

10 years of basic science at a world-class level in Klosterneuburg



IST Austria at a glance

The Institute of Science and Technology Austria (IST Austria) in Klosterneuburg on the outskirts of Vienna is a PhD-granting research institute. Opened in 2009, the Institute focuses on basic research in the natural sciences, mathematics and computer science. IST Austria employs professors according to the tenure-track model and postdocs, as well as PhD students in an international graduate school. In addition to the commitment to basic science, which is solely curiosity-driven, the Institute holds the rights to all resulting discoveries and promotes their exploitation.

History and Future

2009	Campus opening, 37 employees, Prof. Thomas Henzinger appointed as first President
2010	first PhD students join IST Austria
2015	first PhD students graduate from IST Austria
2019	763 employees, among them 53 professors and 222 students
2026	around 90 professors, approx 1,000 employees

Basic research in six areas

The currently 53 groups conduct research in the fields of mathematics and computer science, physics, chemistry, neuroscience, and biology. Both theoretical and experimental research groups work at IST Austria. An essential factor for the institute's success is that traditional boundaries between scientific disciplines are broken down and cooperation between groups is encouraged.

IST Austria will continue to grow in the coming years. In 2026, up to 90 research groups will work in an international environment with the state-of-the-art infrastructure.

Scientific achievements and awards

More than 1.900 scientific publications

The renowned science magazine "Nature" ranked IST Austria in 3rd place among the world's best research institutions. 36 ERC Grantees (prestigious grants for basic research by the European Research Council)

Awards (selection):

- Darwin-Wallace Medal: Prof. Nick Barton
- EMBO Gold Medal: Prof. Jiri Friml
- Wittgenstein Award: Prof. Thomas Henzinger, Prof. Peter Jonas, Prof. Herbert Edelsbrunner
- START Award: Prof. Michael Sixt
- Microsoft Research Faculty Fellowship: Prof. Krishnendu Chatterjee
- Technical Achievement Award der Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences („technical Oscar“): Prof. Bernd Bickel

Financing

IST Austria is funded by the Republic of Austria and the State of Lower Austria. One third of the budget is conditional, tied to the successful acquisition of third-party funding and the fulfillment of research-immanent quality criteria.

Management

Management, Board of Trustees and Scientific Board monitor the quality of IST Austria.

The first **president** of IST Austria is Thomas Henzinger, a renowned computer scientist and previous Professor at the University of California in Berkeley, US, and the EPFL in Lausanne, Switzerland. His presidency has already been reconfirmed twice – most recently in 2016.

The **Board of Trustees** oversees the Institute's development. It has 15 members: Eight members are internationally renowned scientists, four are appointed by the Federal Government, and three are appointed by the Government of Lower Austria.

The **Scientific Board** puts forward proposals for the Institute's scientific development and for ensuring the continued high scientific capacity. The Scientific Board consists of ten internationally well-known scientists as well as one non-voting member, who is distinguished by exceptional experience in management.

10 Years of IST Austria in numbers

 **International:**
The employees of IST Austria
come from over

60

different countries.

Working language is
English.

 **1,967**

**science
publications**
were made possible by

11.2

tons of coffee.

 From **37**
employees in 2009 to

763

employees 2019
That is an **increase of**

1.962 %

 **64**

Professors
were selected
from

11,405

applications.

Want to know more?

IST Austria's Media Relations Team is happy to help.

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