Published: December 20th, 2024
Application Deadline: Friday, February 28th, 2025
Fulltime Position, target start date: October 1st, 2025
IT:U, Linz, Austria

IT:U – Interdisciplinary Transformation University in Linz, Austria offers
up to 5 Tenure-track and Tenured Professorships in
- **Data Science** and
- **Industrial Innovation & AI**

Full-time appointments at tenure-track and tenured professorial levels at IT:U depending on the successful candidate's qualifications.
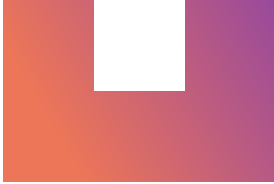
ABOUT IT:U

IT:U is Austria's emerging public university dedicated to understanding, driving, and evaluating digital transformation for the benefit of our societies, our economy, and our environment**.** A new kind of science holds the key to sustainable solutions for the complex, multifaceted challenges we face today: **computational methods and interdisciplinary research transform how we do science**, how we design systems, and how we contribute to solutions of global challenges.

At IT:U we research, teach, and learn things that matter to you and to the world. IT:U prioritizes inter- and transdisciplinary research, emphasizing mission-based study programs and project-based learning. IT:U is dedicated to developing highly innovative learning technology for support and scalability. By overcoming disciplinary boundaries, IT:U confronts the conflicting realities of today and cultivates the skills to navigate an increasingly digital world. If you are inspired to build this entirely new university with us, then you are the one we are looking for.

IT:U professors are excited about the opportunities that computational methods and especially artificial intelligence create within and across disciplines. Their work transcends established methodological boundaries and enriches a whole spectrum of scientific fields. They are open to forward-thinking approaches to learning and the co-creation of knowledge. IT:U seeks to increase the percentage of women in such interdisciplinary scientific communities**. We specifically encourage qualified women to apply.** When in doubt: apply!

IT:U provides an environment in which you can grow:
- Independent research groups: Each professor will create their own research group independent of whether the professor is tenure-track or tenured
- Low student/teacher ratio: There will be no large lectures, instead you will be teaching within projects and small groups
- Teaching support: Learning professionals will support your teaching actively
- Tenure-track is modelled according to US standards
- Completely English-speaking environment
- Highly service-oriented administration

IT:U students will predominantly learn in projects. As a professor you will collaborate closely with project coaches, lecturers, and lab experts to build skills, foster problem-solving abilities, and ignite passion. This face-to-face work in projects will be complemented by online sessions before, between, and after the project to support the learning process. While this style of teaching demands effort, we find it to be exceptionally rewarding. And our learning professionals are committed to support you. IT:U offers doctoral schools since fall 2024. Master's programs will be introduced in fall 2025.

IT:U is a kind of it's own. The Interdisciplinary Transformation University was installed by a particular law specifically designed to provide this institution the independence, agility and funding necessary to act this way, outside of the slow pre-defined processes commonly followed.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR YOU
Successful candidates are experienced researchers, enthusiastic for project-based teaching, willing to take risks, looking beyond traditional disciplines, and dedicated to making a difference in the world.

All applicants should have:
- a doctoral degree in any relevant field as described in the focus fields of this call
- excellent publication track record of authoring and co-authoring peer-reviewed publications in relevant high-quality venues
- strong teaching competencies, ideally relevant to project-based teaching
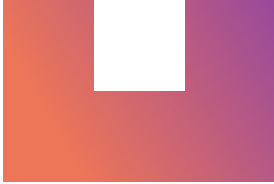
Applicants for tenured positions should have:
- experience in building outstanding research groups
- a strong track record in acquiring funding
- demonstrated strong leadership
- significant international research network

In addition, any activities to show your commitment to disseminating your research in different communities, such as the creation of study programs, societal initiatives, hackathons, entrepreneurial experiences, international engagements, experiences in working with industry or NGOs, etc., will be greatly appreciated.

Faculty duties will include conducting original research, building a research group, and contributing to their fields through publications. Professors at IT:U actively engage in mentoring and guiding students. They teach in project-based learning settings, contributing to hands-on educational experiences. Simultaneously, they play a vital role in shaping the academic work and cultures of IT:U's research communities.

The working language at IT:U is English, fostering a globally inclusive learning environment; therefore, candidates must be fluent in English.

IT:U believes the intellectual, cultural, and social diversity of our faculty, staff, and students is vitally important to the distinction and excellence of our academic and research programs. We seek candidates who support our institutional commitment to ensuring that IT:U is inclusive, equitable, and diverse.

