

# [Open PhD Position]

PhD project starts  
beginning of 2026

Christian Doppler Laboratory for biodegradation of water-soluble polymers

## Developing an LC-MS-based 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 a **liquid chromatography high resolution mass spectrometry** based **analytical platform** for **polyamino acids and their biodegradation intermediates**.

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 (high resolution mass spectrometry, ion mobility) and opportunity to present at international conferences and workshops
- Contract: 3.5 years / 30 h per week, gross monthly salary: ~ 2700 € (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) to:

Teresa Steininger-Mairinger ([teresa.mairinger@boku.ac.at](mailto:teresa.mairinger@boku.ac.at))

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