

Austrian Higher Education System & Cooperation with India













Austria-India Cooperation Forum | New Delhi

Gerhard Volz

Head International Cooperation in Higher Education

Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation (OeAD)

Delhi, 24 March 2025

	Population (2022)	1,375,586,000	8,930,000
	Surface area (sq. km) (2021)	3,287,000	83,879
	GDP (current USD) (2023)	3,567.6 billion	517.7 billion
	Number of higher education institutions	58,643 (2022)	77 (2024)
	Number of students in tertiary education (2022)	40,549,627	439,477
	Government expenditure on education as % of GDP (2022)	4.12%	4.77%
	Government spending on tertiary education institutions as % of GDP (2021)	1.57%	1.85%
	Educational attainment, at least Bachelor's or equivalent as % of population 25+ (2020)	12.22%	15.97%
	Number of international students (2022)	46,659 from Austria: 8 	85,197 from India: 688 
	Number of students abroad (2022)	621,623	26,416



Structure and Requirements of University Education in Austria

■ Education system

- Bologna Structure = three-tier-system
- Bachelor (min. 180 ECTS), Master (min. 120 ECTS), PhD / doctoral programmes

■ Language of instruction

- Primary language of instruction is **German**
- About 2,000 study programmes at Austrian Higher Education Institutions
- 400 programmes (and counting) in English <https://studienwahl.at/studies>

■ Tuition Fees apply

- ... vary related to the student's citizenship – third-country students are required to pay 726.72 € per semester at public institutions
- Private universities are free to determine their tuition fees



Austria's Higher Education Landscape | the Tertiary Sector

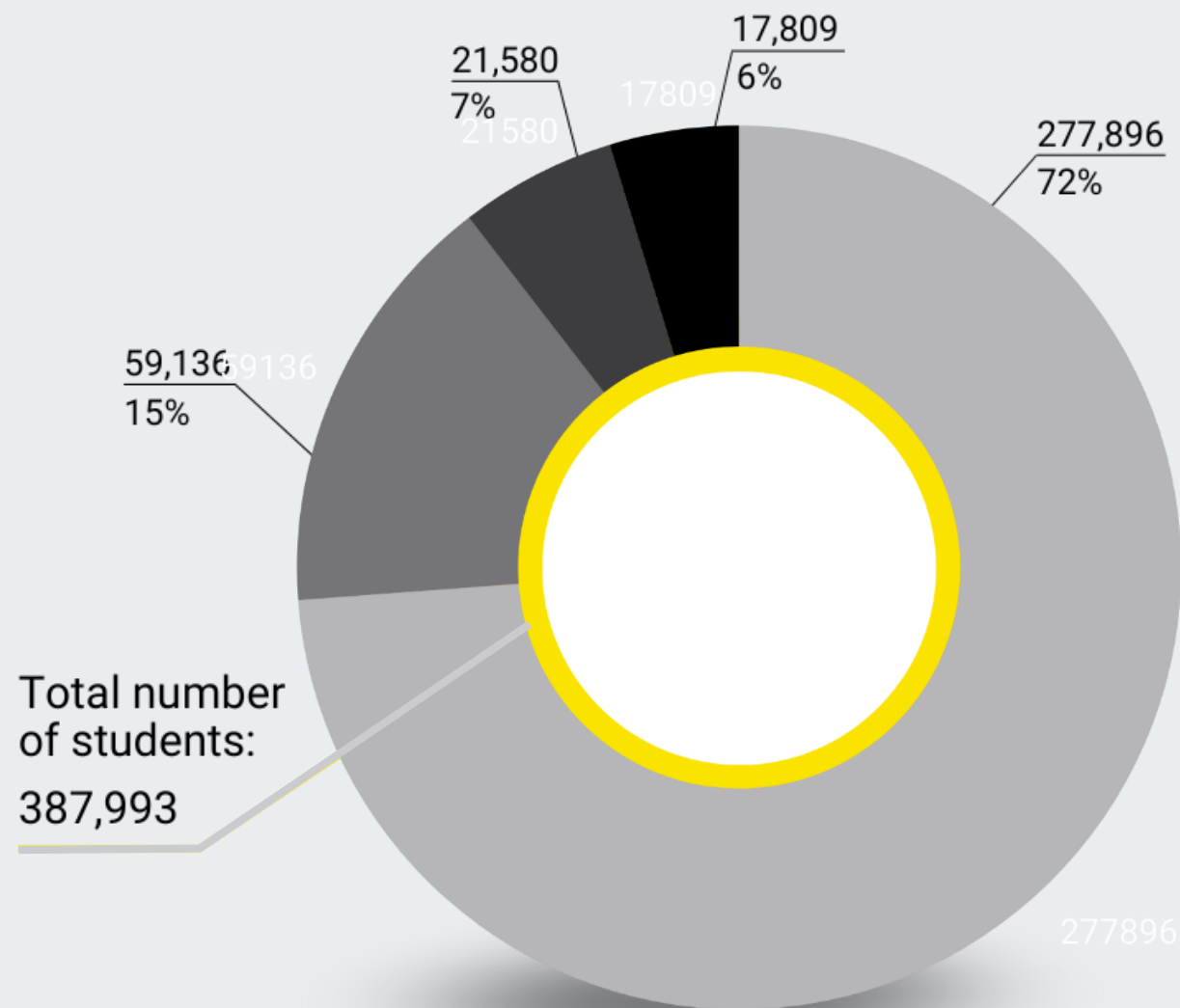
- **23 Universities** (public universities)
 - 10 comprehensive and specialised universities
 - 6 universities of the arts
 - 3 medical universities
 - 4 cutting-edge technical universities
- **21 Universities of Applied Sciences**
Practical experience and industry-focused courses
- **14 University Colleges for Teacher Education**
specialised in Austria's teacher training programmes
- **19 private Universities / Higher Education Institutions**
with a wide diversity of curricula & distinctive academic degrees



