

IT:U – Kommunikations- und Informationsplattform

Verlautbarungsteil

Jahrgang 2026

Ausgegeben am 2. Juli 2026

Nr. 0033 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:

- AI & Sustainability Policy Lab

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 ab 1. Oktober 2026 ausgeschrieben. Mit dem Studienplatz geht eine Inskription in das PhD Studium Computational X einher. Das Curriculum ist einsehbar unter:

[it-u_phd-program_computationalx_complete_20240927_final.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 5. August 2026.
Eine Bewerbung ist unter <https://apply.it-u.at/> möglich

1 Beilage

Die Gründungspräsidentin:
Stefanie Lindstaedt



Nicht rechtsverbindliche Übersetzung - Non legally binding translation:

IT:U – Communication and information platform

Promulgation Section

Volume 2026

Issued on July 2, 2026

Nr. 0033 Announcement: Call for Applications: PhD Student Computational X

Call for applications

PhD Student Computational X

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

- AI & Sustainability Policy Lab

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 Computational X may be found on IT:U's webpage: [it-u_phd-program_computationalx_complete_20240927_final.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.

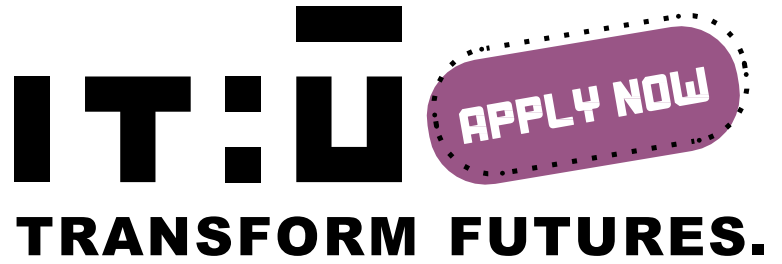


The application deadline is August 5, 2026.

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

1 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.

1 PhD Position

AI & Sustainability Policy Lab

IT:U Doctoral School - PhD-Program Computational X

1 PhD position | 30h/week | Up to 4 years | On-site in Linz (AT) | Start Date: October 2026

Field of Research and Scope

The AI & Sustainability Policy Lab make use of AI- and data-driven methods to design, evaluate, and scale effective climate and conservation policies. We combine causal inference, behavioral/experimental economics, and machine learning to support evidence-based sustainability transitions. Climate change and biodiversity loss pose complex societal challenges that require both rigorous policy evaluation and advanced computational tools. In our lab, we are interested in (1) generating credible causal evidence on the environmental and socio-economic impacts of climate and conservation policies; (2) the development and application of machine learning methods to improve policy targeting, prediction, and heterogeneous treatment effect estimation; and (3) the integration of econometrics and AI to build transparent tools that support adaptive, evidence-based decision-making.

During their stay, the PhD student will work collaboratively within a shared research agenda while pursuing complementary but independent topics. The position will focus primarily on causal policy evaluation using econometric methods and insights from behavioral science, field and survey experiments, and quasi-experimental research designs. Research may involve theory, modeling, surveys, experiments, quasi-experimental designs, and computational methods, often in international, interdisciplinary, and transdisciplinary collaboration.

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 lab collaborates with international partners in academia, policy institutions, and sustainability organizations. The lab actively supports interdisciplinary co-supervision within IT:U and with external partners.
- International mobility and exchange: Candidates will benefit from international research exchanges with collaborating institutions across Europe and beyond. Short-term research stays and participation in international conferences are encouraged and supported.
- Professional and personal development: Doctoral students will receive structured mentoring in research design, publication strategy, grant writing, and science-to-policy translation. The lab emphasizes academic excellence, policy relevance, and the development of transferable skills for careers in academia, public institutions, or the private sector.

Responsibilities and Tasks

- conducting research
- writing academic publications
- attending national and international conferences
- contributing to activities of the research group
- 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

We seek highly motivated candidates with a strong interest in the intersection of sustainability, policy, and computational methods.

Applicants should have:

- A degree equivalent to a Master's degree in economics, data science, statistics, public policy, or a related field
- Strong quantitative and analytical skills
- Proficiency in programming (e.g. Stata, R or Python)
- Experience with empirical research (e.g., through a thesis or research project)
- The ability to work independently and collaboratively in an interdisciplinary environment
- Fluency in English

Depending on profile, the following expertise is expected:

- Advanced knowledge of applied econometrics and experimental/behavioral economics
- Experience with causal inference methods (e.g., RCTs, DiD, IV, panel models)
- Interest in policy design and evaluation

Strong assets include:

- Experience with large-scale, geospatial, or text data
- Familiarity with causal machine learning
- Demonstrated interest in climate change, biodiversity, or sustainability policy

What you can expect

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- 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 (max. 2 pages)
- Up to 3 contacts of professors/collaborators for recommendations

We look forward to receiving your online application.

Application deadline: August 5, 2026



Your contact person

Bettina Mairhofer

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