



interdisciplinary
transformation
university austria



AEC/IT:U

Appointment of
Two Founding Director Roles
March 2024



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Be a Part of the Adventure...

Envision this: A university specifically dedicated to digital transformation, based on interdisciplinary research and project-based learning, supported by and advancing digital technologies. A university with its own law, without disciplinary and institutional borders. A technical university attracting students who have not studied technology for their first degrees, but who have come to appreciate computer science to solve problems close to their hearts. A technical university for and with women, with a diverse culture, and openness to embrace new approaches.

If this vision makes you jump out of your chair, lures you out into the unknown, then you are reacting like I did in the summer of 2023. I started this adventure as a one-woman-show. Now we are already a team of more than 20 highly enthusiastic and highly skilled individuals. People who want to make a difference in the way young people learn to understand the world and change it for the better.

Our leadership team needs your competences and skills to further shape and grow IT:U. On the one hand, we need a **learning innovator** who will develop IT:U's project-based learning methodology, create a good environment for a large variety of learning practitioners and radically reinvents learning and teaching. On the other hand, we are looking for a **technology leader** who will set-up innovative service-oriented technological environments, ensures secure and smooth operations, and runs a professional software development group with a passion for artificial intelligence in LearnTech/ResearchTech.

As a team we will together shape IT:U according to our common vision. If you are not looking for a job, but a mission – please apply today.

I am looking forward to hearing from you!

Prof. Dr. Stefanie Lindstaedt
IT:U Founding President



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IT:U/Felix Büchele

Shaping our Future: About IT:U

Austria has a new technical university: IT:U - the Interdisciplinary Transformation University. IT:U was founded in Linz, Upper Austria, in 2023. IT:U's identity will be defined by cutting edge interdisciplinary research addressing digital transformation challenges on the road to a sustainable future. The university will develop an international, interdisciplinary, and inclusive community of students, scientists, and teachers, to conduct education in challenge-based projects, promoting project-based learning and using groundbreaking educational technology to scale up. IT:U will educate transformers in 21st century skills in a rich toolbox of digital and computational methods, ranging from data science and artificial intelligence to robotics and augmented reality.

IT:U's funding is provided by both the federal government of Austria and the province of Upper Austria. The state's financial contribution comprises 50 percent of the construction costs of the new buildings required for the purposes of the university, including the associated ancillary and outdoor facilities.

The federal government will provide permanent financing of all obligations arising in research and teaching. 45 million euros have already been reserved for the foundation phase up to 2025. When fully expanded in 2036/37, IT:U will have an annual budget of 150 million euros to enable excellent research, teaching, and infrastructure.

To achieve this goal, the Austrian parliament passed the **Founding Law** in 2022, decreeing that a new public university should be founded. The focus of this new university was defined to be an interdisciplinary model institution in digital sciences and digital transformation. The **Founding Convent**, consisting of nine internationally recognized scientists and highly regarded players in Austria's higher education ecosystem, prepared the election of the founding president and developed a document on "Strategic Principles" which serves as a more detailed basis for the ongoing development of the new university. Prof. Dr. Stefanie Lindstaedt was elected as founding president in summer 2023. The first group of students attended a summer school in summer 2023 and a study program in autumn 2023. The new university has been branded **IT:U, the Interdisciplinary Transformation University**, in November 2023.

Shaping our Future: About IT:U

IT:U's infrastructure is currently under development, with the new campus being planned through an architectural challenge process, and the current, temporary facilities being adapted to research and education use. Teaching labs on a number of digital topics, ranging from robotics to augmented and virtual reality, are in the process of being established.

IT:U should be recognized internationally as an institution that makes substantial contributions to the emergence of new scientific disciplines, e.g. Computational X, and demonstrates that excellent science can be systematically transformed into profitable products and services as well as social innovations in Europe.

