

# IT:U – Kommunikations- und Informationsplattform

## Verlautbarungsteil

---

Jahrgang 2026

Ausgegeben am 08. Mai 2026

---

Nr. 0024 Ausschreibung: Ausschreibung von PhD Doktoratsstudienplätzen

---

### Ausschreibung

#### der Interdisciplinary Transformation University Austria von PhD Doktoratsstudienplätzen

Die Interdisciplinary Transformation University Austria – IT:U schreibt die Besetzung von PhD Doktoratsstudienplätzen im Fach Computational X in der folgenden Forschungsgruppe aus:

- Design Intelligences

Die Ausschreibungstexte sind im Sinn einer breit formulierten und missionsorientierten Ausschreibung zu verstehen und in der Beilage angefügt. Insgesamt sind bis zu zwei PhD Doktoratsstudienplätze mit Antrittsdatum 1. Oktober 2026 ausgeschrieben. Mit dem Studienplatz geht eine Inskription in das PhD Studium Computational X einher. Das Curriculum ist einsehbar unter: <https://it-u.at/en/study-program/doctoral-school/phd-computational-x/>

Darüber hinaus schreibt die Interdisciplinary Transformation University Austria – IT:U die Besetzung von einem PhD Doktoratsstudienplatz im Fach Digital Transformation in Learning in der folgenden Forschungsgruppe aus:

- Transformative Learning through Educational Design

Die Ausschreibungstexte sind im Sinn einer breit formulierten und missionsorientierten Ausschreibung zu verstehen und in der Beilage angefügt. Insgesamt ist ein PhD Doktoratsstudienplatz mit Antrittsdatum 1. Oktober 2026 ausgeschrieben. Mit dem Studienplatz geht eine Inskription in das PhD Studium Digital Transformation in Learning einher. Das Curriculum ist einsehbar unter: [it-u\\_phd-program\\_learning\\_complete\\_20240927-2\(1\).pdf](it-u_phd-program_learning_complete_20240927-2(1).pdf)

Entsprechend den im Bundesgesetz über das Institute of Digital Sciences Austria (Interdisciplinary Transformation University) festgelegten Grundsätzen betreibt die IT:U eine antidiskriminatorische Anstellungspolitik und legt Wert auf Chancengleichheit, Diversität, Inklusion, Gleichstellung der Geschlechter und Frauenförderung. Die IT:U strebt eine Erhöhung des Frauenanteils beim wissenschaftlichen Personal an und lädt daher qualifizierte Frauen ausdrücklich zur Bewerbung ein. Bei gleicher Qualifikation werden Frauen vorrangig aufgenommen.

Die Bewerbungsfrist endet am 31. Mai 2026.  
Eine Bewerbung ist unter <https://apply.it-u.at/> möglich.

## **2 Beilagen**

Die Gründungspräsidentin:  
**Stefanie Lindstaedt**

*Nicht rechtsverbindliche Übersetzung - Non legally binding translation:*

# IT:U – Communication and information platform

## Promulgation Section

---

Volume 2026

Issued on May 07th, 2026

---

Nr. 0024 Announcement: Call for Applications: PhD Students Computational X

---

### Call for applications

#### PhD Students Computational X

The Interdisciplinary Transformation University Austria – IT:U announces the opening of calls for PhD students in the doctoral school Computational X in the following research group field, as outlined in the annex:

- Design Intelligences

The job postings are intended to be understood as broadly formulated and mission-oriented and can be found attached. In total, the appointment of up to two PhD students is planned, with a start date of October 1, 2026. The Curricula of the doctoral school Computational X may be found on IT:U's webpage: <https://it-u.at/en/study-program/doctoral-school/phd-computational-x/>

The Interdisciplinary Transformation University Austria – IT:U also announces the opening of a call for one PhD student in the doctoral school Digital Transformation in Learning in the following research group field, as outlined in the annex:

- Transformative Learning through Educational Design

The job posting is intended to be understood as broadly formulated and mission-oriented and can be found attached. In total, the appointment of one PhD student is planned, with a start date of October 1, 2026. The Curricula of the doctoral school Digital Transformation in Learning may be found on IT:U's webpage: [it-u phd-program learning complete 20240927-2 \(1\).pdf](#)