Austria's Higher Education Landscape

- 23 Public universities
- 19 Private universities and higher education institutions
- 21 Universities of applied sciences
- ▲ 14 University colleges of teacher education

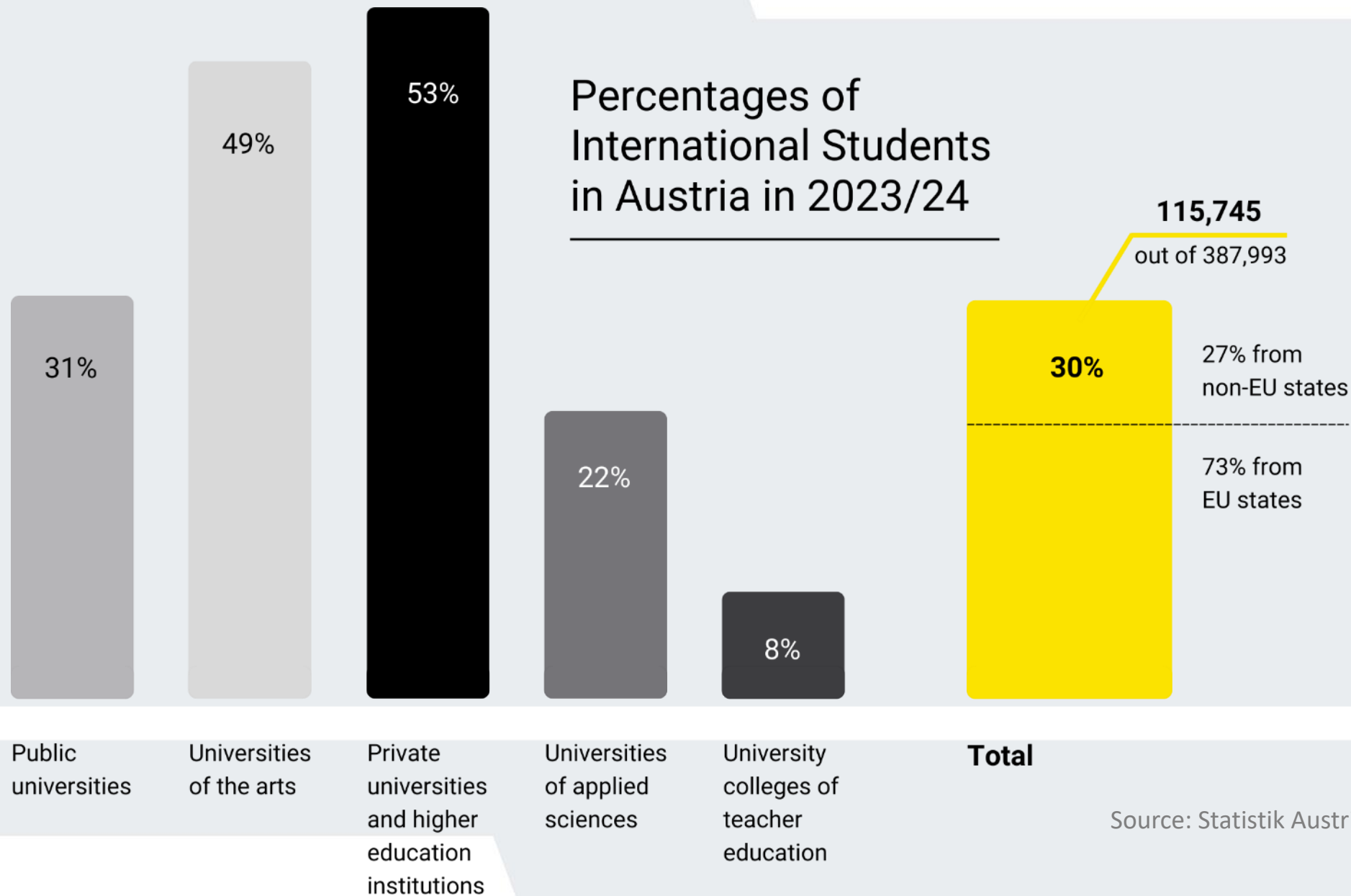




Number of Students in Austria in 2023/24

- Public universities
- Universities of applied sciences
- University colleges of teacher education
- Private universities and higher education institutions

Percentages of International Students in Austria in 2023/24



Source: Statistik Austria

Austria as a Hub for Research & Innovation

- Austria is among the leading countries in Europe regarding **R&D intensity**: with an estimated research ratio of **3.34%** in 2024, Austria **ranked 3rd in the EU** behind Belgium and Sweden.
 - **R&D expenditure** amounts to **16.64 bn euros** in 2024 in Austria
Research & Development expenditure according to latest estimates of Statistics Austria
 - High **success rates in Horizon Europe**, demonstrating strong participation in the European Research Area and its framework programme.
 - € 990 million from Horizon Europe, accounting for approximately **3.3% of the total funds** distributed by the European Commission
 - **5.1 ERC grants*** per million inhabitants, **ranking 3rd in the European Union**
- * European Research Council grants; Starting Grants, Consolidator Grants and Advanced Grants*

Austria as a Hub for Research & Innovation

■ Life Sciences

- excellent research has been built up in recent years
- among the leading nations in **high-quality scientific publications** in "Biochemistry, Genetics, and Molecular Biology," ranking **4th in the EU**

