

Fundamental Research at a World-Class Level in Klosterneuburg



ISTA at a Glance

The Institute of Science and Technology Austria (ISTA) 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. ISTA employs professors according to a 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, Thomas A. Henzinger appointed as first President
2010	first PhD students join ISTA
2015	first PhD students graduate from ISTA
2021	935 employees, among them 67 professors and 280 students
2026	around 90 professors, approx. 1,000 employees
2036	around 150 professors, approx. 1,500 employees

Interdisciplinary Basic Research

The currently 67 groups conduct research in the fields of mathematics, computer science, physics, chemistry, neuroscience, biology, and earth sciences. Both theoretical and experimental research groups work at ISTA. An essential factor for the Institute's success is that traditional boundaries between disciplines are broken down and cooperation between groups is encouraged.

ISTA will continue to grow in the coming years. In 2026, up to 90 research groups will work in an international environment with state-of-the-art infrastructure. Until 2036, the Institute is projected to grow to its full size of 150 research groups.

Scientific Achievements and Awards

- More than 3,600 scientific publications
- In 2019, the renowned science magazine Nature ranked ISTA in 3rd place among the world's best research institutions.
- 54 ERC grants for 45 professors (prestigious grants for basic research from the European Research Council)
- Awards and distinctions (selection):
 - Darwin-Wallace Medal: Nick Barton
 - EMBO Gold Medal: Jiří Friml
 - Wittgenstein Award: Thomas A. Henzinger, Peter Jonas, Herbert Edelsbrunner
 - START Award: Michael Sixt
 - Microsoft Research Faculty Fellowship: Krishnendu Chatterjee
 - Technical Achievement Award of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences („technical Oscar“): Bernd Bickel

Financing

ISTA 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 ISTA.

The first **President** of ISTA is Thomas A. Henzinger, a renowned computer scientist and former professor at UC Berkeley, USA, and the EPFL in Lausanne, Switzerland. His presidency has already been reconfirmed twice – most recently in 2020.

Professor Gaia Novarino serves as **Vice President for Science Education** and Professor Bernd Bickel as **Vice President for Technology Transfer**. Professor Michael Sixt is **Executive Vice President** overseeing the Scientific Services at ISTA and Professor Eva Benková is **Dean of the Graduate School**.

The **Board of Trustees** oversees the Institute's development. It has 17 members: Ten 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 internationally well-known scientists as well as one non-voting member, who is distinguished by exceptional experience in management.

ISTA in Numbers



International:
The employees of ISTA
come from

79

different countries.

Working language is
English.



More than

3,600

**scientific
publications.**



From

37

**employees in 2009 to
more than**

935

employees in 2021.



67

**professors
have been selected
from more than**

15,012

applications.

Want to know more?

ISTA's Communications Team is happy to help!

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