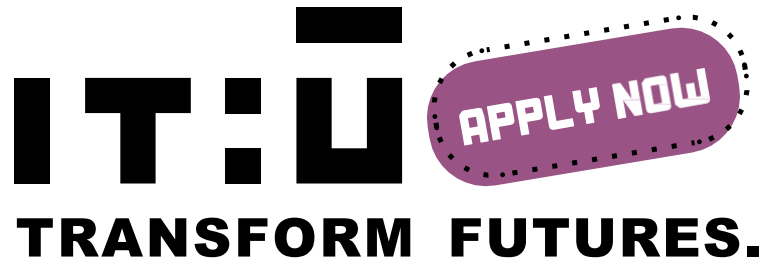
In accordance with the principles established in the Federal Act on the Institute of Digital Sciences Austria (Interdisciplinary Transformation University), IT:U practices an anti-discriminatory hiring policy and places a strong emphasis on equal opportunities, diversity, inclusion, gender equality, and the promotion of women. IT:U aims to increase the proportion of women in its academic staff and therefore explicitly encourages qualified women to apply. In cases of equal qualifications, preference will be given to women

The application deadline is May 31, 2026.

Interested students can apply at: <https://apply.it-u.at/>

## **2 Annex**

The Founding President:  
**Stefanie Lindstaedt**



## #TRANSFORMINGTOMORROW: MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH US.

IT:U is Austria's first public interdisciplinary university dedicated to digital transformation for the benefit of our society, economy and environment.

# 2 PhD Positions

## Design Intelligences

IT:U Doctoral School - PhD-Program COMPUTATIONAL X

2 PhD positions | 30h/week | Up to 4 years | On-site in Linz (AT) and Milano (IT) | Start Date: October 2026

### Field of Research and Scope

Design Intelligences investigates how diverse forms of intelligence—human, artificial, and ecological—can be understood and integrated to foster regenerative design. The field departs from dominant, human-centered and computation-centered models of intelligence to examine intelligence as relational, distributed, and situated across socio-technical and more-than-human systems. In our program, we are interested in (1) developing foundational concepts and theories of design intelligences that pluralize what counts as intelligence across humans, nonhumans, and AI systems; (2) examining how interfaces, infrastructures, and materials mediate negotiations among these heterogeneous intelligences; and (3) translating these insights into experimental design methods, computational tools, and situated interventions that cultivate multi-intentional, multi-agential forms of designing as world-making.

The two PhD students will collaborate on shared theoretical foundations while pursuing complementary trajectories aligned with their background. Together, they will bridge ecological knowledge and computational methods, integrating interdisciplinary literature with empirical and design-led research. Through iterative conceptual work and experimental prototyping, they will explore how human, artificial, and ecological intelligences co-construct shared niches of planetary habitability, contributing to both the theoretical grounding and methodological advancement of Design Intelligences.

### Program Structure

IT:U offers a 4-year, structured PhD program.

In the first year, emphasis is placed on focused group work, research lab modules, and Project Integrated Courses (PICS). The first year concludes with a PhD Proposal Presentation. Over the next three years, students will develop and write their PhD theses. This is accompanied by interdisciplinary research seminars and work as a project assistant. The PhD program concludes after the 4th year with the submission and defense of the PhD thesis.

[Click here to view the curriculum.](#)

\* **Come as you are** – we value and promote diversity in our team. Each individual is encouraged to reach their full potential, realize ideas and seize opportunities. Regardless of age, skin color, religion, gender, sexual orientation or origin, we welcome applications from all people equally.

## Opportunities offered

- **Collaborations:** The program enjoys close collaborations with top research labs around the world, providing access to diverse more-than-human datasets (e.g., soundscapes, environmental sensing data, ecological indicators, spatial topologies) and sites (e.g., urban forests, transitional ecosystems, multispecies habitats). The program also collaborates with researchers within IT:U and supports co-supervision with other IT:U founding professors.
- **International mobility and exchange:** Selected candidates will have the possibility to visit Polimi (home of the PI and main supervisor) for up to 50% of their time, benefiting from the complementary research environments of both institutions. They will also engage with the PI's international network of collaborators across Australia and South America, including RMIT Melbourne, University of Melbourne, and Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.
- **Professional and personal development:** Drawing on the PI and main supervisor's experience navigating academic systems across five countries and funding innovative training, doctoral students will receive comprehensive mentorship throughout their PhD journey at IT:U and in preparing for international careers beyond it.

