

[Open PhD Position]

PhD project starts
May 2026

Christian Doppler Laboratory for biodegradation of water-soluble polymers

Developing an analytical toolbox for characterizing water-soluble polymers in aquatic environments

The **Institute of Analytical Chemistry** at BOKU University is looking for a **motivated and curious PhD candidate**, who is passionate about performing cutting-edge research in the field of **instrumental analysis of water-soluble polymers**.

Water-soluble polymers are essential for numerous applications in our daily life and are mainly released into wastewater systems. The Christian Doppler Laboratory for biodegradation of water-soluble polymers addresses the **critical need for sustainable end-of-life solutions** for WSPs and aims at **closing gaps** in our knowledge on **mechanisms of biodegradation in wastewater and freshwater systems**. To **understand processes in the environment**, it is key to developing and applying **analytical methods** that are **fit-for-purpose**.

The PhD project aims at establishing an **analytical platform** for **polysaccharides and their biodegradation intermediates**. The PhD candidate will be working with a variety of analytical techniques, including chromatography coupled to (high resolution) mass spectrometry, field flow fraction and nuclear magnetic resonance.

We are looking for a candidate who:

- is creative, curious and a good team player
- holds a Master's degree in the field of chemistry or completed a master thesis in the field of analytical chemistry
- has advanced English speaking and writing skills

We offer:

- an international and motivated team and a supportive working environment
- the possibility to perform your research on high-end analytical instrumentation and opportunity to present at international conferences and workshops
- Contract: 30 h per week, gross monthly salary: ~ 2800 € (14 x p.a.)
- Workplace: Vienna, the most livable city in the world (Global Livability Index 2023)

How to Apply:

If this sounds like the opportunity you have been waiting for, we are very much looking forward to hearing from you! Please send your application (CV, a cover letter detailing your research interests, motivation, and contact information details of at least 2 referees) until 31st of March 2026 to: Teresa Steininger-Mairinger (teresa.mairinger@boku.ac.at)

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, so apply early to ensure consideration.