

## 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 as well as postdocs, and PhD students in an international graduate school. In addition to its commitment to basic research, 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
2022	1,000 employees, among them 76 professors and 320 students
2023	Martin Hetzer becomes the second President of ISTA
2025	Planned opening of the VISTA Science Experience Center
2036	Around 150 professors, approx. 1,500 employees

### Interdisciplinary Basic Research

ISTA currently has 76 research groups conducting basic research in the fields of mathematics, computer science, physics, chemistry, neuroscience, biology, earth sciences and astrophysics. These groups cover both theoretical and experimental research. An essential factor for the Institute's success is that traditional boundaries between disciplines are broken down and cooperation between groups is strongly encouraged. By 2026, up to 90 research groups will work in ISTA's international environment with state-of-the-art infrastructure. The Institute expects to reach its full capacity of 150 research groups by 2036.

## Scientific Achievements and Awards

- More than 4,000 scientific publications
- In 2019, the renowned science magazine Nature ranked ISTA in 3rd place among the world's best research institutions.
- 78% of ISTA professors received prestigious grants of the European Research Council (ERC).
- A selection of awards and distinctions:
  - Darwin-Wallace Medal: Nick Barton
  - EMBO Gold Medal: Jiří Friml
  - Wittgenstein Award: Thomas A. Henzinger, Peter Jonas, Herbert Edelsbrunner, Monika Henzinger
  - 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

The Institute's Management, Board of Trustees and Scientific Board monitor the quality of ISTA.

Professor Martin Hetzer became the second **President** of ISTA in 2023. He is a renowned molecular biologist and former Senior Vice President at The Salk Institute for Biological Studies in California, USA.

**Executive Vice President** Professor Michael Sixt is responsible for overseeing the Scientific Services at ISTA.

**Managing Director** Georg Schneider heads the administration of ISTA and is responsible for financial management, human resources, as well as technical and legal matters.

**Dean of the Graduate School:** Professor Eva Benková

**Vice President for Science Education:** Professor Gaia Novarino

**Vice President for Technology Transfer:** Professor Bernd Bickel

The **Board of Trustees** oversees the Institute's development. Comprised of 17 renowned members of the scientific community: 10 international trustees are appointed by ISTA, four are appointed by the Federal Austrian Government, and a further three are appointed by the regional Government of Lower Austria.

The **Scientific Board** puts forward proposals for the Institute's scientific development and for ensuring its continued and highly scientific standards. The Scientific Board consists of internationally recognized 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

**80**

different countries.

Working language is  
English.



More than

**4,000**

scientific  
publications.



From

**37**

employees in 2009 to  
more than

**1,000**

employees in 2021.



**76**

professors  
have been selected  
from more than

**16,791**

applications.

### Want to know more?

ISTA's Communications Team is happy to help!

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