OUR OFFER
- Competitive salaries starting from €85.000 (tenure track) and €100.000 (tenured professor) per year as base payment. Overpayment is envisaged according to experience.
- Fully funded PhD students and PostDoc positions
- 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 incl. paid temporary housing for the first 6 months (relocation to the Greater area of Linz, Austria, is expected)
- Relocation tax allowance of 30% on income from scientific activities is possible for a period of 5 years (requirements must be examined)
- Perks and benefits like free public transportation (e.g. 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.

At IT:U, we believe in fostering a diverse and inclusive workplace. We are committed to gender equality, creating an environment where everyone, regardless of gender, has equal opportunities for growth and success. Additionally, we embrace individuals with diverse abilities and provide a supportive and accessible workplace for people of all backgrounds, including those with disabilities.

PLEASE APPLY
Applications must include
- cover letter and motivation for application (1-2 pages)
- curriculum vitae including a list of publications
- three referees – names and addresses of three or more individuals who are willing to provide a letter of recommendation for you. Please note: We will only contact these referees if you make the shortlist and are invited to the hearings.
- research statement describing your future research program and especially illustrating your interdisciplinary approaches (2-3 pages)
- teaching & mentoring statement with a specific focus on how you envision to teach within projects (2-3 pages)

To apply, please fill in the IT:U application form and upload your files at
https://it-u.at/careers/

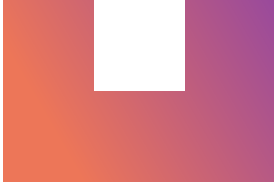**DEADLINE: Friday, February 28th, 2025**
Review of applications will commence immediately after

INTERVIEWS for the positions will be held in person starting with May 2025. Candidates are asked to be available during this timeframe. The exact date will be communicated as soon as the shortlist has been finalized (first half of April 2025).

Target start date: October 1st, 2025.

If you have questions or require support, feel free to contact apply@it-u.at.

Univ.Prof. Dipl.Inf. Dr. Stefanie Lindstaedt
Founding President

Data Science

It has been said that data will be to the 21ˢᵗ century what oil had been to the 20ᵗʰ. While scientific domains such as medicine, life sciences, engineering, social sciences, humanities etc. struggle to work with the data they have access to, data scientists often lack the relevant knowledge on domains. Only few people are currently able to bridge this gap and address the relevant questions around what to measure, how to critically reflect on, how to collect, how to process, and how to make sense of data with the actual use cases. With new, interdisciplinary professorships combining data sciences with specific domain knowledge, IT:U seeks to engage deeply with data as the key driver of digital transformation, never losing sight of its rich context, meaning, and power in the real world.
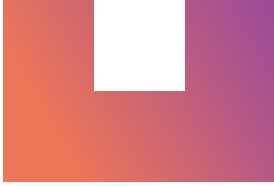
To achieve this degree of interdisciplinary and transformational research, we welcome applicants from a wide range of academic backgrounds that are connected to or relevant to data science. Importantly, we aim to strengthen the diversity of perspectives within the data sciences which will recognize the plurality of our society. As such, we particularly encourage researchers with typically under-represented backgrounds to apply at IT:U, e.g., in terms of gender, (dis)ability, social environment, cultural or ethnic heritage, etc.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR YOU

We welcome outstanding applicants with research and teaching experience who have demonstrated impact in innovative areas of Data Science and its intersection to other disciplines. The successful candidates will join a dynamic academic environment to lead research, foster collaboration, and contribute to teaching in fields critical to the future of data science.

Candidates can come from a wide range of academic backgrounds that are connected to or relevant for data science, data thinking, and the intersection between data science and other disciplines such as for example (this is a non-exhaustive list):

- **Critical Data Studies** — bridging technological expertise with the systematic study of social, cultural, and ethical implications of data driven socio-technical systems.

- **Theoretical Foundations of Data Science** — engaging with areas such as mathematics of data science, statistical learning, or specific topics like topological data analysis and causality.

- **Data Science in Biological Systems** — using data, computational methods, and mathematical models to study biological processes at various scales, in areas such as systems biology, microbiome ecology, single-cell genomics, and metagenomics. This includes potentially integrating experimental data and/or extensive databases and enabling advancements in both basic and applied biological research.

- **Data Science in Health, Wellbeing, and Medicine** — engaging with data science in areas such as Health Data Science or big data applications around health, wellbeing, and medicine.

- **Data Science in Climate Change and Environmental Systems** — using data to understand complex environmental systems and predict the effects of climate change such as flooding and storms.

- **Data Science in Human Mobility** — using data science to better understand human mobility and reinterpret the ways in which human beings move around urban and rural areas.

- **Data Platforms & Infrastructures** — designing, integrating, evaluating, and improving data sharing infrastructures within organizations, across organizations (platform economy), national, European, and global settings.