

Austrian Research Fellowship

Research Mobility for Austrian Doctoral Students

at the University of Alberta

Are you an Austrian doctoral candidate looking for a supportive research environment to advance your dissertation while connecting with an international academic community?

The Austrian Research Fellowship is open to doctoral research across all fields in the Humanities, Social Sciences, and Fine Arts. We welcome diverse topics, approaches, and methodologies, and encourage you to apply if your work would benefit from the University of Alberta's research environment, resources, and academic community.

The call for applications for the Austrian Doctoral Research Fellowship for the 2026-2027 academic year is now open.

Funding & Support Structure

- **Primary Funding:** Supported by the Republic of Austria, Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF). Value: Monthly allowance of 1,800 Euro (for 12 months)
- **Awarding Organisation:** OeAD-GmbH – Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation.
- **Exclusive Wirth Subsidy:** To further support our visiting scholars, the Wirth Institute provides an additional accommodation subsidy of between CAN \$2,000 and CAN \$5,000 (depending on the exchange rate) for successful applicants.

How to Apply

- **Grant Type:** Marietta Blau-Grant.
- **Application Portal:** This fellowship is administered via the [OeAD Grants Portal](#)
- **Requirement:** Applicants must list the Wirth Institute at the University of Alberta as their host institution to be eligible for the additional accommodation subsidy.
- **Deadline:** March 31, 2026

Your Academic "Home Base" in Canada

The [Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies](#) provides a supportive and interdisciplinary academic home where you can advance your research, engage with a vibrant scholarly community, and make the most of your time in Canada.

- **A dedicated network:** You will join a collaborative network of researchers from Central and Southeast Europe, while connecting with a wider community of scholars in Edmonton and across North America.
- **Research resources:** Access Canada's second-largest research library system, with extensive collections across disciplines to support your research.

- **An established community:** With over 15 years of experience running this fellowship, the Wirth Institute offers a well-established fellowship and a strong, connected network of fellows and [alumni](#).
- **Engage with the TRSI Hub:** Use the Transforming Research for Social Impact Hub to turn your research into evidence-based solutions through community-engaged research frameworks.
- **A Familiar Connection:** Edmonton is a city with a diverse and deeply rooted Central European community. From cultural events to local heritage, you will find a welcoming “home away from home” that makes your transition to Canadian academic life seamless.

Explore Research Areas and Connections

The following themes highlight areas of research strength and potential collaboration at [the University of Alberta](#), including areas of shared interest with Austria’s RTI Strategy 2030. These themes are provided as examples – not requirements – and we strongly encourage applications from all fields within the Humanities, Social Sciences, and Fine Arts.

1. Institutional Integrity & Civic Resilience

Research in this area focuses on the preservation of democratic values and public trust. The University of Alberta offers a strong environment for engaging with law and political science research, including work on health misinformation and the intersection of populism and institutional distrust. This area supports analysis of how politicization and disinformation affect trust in scientific and democratic institutions, contributing to research on strategies for strengthening democratic values, in line with Austria’s focus on trust in science and democracy.

2. Sustainable Transformation & Inclusive Societies

As Austria prioritizes climate change and sustainability, the University of Alberta offers a comparative research environment, including a unique “sister” landscape. This setting supports work in the Social Sciences and Humanities on behavioral changes and governance traditions relevant to green transitions. The University’s strengths in migration and demographic research also support exploration of inclusive societies and social equity, contributing to research on the connections between human, physical, spatial, and cultural-indigenous dimensions of climate change.

3. Innovation, Entrepreneurship & Digital Ethics

In alignment with Austria’s RTI Strategy 2030, the University of Alberta offers a multidisciplinary environment for exploring the future of work and technology. This area includes opportunities to engage with the eHUB Entrepreneurship Centre, as well as research in Gender Studies and Political Science on emancipatory and inclusive entrepreneurship, including the role of business in advancing social justice for marginalized groups. Research may also connect with the AI4Society signature area to examine the digital divide and the societal impacts of automation, contributing to approaches that emphasize human-centred innovation.

4. Arts-Based Research & Cultural Innovation

Reflecting Austrian initiatives such as PEEK and DigiCall, the University of Alberta’s Fine Arts community integrates traditional practice with new media, virtual reality, and AI art. This area

supports research on topics such as the role of culture in urban spaces, arts and health, and digital curation, within an environment where artistic practice is recognized as a vital method for generating knowledge and preserving cultural heritage in the 21st century.