Transforming science: IT:U Mission

We have derived our mission statement from the relevant legal foundations of our institution and from in-depth discussion with stakeholders in science, industry, and society. We define our mission to be three-fold:

#students IT:U shall attract international students from all disciplines and train them in computational and 21st century skills, along projects with a mission, and prepare them to digitally transform their disciplines, application areas, businesses, and societies. **IT:U educates transformers.**

#scientists IT:U shall attract leading international researchers driving digitalization within their disciplines, creating interdisciplinary research collaboration centered around computational methods and computer sciences. **IT:U drives convergence.**

#austria IT:U shall create an inspiring, inclusive, international environment which encourage students and researchers to stay within the regional research and business ecosystem. **IT:U empowers ecosystems.**

IT:U DNA

The research and education portfolio of IT:U comprises unique features which set IT:U apart from the usual Austrian university ecosystem. These features also characterize IT:U as a member of a small community of emerging universities across Europe oriented towards new ways of project-based education and education integrated research.

#thingsthatmatter IT:U will conduct cutting edge interdisciplinary research addressing digital transformation challenges on the road to a sustainable future. The research goals defined by society and economy increasingly require scientific cooperation across disciplinary boundaries. Scientific advances, for example in hybrid modeling or computational social sciences, demonstrate that the use of computational methods opens up new research horizons for many disciplines. Researchers and students want to contribute to solutions for global challenges like climate change. **At IT:U, we will work on things that matter.**

#allofus: IT:U establishes a research and education environment fostering an international, interdisciplinary, and inclusive community from the very beginning. On the scientific side, we will create an open work climate where many disciplines can meet without prejudice. On the education side, we will design an environment which also makes women feel welcome, counters language barriers and accounts for cultural considerations and all other forms of diversity. We will go to the extra mile to attract and integrate women to work on digital topics. **At IT:U, all of us will work together.**

Shaping our Future: About IT:U

#nextlearning: IT:U will conduct education within challenge-based projects, promoting project-based learning, and using groundbreaking educational technology to scale up. The best way to learn new skills is to practically acquire them within projects which address challenges that engage and motivate us. While this type of project-based learning is widely considered optimal in educational sciences, it also places very high demands on the number and quality of educators and infrastructure. We will develop and apply advanced education technologies to overcome the implicit scaling challenge. **IT:U explores the next level of learning.**

#transformeverything: IT:U recognizes the demand for 21st century skills beyond technical ability implicit in the interdisciplinary nature of the transformations driven by digitalization and computational methods. Future transformers in science and industry must be adept at change management, cross-cultural communication, project organization and many other non-technical skills to roll out, scale up, integrate and ultimately realize the value of solutions based on digital methods. Such skills are best acquired in a project-based learning experience. **IT:U offers tomorrow's transformers a well-rounded education.**

#technologyrocks: At its core, IT:U is a technical university where students and researchers employ a rich toolbox of digital and computational methods ranging from data science and artificial intelligence to robotics and augmented reality. We will offer a broad technical education to students from a variety of backgrounds, enabling them to transform their respective fields with technology. Our researchers will employ computation methods to explore new scientific frontiers. **IT:U explores how technologies can change the world – for real.**



#newmodeluniversity: IT:U will apply a new model of university organization, including flat organization structures, agile management methods, and enhance those with a strong digital culture including “mobile first” and “data only once.” **IT:U reacts dynamically to changing environments and needs.**

Interdisciplinary Scientific Model

The central goal of our scientific model is to enable and encourage disciplinary convergence on the highest level of scientific quality. By bringing Computational X professors and scientists together to research specific interdisciplinary key challenges collaboratively, IT:U will create a melting pot of different disciplines – with computer science as the lingua franca between the different perspectives. Our approach is to hire young high-potential professors and scientists who work on the intersection between Computer Science and another discipline X, people who are willing to experiment with approaches from other disciplines as their own and willing to learn the “language” of others, to overcome the “symmetry of ignorance” between the disciplines. By doing so we will open new opportunities for research and the emergence of new research approaches, new topics, and even new communities.

Shaping our Future: About IT:U

Project-based Education Model

At IT:U, the project-based learning approach is seamlessly integrated across all study programs.