## Responsibilities and Tasks

- Conducting research
- Writing academic publications
- Attending national and international conferences
- Collaborating with other research groups on an interdisciplinary basis
- Performing auxiliary activities in academic teaching for up to 2 weekly credit hours
- Helping to file applications for third-party funding
- Complying with the institution's academic standards and ethical guidelines

## Skills and Qualifications needed

- Motivated, with a strong interest in more-than-human design, AI, and ecological futures
- A degree equivalent to a master's degree in design, biology, ecology, environmental sciences, data science, computer science, or other relevant fields
- For candidates with a biology/ecology background: experience with ecological systems thinking, fieldwork, environmental modeling, or multispecies research
- For candidates with a data science/computational background: strong programming skills and experience with data analysis, machine learning, or AI systems
- For both candidates with a biology/ecology or data science/computational: experience in design research, design methods, or practice-based/experimental design work (preferable)
- Interest in interdisciplinary research bridging ecological knowledge, computational methods, and design experimentation
- Ability to work both independently and collaboratively in a transdisciplinary environment
- Fluent in English

## What you can expect

- Innovative and stimulating working conditions in an interdisciplinary, international research environment
- Office kitchen with complimentary basic supplies
- Climate Ticket Upper Austria (optimal public transportation connections)
- We offer a gross salary in line with the FWF salary rate of EUR 2.832,10 (30h).  
Optional supplementary contracts (teaching or research) to an extend of up to 10 hours may be discussed during the hiring process.



## How to apply

Please fill in the online application form and upload your files at:  
<https://apply.it-u.at/>

- Curriculum Vitae
- Bachelor's and Master's diploma (or equivalent)
- Bachelor's and Master's Transcript of Records
- Motivational letter (up to 2 pages)
- Up to 3 contacts of professors/collaborators for recommendations

**We look forward to receiving your online application.**

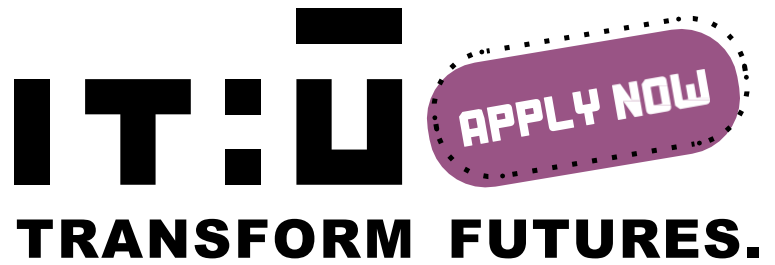


Your contact person

**Bettina Mairhofer**

[study@it-u.at](mailto:study@it-u.at)

**DEADLINE: May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026**



**#TRANSFORMINGTOMORROW: MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH US.**

IT:U is Austria's first public interdisciplinary university dedicated to digital transformation for the benefit of our society, economy and environment.

## 2 PhD Positions Design Intelligences

**IT:U Doctoral School - PhD-Program COMPUTATIONAL X**

2 PhD positions | 30h/week | Up to 4 years | On-site in Linz (AT) and Milano (IT) | Start Date: October 2026



### Field of Research and Scope

Design Intelligences investigates how diverse forms of intelligence—human, artificial, and ecological—can be understood and integrated to foster regenerative design. The field departs from dominant, human-centered and computation-centered models of intelligence to examine intelligence as relational, distributed, and situated across socio-technical and more-than-human systems. In our program, we are interested in (1) developing foundational concepts and theories of design intelligences that pluralize what counts as intelligence across humans, nonhumans, and AI systems; (2) examining how interfaces, infrastructures, and materials mediate negotiations among these heterogeneous intelligences; and (3) translating these insights into experimental design methods, computational tools, and situated interventions that cultivate multi-intentional, multi-agential forms of designing as world-making.

