fields, etc.;

**Videos:**

Best of ISTA: <https://youtu.be/U3eE8X6iwmq>

Neuroscience: <https://youtu.be/IVRPiRi0fp4>

Mathematics: <https://youtu.be/x8nVk6i-o3M>

Data Science & Scientific Computing: <https://youtu.be/2Z5KezsOxzc>

Computer Science: <https://youtu.be/GjndDjj5f4>

Biology: <https://youtu.be/7VqExQ6cTMM>

Physics: <https://youtu.be/AYBZePxAKzU>