From day one, students will actively engage in small group project work, acquiring the competences and skills essential for the successful completion of their studies. This hands-on methodology not only enhances academic understanding but also cultivates practical and real-world problem-solving abilities. A distinctive feature of our approach is the systematic documentation of student learnings – students continuously compile tangible evidence of their accomplishments into a **qualification's portfolio**. This portfolio not only serves as a testament to their academic journey but also as a tangible representation of the competences and skills they have acquired, providing a comprehensive **showcase of their capabilities to prospective employers and academic institutions.**

Network University Model

IT:U's agile structure is not based on traditional disciplines, but on topics, challenges, and fields of action that link individual specialist areas. IT:U is a university that was established to complement the existing Austrian educational and scientific landscape. Through cooperation with other universities, non-university research institutions, NGOs, and companies, IT:U establishes itself as a **network university**.

IT:U sets strong accents in the exchange with business and social stakeholders, in particular by offering mission-oriented services for lifelong learning, developing a think tank for effective design of transformation processes, and being an attractive incubator environment for the development of start-ups.



IT:U/Felix Büchele

An Agile Organizational Model

Flat hierarchies and fluid research structures allow the best minds to interact in a mission-oriented manner that are constituted as required and, depending on their degree of maturity, can also be dissolved again. Education and research are of equal importance to IT:U's faculty members who are visionaries, bridge builders and shapers of digital change with an open mindset. At IT:U, innovation in higher education, high-quality teaching, and internationally competitive cutting-edge research are equally important.

IT:U will be managed by the Founding President in close collaboration with the Managing Director and up to four Founding Directors. Together they constitute the **Founding Management Board** in which each Founding Director will be responsible for their agendas while at the same time working as a team.

Founding Director Learning Innovation & Learning Operations

Job Summary

As a key member of IT:U's Founding Management Board you will shape our learning culture and ensure its continuous improvement through a Living Lab. This role includes the development of IT:U's project-based learning methodology, prototyping of AI-based learning technology, evaluation of methodology and tools within the context of students learning projects, creation of learning environments (physical as well as digital), and much more.

You are a learning innovator with the ultimate goal to build passion. Passion for solving complex problems with digital technologies in our students. Passion for project-based, personalized teaching in our scientists. You will build a team of diverse learning professionals and ensure teaching operations. You create a learning culture which inspires interdisciplinarity and enthusiasm for digital technologies based on mutual respect and diversity.

If applicable, the successful candidate can be awarded a professorship.

Main Responsibilities

- Your responsibility will include exercising **leadership in teaching operations** to ensure seamless operations, as well as fostering collaboration with various departments to create a well-organized and cohesive academic environment.
- You will support the **design of mission-based study programs** in close collaboration with our Senior Manager "Study Programs and Student Affairs" and together ensure the quality of teaching operations.
- By building core **teaching methodology groups** you establish different teaching approaches such as computational thinking and design thinking. In addition, learning projects will be suffused with 21st century skills (such as project management, self-management, ethical design).

Founding Director Learning Innovation & Learning Operations

- In close collaboration with scientists and the Founding Director IT Solutions, Operations & Development you will **develop AI-based learning technologies** to enable scalability of IT:U's project-based learning approach.
- Every learning project IT:U offers will be an opportunity for IT:U to learn about how to improve teaching methodology, technology, etc. It will be your responsibility to set up the **IT:U Living Lab** which will embody multi-dimensional evaluation of learning projects and provide feedback to students, teachers, technology developers, administrators, etc. This way you will ensure that IT:U is always at the forefront of learning innovation.
- You will employ and develop **Learning Analytics** to facilitate student development and growth and to provide feedback to professors and lecturers to enhance their students' learning experience.
- As far as **Academic Analytics** are concerned, you will play a key role in utilizing data-driven insights to enhance academic performance and outcomes and contribute to strategic planning initiatives.
- In the domain of **Community Management**, you will be responsible for building and nurturing a vibrant academic community including scientists and lecturers. We aspire for all individuals who have ever interacted with our learning organization to remember us fondly and to share their extraordinary learning experiences at IT:U.



Requirements

- Have proven experience in top-level management roles (ideally within an academic setting).
- Have exceptional leadership skills with a track record of fostering innovation.
- Thrive in matrix organizational structures.
- Have strong project management skills and experience in leading diverse teams.
- Have the will to drive educational initiatives that enhance the overall learning experience.
- Be a strategic thinker with a keen understanding of academic analytics and data-driven decision-making.

