

Institute of Science and Technology Austria

Where Curiosity Drives World-Class Science

ISTA at a Glance

The Institute of Science and Technology Austria (ISTA) in Klosterneuburg near Vienna is a PhD-granting research institution that brings together leading minds from around the world. Since opening in 2009, it has been dedicated to fundamental research in the natural sciences, mathematics, and computer science. ISTA offers tenure-track positions to its faculty and employs both postdoctoral fellows and PhD students in its international graduate school. In addition to advancing curiosity-based research, ISTA retains the rights to discoveries, promotes their practical application and engages in outreach to connect science with society.

Milestones

- 2009** Campus opening with 37 employees, Thomas A. Henzinger appointed as first president
- 2010** First PhD students join ISTA
- 2015** First PhD students graduate from ISTA
- 2015** Launch of XISTA Innovation to drive the commercial impact of scientific discoveries

- 2022** 1,000 employees, including 76 professors and 320 students
- 2023** Martin Hetzer becomes ISTA's second president
- 2025** Opening of the VISTA Science Experience Center
- 2025** About 1,300 employees, including around 90 professors and 400+ students
- 2036** Around 150 professors and 2,000 employees

Interdisciplinary collaboration

ISTA currently hosts around 90 research groups spanning a wide range of topics in the following fields: biology, chemistry and materials, computer science, data science and scientific computing, mathematics, neuroscience and physics. With work ranging from AI to astrophysics and the climate to quantum mechanics, a key to ISTA's success is its strong emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration. The Institute's state-of-the-art campus continues to expand rapidly and aims to reach its full capacity of 150 research groups by 2036.

Scientific Achievements and Awards

- In 2019, *Nature* ranked ISTA third among the world's best academic research institutions (normalized by size)
- 80% of ISTA professors currently under contract have received prestigious grants from the European Research Council (ERC).

A SELECTION OF AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS:

- Darwin-Wallace Medal: Nick Barton
- Wittgenstein Awards: Thomas A. Henzinger, Peter Jonas, Herbert Edelsbrunner, Monika Henzinger, Jiří Friml
- Microsoft Research Faculty Fellowship: Krishnendu Chatterjee
- TIME magazine's TIME100 Next 2024 list: Ylva Göteborg

Financing

ISTA is funded by Austria's federal government and the state of Lower Austria. One third of its budget is conditional, tied to the successful acquisition of third-party funding and commitment to the core criteria of rigorous research.

Leadership

ISTA's Management, Board of Trustees and Scientific Board ensure that ISTA holds itself to the highest of standards.

President Martin Hetzer is a renowned molecular biologist, as well as former senior vice president at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in California.

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

Dean of the Graduate School: Mario de Bono

Executive Vice President & Vice President for Science

Education: Gaia Novarino

Vice President for Scientific Resources: Georgios Katsaros

Vice President for Technology Transfer: Monika Henzinger

ISTA's development is guided by a 17-member **Board of Trustees** drawn from the global scientific community. Of these, 10 are international trustees appointed by ISTA, four others are appointed by Austria's federal government, and the remaining three are appointed by the regional government of Lower Austria.

The **Scientific Board** advises on the Institute's scientific development and helps safeguard its high scientific standards. Its members are internationally recognized scientists, joined by one non-voting member with outstanding management expertise.

ISTA in Numbers

Truly global: Staff from

~ 80

countries

Working language is English.

~ 5000

scientific publications.

From 37 employees in 2009 to

1300

in 2025.

20,800+ applications resulted in

87

faculty appointments.