The two PhD students will collaborate on shared theoretical foundations while pursuing complementary trajectories aligned with their background. Together, they will bridge ecological knowledge and computational methods, integrating interdisciplinary literature with empirical and design-led research. Through iterative conceptual work and experimental prototyping, they will explore how human, artificial, and ecological intelligences co-construct shared niches of planetary habitability, contributing to both the theoretical grounding and methodological advancement of Design Intelligences.



### Program Structure

IT:U offers a 4-year, structured PhD program.

In the first year, emphasis is placed on focused group work, research lab modules, and Project Integrated Courses (PICS). The first year concludes with a PhD Proposal Presentation. Over the next three years, students will develop and write their PhD theses. This is accompanied by interdisciplinary research seminars and work as a project assistant. The PhD program concludes after the 4th year with the submission and defense of the PhD thesis.

[Click here to view the curriculum.](#)

\* **Come as you are** – we value and promote diversity in our team. Each individual is encouraged to reach their full potential, realize ideas and seize opportunities. Regardless of age, skin color, religion, gender, sexual orientation or origin, we welcome applications from all people equally.

## Opportunities offered

- **Collaborations:** The program enjoys close collaborations with top research labs around the world, providing access to diverse more-than-human datasets (e.g., soundscapes, environmental sensing data, ecological indicators, spatial topologies) and sites (e.g., urban forests, transitional ecosystems, multispecies habitats). The program also collaborates with researchers within IT:U and supports co-supervision with other IT:U founding professors.
- **International mobility and exchange:** Selected candidates will have the possibility to visit Polimi (home of the PI and main supervisor) for up to 50% of their time, benefiting from the complementary research environments of both institutions. They will also engage with the PI's international network of collaborators across Australia and South America, including RMIT Melbourne, University of Melbourne, and Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.
- **Professional and personal development:** Drawing on the PI and main supervisor's experience navigating academic systems across five countries and funding innovative training, doctoral students will receive comprehensive mentorship throughout their PhD journey at IT:U and in preparing for international careers beyond it.

## Responsibilities and Tasks

- Conducting research
- Writing academic publications
- Attending national and international conferences
- Collaborating with other research groups on an interdisciplinary basis
- Performing auxiliary activities in academic teaching for up to 2 weekly credit hours
- Helping to file applications for third-party funding
- Complying with the institution's academic standards and ethical guidelines

## Skills and Qualifications needed

- Motivated, with a strong interest in more-than-human design, AI, and ecological futures
- A degree equivalent to a master's degree in design, biology, ecology, environmental sciences, data science, computer science, or other relevant fields
- For candidates with a biology/ecology background: experience with ecological systems thinking, fieldwork, environmental modeling, or multispecies research
- For candidates with a data science/computational background: strong programming skills and experience with data analysis, machine learning, or AI systems
- For both candidates with a biology/ecology or data science/computational: experience in design research, design methods, or practice-based/experimental design work (preferable)
- Interest in interdisciplinary research bridging ecological knowledge, computational methods, and design experimentation
- Ability to work both independently and collaboratively in a transdisciplinary environment
- Fluent in English

## What you can expect

- Innovative and stimulating working conditions in an interdisciplinary, international research environment
- Office kitchen with complimentary basic supplies
- Climate Ticket Upper Austria (optimal public transportation connections)
- We offer a gross salary in line with the FWF salary rate of EUR 2.832,10 (30h).  
Optional supplementary contracts (teaching or research) to an extend of up to 10 hours may be discussed during the hiring process.



## How to apply

Please fill in the online application form and upload your files at:  
<https://apply.it-u.at/>

- Curriculum Vitae
- Bachelor's and Master's diploma (or equivalent)
- Bachelor's and Master's Transcript of Records
- Motivational letter (up to 2 pages)
- Up to 3 contacts of professors/collaborators for recommendations

**We look forward to receiving your online application.**



Your contact person

**Bettina Mairhofer**

[study@it-u.at](mailto:study@it-u.at)

**DEADLINE: May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026**