We are seeking a dynamic leader who can collaboratively build this new emerging university with us, shaping the future of learning at IT:U. If you are passionate about education, possess outstanding management skills, and are ready to contribute to the growth of our institution, we invite you to apply for this exciting opportunity.



Founding Director IT Solutions, Operations and Development

Job Summary

As a key member of the Founding Management Board you will design, implement, operate, and grow IT:U's complete technological environment – including administration, student lifecycle management, educational technology, research environments, our new computing & data center, and beyond.

You are a technology leader who has experiences in setting-up innovative service-oriented technological environments for different user groups, ensures secure and smooth operations, and runs a professional software development group for rolling-out our own LearnTech/ ResearchTech solutions. You are passionate about the application of Artificial Intelligence approaches to automate and personalize IT:U's IT landscape with the overall goal to create an environment with which our students, scientists, and administrators enjoy to work.

If applicable, the successful candidate can be awarded a professorship.

Main Responsibilities

- Bringing your exceptional leadership skills to the forefront you will be **fostering a deeply digital culture** including mobile first and data only once.
- You will be responsible for developing and maintaining a **comprehensive IT architecture** that aligns with the university's strategic objectives. This involves creating a strategic roadmap for IT initiatives that not only supports academic and administrative goals but also ensures the scalability and adaptability of the technology infrastructure to accommodate the university's growth.
- Ideally you have **experience in evaluating and deploying systems** for ERP, campus management, student life cycle management, online teaching and learning environments, research infrastructures, research data management, etc.

Founding Director IT Solutions, Operations and Development

- You will be responsible for developing and implementing robust measures to **safeguard university data and systems**. Keeping up with potential cybersecurity threats and making sure that the necessary rules and regulations are followed will be a key aspect of your responsibilities.
- You will oversee day-to-day **IT operations** to ensure reliability, scalability, and efficiency. This involves managing systems related to student life cycle management, contributing to a streamlined and efficient university operation.
- The role extends to leading and overseeing project management for the design of **digital first implementations of university processes**. This includes coordinating with different departments to ensure effective communication and collaboration, ultimately achieving seamless project execution.
- Working closely with the Founding Director for Learning Innovation & Operations, you will develop **AI-enhanced learning environments** which specifically support project-based learning.
- You will develop **strategic partnerships** for the utilization and co-development of technology from other leading universities, as well as partnerships with leading tech and software providers.
- With your collaboration and your entrepreneurial mindset, we aim to build an **expansive Software Development team**. Here, excellence and efficiency will converge, enriching both teaching and research at IT:U.
- Additionally, you will oversee the development and management of a cutting-edge **Computing & Data Center**. IT:U is currently in the planning stages for a dedicated facility to house this state-of-the-art center.



Requirements

- Experience in a senior management role, preferably in a higher education setting.
- Exceptional leadership skills with the ability to navigate a matrix organizational structure.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills and collaborative team-oriented approach.
- Strong project management skills and experience in leading diverse teams.
- Extensive experience in IT architecture, project management, and supplier management.
- In-depth knowledge of security and privacy best practices in the context of higher education.
- Expertise in campus management, educational technology, research data management, etc. would be considered a plus.

We are seeking a dynamic leader who can collaboratively build this new emerging university with us. If you are enthusiastic about shaping the IT landscape at IT:U, we are looking forward to your application.



Terms of Employment

The offer from IT:U is a full-time appointment as Founding Director with the following terms:

- Competitive salaries starting from €160.000 annually with a variable compensation of 20%.
- Full integration into Austria's robust public health system, boasting outstanding clinical facilities and comprehensive healthcare coverage for you and your family.
- Dual career support or dual hiring if applicable.
- Relocation services including, paid temporary housing for the first 6 months (relocation to the Greater area of Linz, Austria, is expected).
- Full paid public transportation across the whole of Austria (KlimaTicket).
- Welcome services: As part of our commitment to supporting the well-being of our employees, we will assist you in securing appropriate facilities such as day nurseries, kindergartens, playgroups, and schools for the seamless integration of your family into our community.
- If applicable the position of Founding Director can be linked to a professorship in your area of expertise. Certain requirements apply.

