

PhD position

**Department of Ecosystem Management, Climate and Biodiversity,
Institute of Hydrobiology and Aquatic Ecosystem Management**

The FWF project "Industrialization of the Danube as a dynamic socio-natural site: fluvial morphology, floodplain use and long-term legacies 1780 – 1940 (IDAN)", which will start on 1 October 2025, will investigate when and how the Danube was affected by the industrialization process and at what point human activities began to dominate the river dynamics. To this end, the hydro-morphological changes are analyzed and the development and role of land and water uses in the river landscape are investigated. A doctoral position to work on these uses will be awarded from 1 November 2025.

Tasks associated with the doctoral position

- Analysis of land and water uses (especially land use, navigation, hydropower, possibly fishing) on selected sections of the Danube using historical written sources, maps and plans.
- Reconstruction of (hydraulic engineering) measures in connection with these uses and the change of use practices
- Completion of the dissertation

Desired profile

- Master's degree, preferably in history or geography, but also ecology or environmental sciences
- Experience in processing historical literature and sources, and enthusiasm for historical archive work
- At least initial experience in processing spatial data (e.g. ArcGIS)
- Good communication skills and interest in teamwork
- German mother tongue or at least very good knowledge of German (this is mandatory for archive work)

Further desirable qualifications:

- Initial experience with scientific presentations and publications
- Problem-oriented thinking and team spirit

Our offer

We offer a 3-year position in an interdisciplinary team at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences. The position is based at the Institute of Hydrobiology and Aquatic Ecosystem Management. IDAN and the doctoral project will be carried out in cooperation with the Institute of Social Ecology. Admission into the BOKU Doctoral School "Human River Systems in the 21st Century" is planned. In accordance with the FWF's requirements, the position comprises 30 hours/week with a gross monthly salary of approximately EUR 2,785 (14 times/year).

Application documents

If you are qualified and motivated, we look forward to receiving your application. Please send your application documents (1-page motivation letter, CV incl. list of publications if relevant; two reference persons) as a pdf-file to Dr. Gertrud Haidvogel (gertrud.haidvogel@boku.ac.at) and Prof. Martin Schmid (martin.schmid@boku.ac.at) by September 15, 2025. Please also address any queries to these two persons.

The general admission criteria of BOKU must be fulfilled (further information [here](#)).