

Society & Communication



The University of Vienna invests heavily in the field of Society and Communication. With 32 new professors, it pools a high number of experts in this research area covering topical challenges of high relevance in society across faculty boundaries. These professorships were advertised in November 2018 and will be appointed in the coming one to two years. Funding is channelled through an increase in the university budget.

A significant increase in funding enables the University of Vienna to specifically invest in 73 new professorships and tenure track professorships in the coming years. It therefore sets interdisciplinary, interconnected and future-oriented priorities across faculties: Society and Communication and other socially relevant areas such as Data Science and Digital Humanities, Health and Microbiome, Molecular Biology and Cognitive Neuroscience as well as Materials and Quantum Science.

The cross-faculty research specialisation Society and Communication shares an interest in shaping human cooperation by answering questions about who we are, how we deal with each other, where we come from and how we will develop as society. To respond to the challenges that our societies face we need technical and scientific development as well as social and cultural reflection and design.

Research and teaching enrich the understanding of how society works and what holds it together, how cultural and communicative phenomena permeate coexistence and help achieve consensus, and which aspects of human coexistence are shaped by law, philosophy and religions. Cultural and geographical diversity receive special attention in this respect.

**“DNA”
of human
coexistence**

Reflections on the present and future are enshrined in a comprehensive understanding of coexistence and cultural achievements of the past – taking into consideration a historical perspective. Professorships advertised as part of the Society and Communication priority, are, so to speak, dedicated to the “DNA” of human coexistence and interpersonal interaction, which are an indispensable foundation for questions of the future.

32 new professors – five new master’s programmes

The University of Vienna meets these new societal challenges and appoints 32 new professors – in disciplines far beyond social sciences, business and economics and law, such as historical and philological studies as well as philosophy and education. A plethora of topics cover globalisation and right-wing pluralism, global economic and social history, cultural heritage, urban studies, the sociology of social change and research on education and schooling.

Several interdisciplinary master’s programmes that take into account digital transformation of society are already planned, such as International Law, Philosophy and Economics, Business Analytics, Medieval Studies and Digital Humanities.

Inter-disciplinarity as a success factor

Currently, the University of Vienna holds six renowned ERC grants in the field of philosophy, another four in historical and philological cultural studies as well as social sciences. The discipline of philosophy at the University of Vienna addresses many issues beyond the ivory tower, which have links to current problems, such as philosophy of technology or ethical issues of artificial intelligence and robotics.

The interdisciplinary research centre Religion and Transformation in Contemporary Society was established in 2018. It explores the reciprocal relationship between religion, religiousness and transformation processes in the current global context. An independent research network creates the structural basis for value research across faculties at the University of Vienna. The research areas of national and behavioural economics are to be strengthened by enhanced cooperation with the Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS).

The European Law Institute (ELI) is very special in this respect. The ELI is a pan-European, independent institution that is committed to improving legislation in Europe. The General Secretariat of the internationally renowned institute is located at the Faculty of Law at the University of Vienna.

New professorships

- International Commercial and Business Law
- Innovation and Private Law
- Globalisation and Legal Pluralism
- Social Ethics
- Economic and Social History of the Middle Ages
- Global Economic and Social History
- Classical Archaeology
- Public History
- Cultural Heritage
- Historical Transregional Studies
- Comparative Literature with Special Emphasis on Hungarian Literature
- West Slavic Literature and Cultural Studies
- French and Spanish Literature and Cultural Studies
- China Studies
- Modern German Literature with a Focus on 17th and 18th-Century Literature
- Modern German Literature with a Focus on Austrian Literature
- Yiddish Literature and Cultural Studies
- Comparative Research on Education and Schooling
- Moral and Political Philosophy
- Social Psychology in the Context of Work, Society and Economy
- International Development
- Urban Studies
- Interpreting Studies with a Focus on Community Interpreting
- School Pedagogy with Emphasis on the Secondary Level

Tenure track professorships

- Religion and Aesthetics
- Philosophy and Didactics of Philosophy
- Romance Linguistics
- Sociolinguistics of German (German in Austria)
- Sociology with Focus on Quantitative Social Science Research Methods
- Sociology of Social Change
- Social and Cultural Anthropology with a Focus on Visual Anthropology
- Literary Translation