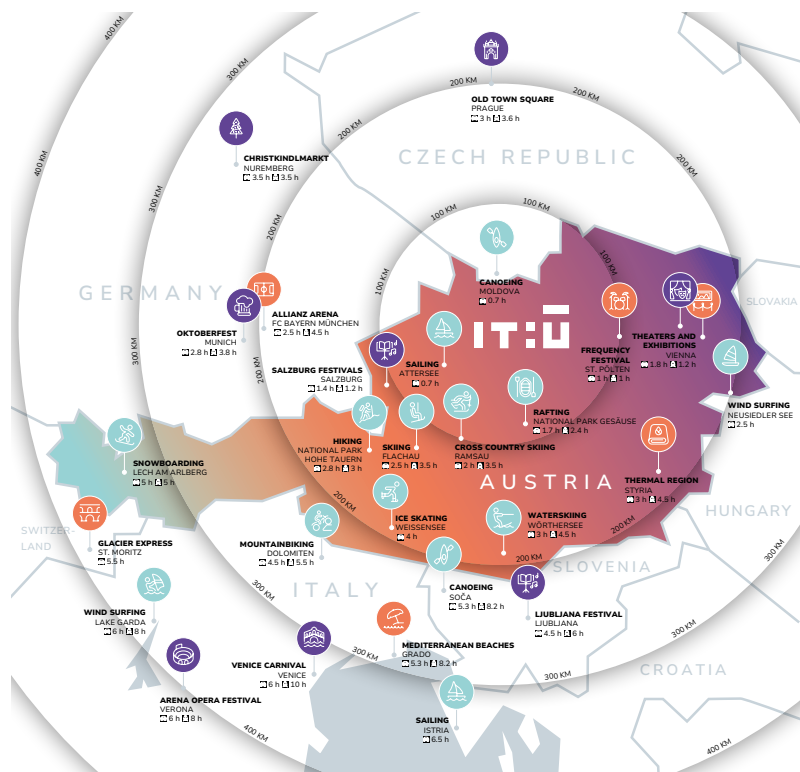
IT:U in Linz, Austria – in the Heart of Europe

IT:U is situated in Linz, the capital of Upper Austria. With a population of around 200,000, the city combines the amenities and diverse offerings of a large city with the charm and green surroundings of a regional town.

Linz is located in the heart of Europe and at a transport hub - regardless of whether you are travelling by plane, train or car. Within a few hours you can be in the European metropolises of Vienna, Munich, Prague or Budapest. The cultural metropolis of Salzburg is just as close as the sports metropolis of Innsbruck in the Tyrolean Alps.

Working with IT:U means: You are working in a region where others spend their holidays. Austria is one of the countries with the highest standard of living in the world. Recently, the country was ranked first in the EU in terms of quality of life in the IMD World Competitiveness Ranking 2023.

The Greater Linz region stands out as one of Austria's most successful areas, bolstered by Austria's robust economic standing within the EU. Here, job opportunities outnumber residents, establishing it as a beacon of prosperity. Renowned for its comprehensive counselling and services catering to all age groups and social strata Linz has earned widespread recognition as a model social city. The inhabitants of Linz are known for their warm hospitality and inclusive attitude towards individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds. This translates into a high quality of life across all aspects, rendering Linz a city that residents are delighted to call home.



IT:U in Linz, Austria – in the Heart of Europe

Education, healthcare and amenities receive substantial state investment, rendering Linz an ideal destination for families. With 57 schools, 5 universities, two teacher training colleges, and two higher education institutions, the city provides abundant educational opportunities. Additionally, Linz offers a diverse array of adult education and lifelong learning programs, including German language courses.

In Austria, whether you're self-employed or working for an employer, you're automatically enrolled in social insurance coverage (compulsory insurance). This ensures that you and your family receive medical coverage, accident insurance, retirement pension benefits, and, after a certain period, unemployment insurance. Linz boasts 8 hospitals, some of which specialize in specific medical fields, ensuring optimal healthcare provision for its residents.

