



## **ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT**

The Institute of Science and Technology Austria (IST Austria) is a new PhD-granting research institute with a focus on basic, curiosity driven research in the natural and mathematical sciences. Our two core missions are to facilitate world-class research and to educate world-class scientists. These two goals are complemented by institutional support for our scientists in exploring the entrepreneurial aspects of their research.

IST Austria recruits all its scientists on the highest international level, primarily on the basis of their qualifications. Research excellence and promise are the exclusive hiring criteria for all scientists at IST Austria – from doctoral students to professors. International recruitment allows for a steady flow of talent from the whole world (PhD students, postdocs, professors, visiting students and professors), which is imperative for an institution like IST Austria which has no undergraduate program.

The language of instruction and communication on all levels is English. The fact that all scientists are recruited internationally and that English is the working language contributes to the international and intercultural exposure of all members of IST Austria: PhD students, postdocs, professors, and administration.

In our PhD program we aim to educate a new generation of international researchers who are able to approach scientific questions from a variety of angles and are fluent in the languages of both the experimental and the analytical sciences. International exchange is a key component of this mission, and our long-term ambition is to create partnerships that contribute to optimal training and career opportunities for our PhD students as well as academic and non-academic staff.

IST Austria will explore different programs for its PhD students as well as academic and non-academic staff within the Erasmus+ framework. Our choice of partners is based above all on quality and excellence. We favor a bottom up approach, based on the professors' research focus and contacts as well as with institutions that are comparable in structure and content.

We will foster current existing informal international networks and explore how training, and to a lesser extent study opportunities can be integrated in the graduate education of our PhD students and all our staff, as well opportunities for academic and non-academic staff and incoming students on the undergraduate and graduate level. For incoming students and staff we will ensure equal academic treatment and service with full access to the infrastructure and benefits similar to regular IST employees. For outgoing participants we will ensure that they receive full documentation and academic recognition for their work.

The framework of ERASMUS+ gives us the opportunity to explore the different possibilities of potential strategic partnerships and cooperation between institutions of higher education as well as enterprises.

We would like to evaluate current informal partnerships, and will work to strengthen links between education, research and business. We will consider engaging in such projects where such participation will contribute to our strategic objectives, and where mutual benefits are assured.

By participating in the Erasmus+ program and adding international mobility components, IST Austria intends to improve and complement its current international set up and outlook even further. We hope to improve the quality of learning and teaching for our students and staff members alike, complement their skill sets with an additional international component, as well as increase the international visibility of the Institute.

IST Austria is a young institution that strives to incorporate and implement best practice models and innovative ideas on the educational and administrative level. Increased exposure to international models will contribute to making our governance structure more effective.

Small research groups ensure that there is regular contact between the student and the supervisor and enables a high graduation rate of our students. As the Institute grows we will strive to improve the quality of supervision which will contribute to maintaining a high graduation rate.

IST Austria pursues an active policy of exploiting intellectual property when possible, and is actively exploring technology transfer ideas. Participation in the Erasmus+ program will contribute to this dimension.