

Stanford University – Distinguished Visiting Austrian Chair Professorship

Call Notice 2025

(May 16, 2025)

The Distinguished Visiting Austrian Chair is a gift from the Republic of Austria to Stanford University and was established in 1976 on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the founding of the USA. The proceeds from this gift will be used to fund the annual Austrian Chair for a six-month (January to June) teaching and research stay at Stanford University.

Disclaimer: The University of Vienna conducts the call and selection process for the Stanford Chair on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Women, Science and Research.

Stanford Chair

The Distinguished Visiting Austrian Chair Professor (short: Stanford Chair) will be in residence at Stanford for two quarters (6 months: January-June) of an academic year hosted by the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies (FSI) of Stanford University.

Salaries are comparable to faculty at Stanford.

For the periods January-June 2028, January-June 2029, January-June 2030 qualified Austrian scholars, i.e. scholars employed at Austrian universities, from relevant fields may apply.

Duties include teaching one to two courses per quarter.

Emphasis is on joint research and collaborative projects with Stanford faculty.

The Chair is given a formal visiting professor appointment at both the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies (<https://fsi.stanford.edu/>) as well as at the Stanford academic department or school where they will be teaching.

Qualifications include credentials to teach and conduct research at Associate Professor rank or above at Stanford.

Target group

The target group of the Stanford Chair are professors (associate professor rank or above) or other academics with a habilitation or comparable qualification who have a current employment contract at an Austrian public university specified in the Universities Act (§6). Retired professors (emeritus, Prof. i.R.) are not eligible to apply.

Applications are possible for those disciplines that are represented either at the Europe Center of the Freeman Spogli Institute of International Studies at Stanford University or at one of the seven schools of Stanford University except for Performing Arts and Medicine. Research related to medicine (e.g. pharmacology) is not affected by this restriction.

Call for applications

The call for applications for the years 2028 to 2030 is open between May 22 to ~~August 12,~~ 2025 September 9, 2025.

Submission deadline: ~~August 12, 2025, 23:59 (CET)~~ September 9, 2025, 23:59 (CET)

Note: The call for applications is issued every three years for three consecutive academic years. This allows Stanford Chair holders to have more time to prepare for the residency.

Submission of the application documents

The application documents must be written in English and submitted as one(!) PDF file by email to: international.office@univie.ac.at

The application documents must include the following sections:

- Letter of motivation stating the personal added value of the stay, the significance for the own department at the home university as well as for the home university in general. In addition, it should be explained what added value the stay could bring to the Austrian university and academic sector.
- Curriculum vitae, incl. list of publications and an ORCID ID. The 3 most important (in the applicant's opinion) publications of the last 5 years should be highlighted. The applicant's ORCID ID has to be made publicly accessible. The 'works' section has to be filled with at least the most relevant publications.
- Conclusive letter of recommendation from a full or associate professor (or research group leader) at Stanford University in whose department the stay is to take place. This letter should also explain the added value of the stay for Stanford University.
- List of other Stanford faculty with whom the applicant may collaborate during the stay has collaborated in the past, or is currently collaborating.
- Syllabus of the planned courses (maximum 5 pages): The teaching should demonstrate a clear connection to the applicant's current research and represent a comprehensible added value for the courses offered at Stanford University.
- Outline of the research project (maximum 8 pages): The research planned during the stay should be clearly summarized. In the introduction, the project should be explained in a way that is understandable to a non-specialist audience.

The relevance to the applicant's current research should be described, in particular the clear added value that the stay at Stanford University will bring to the applicant's research interests. Connections of the planned research to Stanford University researchers and possible future research collaborations should be outlined.

Assessment and selection process

The assessment and selection process consists of several stages.

1. Formal review of eligibility
2. Subject-specific pre-assessments, carried out by members of the selection committee responsible for that subject.
3. Longlist: Based on these assessments, the selection committee decides which applications will be reviewed internationally.
4. The applications on the longlist are reviewed by at least two international experts independently.
5. Based on these evaluations, the selection committee shortlists 6 to a maximum of 8 applications.
6. Based on this shortlist, the final selection by Stanford University will be made in mid2026.

A total of three candidates will be selected as part of this call - one each for the years 2028, 2029 and 2030.

Note: the selection committee consists of Vice Rectors of Austrian universities and is chaired by the Vice Rector for Research and International Affairs of the University of Vienna. In addition, one representative each from the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs and the Federal Ministry of Women, Science and Research are part of the selection committee.

Assessment criteria

- Scientific qualification of the applicant
- Teaching experience
- Originality of the research project and the planned courses
- Relevance of the activities during the stay at Stanford University to the applicant's research interests
- Relevance of the project to the subject area
- Clarity of the research questions (hypotheses)
- Appropriateness of methodology (including work plan and timeline)

- Feasibility of the project at the respective school at Stanford University
- Presentation of the added value of the stay for the applicant and the applicant's contacts at Stanford University
- Presentation of the potential for future scientific collaboration for the applicant and the applicant's department at the home university.

Administrative support of the application and selection process

The International Office of the University of Vienna (Head: Dr. Barbara Good) is responsible for the administration of the application and evaluation process.

Point of Contact:

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