Nestled along the Danube River and surrounded by the scenic green hills of Upper Austria, Linz offers serene retreats for weekend getaways and vacations. Its scenic landscapes provide an idyllic setting for leisurely walks and invigorating hikes, while within the city, modern amusement parks, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, natural swimming lakes, and saunas cater to diverse recreational interests, making it a haven for relaxation and adventure.

Linz is a city of contrasts, where historic beauty meets modern innovation, and where culture and art thrive along the Danube River. Once primarily an industrial centre, Linz has become a pioneer in terms of culture, art, and technology and was named European Capital of Culture in 2009. Linz is further enriched by a multitude of festivals and events, contributing to its vibrant artistic and cultural scene. Embracing a philosophy of "culture for all," the city welcomes individuals of all ethnic backgrounds, genders, ages, and social status.



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IT:U in Linz, Austria – in the Heart of Europe



A few outstanding examples:

The **Ars Electronica Festival** transforms Linz into a global hub for media, arts, and technology every September, exploring their profound impact on society. Year-round, visitors can delve into these themes at the Ars Electronica Center, a forward-thinking museum dedicated to preparing every guest for the challenges of the future.

The **Bruckner Festival** traces its origins back to the opening of the Brucknerhaus in 1974, commemorating the renowned composer from Linz, a source of immense pride for the city. Evolving beyond its initial focus on Anton Bruckner's legacy, the festival now encompasses a diverse array of events including orchestra concerts, chamber music performances, dance theater, organ recitals, and opera. Each year, this celebration attracts luminaries from the international music scene to Linz. The renowned Bruckner Orchestra, continues to offer exceptional performances throughout the year, ensuring a continuous flow of world-class cultural experiences.

Linz offers a wealth of attractions year-round. In the summer, the Danube and its sprawling green spaces take center stage, serving as hubs for social and recreational activities. Come winter, enchanting Christmas markets, museums boasting high-quality collections, cinemas, and theaters beckon visitors. Throughout the year, the Old Town boasts charming restaurants and cafes, inviting locals and tourists alike to savor and linger over delightful culinary experiences. Whether strolling along the riverbanks in the warm sunshine or exploring the festive atmosphere of the holiday season, Linz promises an array of experiences to suit every taste and preference. With its vibrant cultural scene, diverse culinary offerings, and picturesque landscapes, Linz truly captivates visitors at any time of the year, making it an enchanting destination worth exploring.

Enjoy a unique combination of history and modernity, culinary delights and cultural highlights, quality time by the sea in Venice, Trieste or Rovinj. Or immerse yourself in the vibrant world of sport - from mountaineering and skiing to extensive cycling and hiking routes, you will find everything your heart desires in Austria's unique natural surroundings.





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Appointment Process and How to Apply

The appointment of the Founding Directors will be guided by a selection panel chaired by the Founding president, Prof. Stefanie Lindstaedt. Perrett Laver will support the selection panel in the discharge of its duties, both to assist in the assessment of candidates against the requirements for the role and to identify the widest possible field of qualified individuals. Further information, including details of how to apply, can be downloaded at <https://candidates.perrettlaver.com/vacancies>, quoting reference **7113 | 7114**. The deadline for applications is **09.00 CET on Monday 6th May 2024**. The selection panel will convene to decide upon the field of shortlisted candidates in late May. These individuals will be invited to meet with senior stakeholders at the University to discuss the appointment further w/c 3rd June.

Should you require access to this document in an alternative format, please contact email lucy.cooke@perrettlaver.com.

Protecting your personal data is of the utmost importance to Perrett Laver and we take this responsibility very seriously. Any information obtained by our trading divisions is held and processed in accordance with the relevant data protection legislation. The data you provide us with is securely stored on our computerized database and transferred to our clients for the purposes of presenting you as a candidate and/or considering your suitability for a role you have registered interest in. As defined under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) Perrett Laver is a Data Controller and a Data Processor, and our legal basis for processing your personal data is 'Legitimate Interests'. You have the right to object to us processing your data in this way. For more information about this, your rights, and our approach to Data Protection and Privacy, please visit our website: <http://www.perrettlaver.com/information/privacy/>.



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