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# SSH Call 2026

# Information Session for Applicants

Center for Doctoral Studies | University of Vienna

February 24, 2026

# Today's session

- What is the SSH Call?
- Eligibility
- Application process
- Structure of the application form
- Required documents
- Expected timeline
- Tips for applicants
- Helpful resources
- Q&A

# What is the SSH Call?

- 40+ doctoral positions
- Social sciences, humanities & cultural studies (SSH)
- 9 participating SSH **doctoral schools and faculties**
- **Employment** at the university of Vienna (30h/week, 4 years)
- Structured doctoral training as part of a **doctoral programme**
- Supervision & research environment as part of a **doctoral school**
- Joint application for job and admission through the new University of Vienna PhD Selection Tool - **NO separate application for admission via u:space!**

# Eligibility I

- **Diploma or Master's degree** in a field covered by one of the [participating doctoral schools](#) or a closely related discipline
  - Assessed on case-by-case basis by Admissions Office and respective Director of Doctoral Studies (*no prior individual assessment possible*)
  - **All degree requirements** (including thesis grading and, where applicable, defense) need to be completed by **30 June 2026**
- **Dissertation project** related to a research focus of one of the [participating doctoral schools](#) and [supervisors](#) participating in the Call
- **No confirmation of supervision** needed for applying
  - Please do not contact supervisors beforehand unless for urgent, important questions

# Eligibility II

- **German and/or English C1** language skills
- Language certificates only mandatory for programmes held entirely in German (see list on right side →)
- Possible **start date** between **1 July** and **1 October 2026**
- **Not eligible for the SSH Call 2026:**
  - If **first enrolment** for a doctoral programme at the University of Vienna took place **before winter semester 2025/26**
  - If you have held **external funding** for your doctoral project or an **existing doctoral level employment** contract for **more than two years at start of employment**

Programmes held entirely in German

STUDIENRICHTUNG	Niveau
Egyptian Studies	C1
German Philology	C1
Classical Archaeology	C1
<b>Business and Law</b>	
Business and Law	C1
Ancient History and Classical Studies	B2
Finno-Ugric Studies	B2
Hungarian Studies	B2
Classical Philology	B2
Musicology	B2
Dutch Studies	B2
Romance Studies	B2
Scandinavian Studies	B2
Slavic Studies	B2
South Asia Studies	B2
Theatre, Film and Media Studies	B2
Comparative Literature	B2

# Application process

- Familiarise yourself with the Call website and FAQs
- Choose from the list of eligible supervisors and doctoral schools
  - Please note:
    - Only one application can be submitted (with one doctoral school and one supervisor)
    - Edits to your already submitted application are possible until March 2, 2 pm CET
- [Set up a u:account](#) (needed for login to the application portal)
- Continue with the “Apply now”-button on the Call website
- Please refer to the [User Guide](#) for instructions on how to create and submit your application

# Application process (language)

- **All doctoral schools** accept applications in **English**
- The following **doctoral schools** also accept applications in **German**:
  - Advanced Research School in Law and Jurisprudence
  - Vienna Doctoral School of Philological and Cultural Studies
  - Vienna Doctoral School of Historical and Cultural Studies
  - Vienna Doctoral School of Philosophy
  - Vienna Doctoral School of Theology and Research on Religion

# Structure of the application form

- Candidate information
- Education
- Research & Professional Experience
- References (contact details only, may be contacted later in the selection process)
- Additional trainings & courses
- About your doctoral project
- Enrolment information
- Further Information

# Required documents I

- Upload the following PDF files (where indicated in the application form):
  - Motivational letter (no layout requirements, usually 1 page)
  - Research Proposal (max. 5 pages including bibliography, no further layout requirements)
  - Master, Bachelor and/or Diploma degree certificates (or official confirmation of expected date of completion, e.g. signed by supervisor)
  - Transcript of records or diploma supplements
  - Official identification document (passport or ID card) for enrolment
  - If applicable and available: Residence permit
  - If applicable and available: language certificates

**Note:** Language certificates mandatory only for doctoral programmes fully taught in German

# Required documents II

- A writing sample (e.g. a chapter of your Master's thesis, a published article, a seminar paper) if you selected one of the following doctoral schools:
  - Advanced Research School in Law and Jurisprudence
  - Vienna Doctoral School in Education
  - Vienna Doctoral School of Historical and Cultural Studies
  - Vienna Doctoral School of Theology and Research on Religion
  - Vienna Doctoral School of Philosophy
  - Vienna International School of Earth and Space Sciences
- Writing sample: no fixed length or layout requirement, but it should be a substantial academic text that showcases your research and writing skills

# Expected timeline

- **Application deadline:** March 2, 2026, 2pm CET
- **Administrative and scientific review:** March – April
- **Interviews:** April – May
- **Decisions :** June
- **Waiting list:** June – September
- **Start date:** 1 October 2026 (early start possible from July 1 onwards)

# Tips for applicants

- **Start early**
- Familiarise yourself with the doctoral schools and supervisors on the Call website to find the **best fit** for your doctoral project
- Do not contact supervisors beforehand unless for urgent, important questions
- **Read the application form carefully** (step-by-step guide with explanation text)
- Take into account **character limits** of open text fields!
- Get **feedback** and **proofreading** of your application texts (e.g. from peers)
- **Do not wait with your submission until March 2nd** (in case of technical issues)

# Helpful resources

- **SSH Call website:** <https://careers.univie.ac.at/en/praedoc/praedoc-ssh>
- **FAQs:** <https://careers.univie.ac.at/en/praedoc/praedoc-ssh/faqs-to-the-ssh-call>
- **UniVie doctoral services:** <https://doktorat.univie.ac.at/en/>
- **Technical support for u:account:** <https://zid.univie.ac.at/zid-helpdesk>
- **For further questions:** [sshcall2026@univie.ac.at](mailto:sshcall2026@univie.ac.at)

# Further questions?



Or afterwards at:

[sshcall2026@univie.ac.at](mailto:sshcall2026@univie.ac.at)

Please be aware that we can **not** give individual assessments of your eligibility in advance.

Please only email us your questions if you have checked the **FAQs** and **Call Website first!**