



Published: Tuesday, January 21st, 2025
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 **two Tenure-track and Tenured Professorships** at the
Intersection of Art, Design, Digital Technology and Society

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.

Bridging art and design with emerging computational technologies holds the key to sustainable solutions for the complex and multifaceted challenges of tomorrow. By merging creative and technological expertise with interdisciplinary research, we unlock new ways of questioning and reimagining how systems and solutions are designed in innovative, human-centered, and poetic ways. This approach thrives on challenging conventional norms and stimulating critical discourse, ensuring impactful solutions that push boundaries and drive meaningful progress.

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 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.



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, studios 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.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR YOU

Successful candidates will have a strong practice-oriented research background, an international presence in the arts, design and digital technology community, enthusiasm for project-based teaching, a willingness to take risks, a desire to look beyond traditional disciplines, and dedication to making a difference in the world.

All applicants should have:

- a doctoral degree – or equivalent - in any relevant field as described in the focus fields of this call
- excellent publication/exhibition track record of authoring and co-authoring publications or showing their work 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 or productive studios
- a strong track record in acquiring funding
- demonstrated strong leadership
- significant international 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, experiences in working with industry or NGOs, etc., will be greatly appreciated.



Faculty duties will include conducting original research, building a research group/studio, and contributing to their fields through publications, art and design prototypes, exhibitions and public engagement. 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.

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, including 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)
- Fully 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.

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, the five most relevant artworks or design projects, exhibitions or other equivalent examples of proven excellence in your field.
- 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/studio settings (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



Transforming Art, Science and Society

How to transform art, science and society and what role will digital technologies play in this transformation? We are looking for applicants who want to share and further develop their own unique perspective upon this question by drawing from their own practice and research along the Krebs Circle of art, design, science, and engineering.

We welcome applicants from a wide range of academic or practice-based backgrounds. Importantly, we aim to strengthen the diversity of positionalities from which transformation of art, science and society is being conducted to ensure a perspective that recognizes the plurality of society. As such, we particularly encourage people to apply that bring typically under-represented backgrounds such as in terms of gender, (dis)ability or socio-cultural backgrounds to the table.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR YOU

We welcome outstanding applicants with research and teaching experience who have demonstrated impact in their field 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 digital transformation.

We are looking for candidates that are particularly interested in one or more of the questions below and want to further develop them with us at IT:U:

Designing Sensual AI – How will a wide variety of complex human experiences (from sensory to affective perception) be represented in and transformed by future AI systems? Such experiences include both, experiences at any given moment as well as building on deeply unique recollections of the past and visions of the future. How will we create AI that is designed to engage with or simulate sensory experience, as well as emotions or feelings? And what if we do – and what if we don't. *We are particularly interested in the development of multi-sensory or hyper-sensory AI, ranging from work on novel sensing technologies to speculative design.*

More-than-human Transformation – How will we be able to explore more-than-human experiences through digital systems? How could we develop systems that understand, integrate and transcend human capacities and include non-human organisms, at a wide range of scale – from fungi, plants and animals to whole ecosystems or even at the planetary scale. *We are particularly interested in work that decenters the human and finds new ways to negotiate a future society that is sustainable for truly all beings.*



Speculative Innovation – How will we explore (and design) potential futures, alternative realities and new solutions that today seem far-fetched when we employ the new digital tools that AI research pushes online by the minute? How will the design process be redrawn, creativity constructed, and the current canon of design methods and strategies (including design thinking, art thinking, participatory design) be reshaped? *We are particularly interested in applicants that have both a research and practice record with a healthy appetite to reshape the profession.*

Next Narratives, Next Shapes – How will AI and emerging technologies reshape how we design in physical and virtual spaces, while transforming the way we create and experience narratives? How can computational technologies help us craft stories that go beyond immersion to become fully interactive, responding dynamically to human presence and movement? What new forms and possibilities arise when kinetic design merges with storytelling, enabling environments and objects to adapt and come alive through motion and interaction? *We are particularly intrigued by the potential of AI, XR, robotics, spatial design, and kinetic systems to redefine storytelling and spatial experiences, forging hybrid realities that push the boundaries of creativity, connection, and meaning.*