■ Quantum Technologies

- ranks **3rd in the EU** when it comes to **patent applications**
- ranks **2nd in the EU** with **scientific publications**

■ Economic Complexity

- **ranking 3rd in the EU**, indicating its capability to produce sophisticated products and maintain specialised expertise.

■ STEM Graduates in an international comparison

- **ranking 2nd** after Germany, with **30.6% of graduates** in STEM fields, highlighting the country's strength in producing future skilled professionals for technology-driven industries.

Funding for India – Austria Collaboration

■ Austrian national scholarship programmes

- Ernst Mach Grant for PhD holders & Postdocs (**to Austria**, max. 9 months)
- Ernst Mach Grant for Universities of Applied Sciences (**to Austria**, max. 10 months)
- Marietta Blau Scholarship (Austria **to India**, 6–12 months)

■ Scientific Technological Cooperation

■ Erasmus+ Mobility and cooperation Actions

- Credit mobility for students inclusive of internships (2–12 months)
- Mobility for teaching staff and administrative staff (5–30 days)
- Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's Programmes (full degree)
- Cooperation Programmes / Capacity Building in Higher Education

➔ ***almost no full degree scholarships available***

Project support within the Eurasia-Pacific Uninet (EPU)

*The EPU acts as regional **network of universities** aiming at joint research activities. It was established in 2000 with the objective of enhancing structured higher education collaboration between Austrian, Central Asian, South and East Asian institutions.*

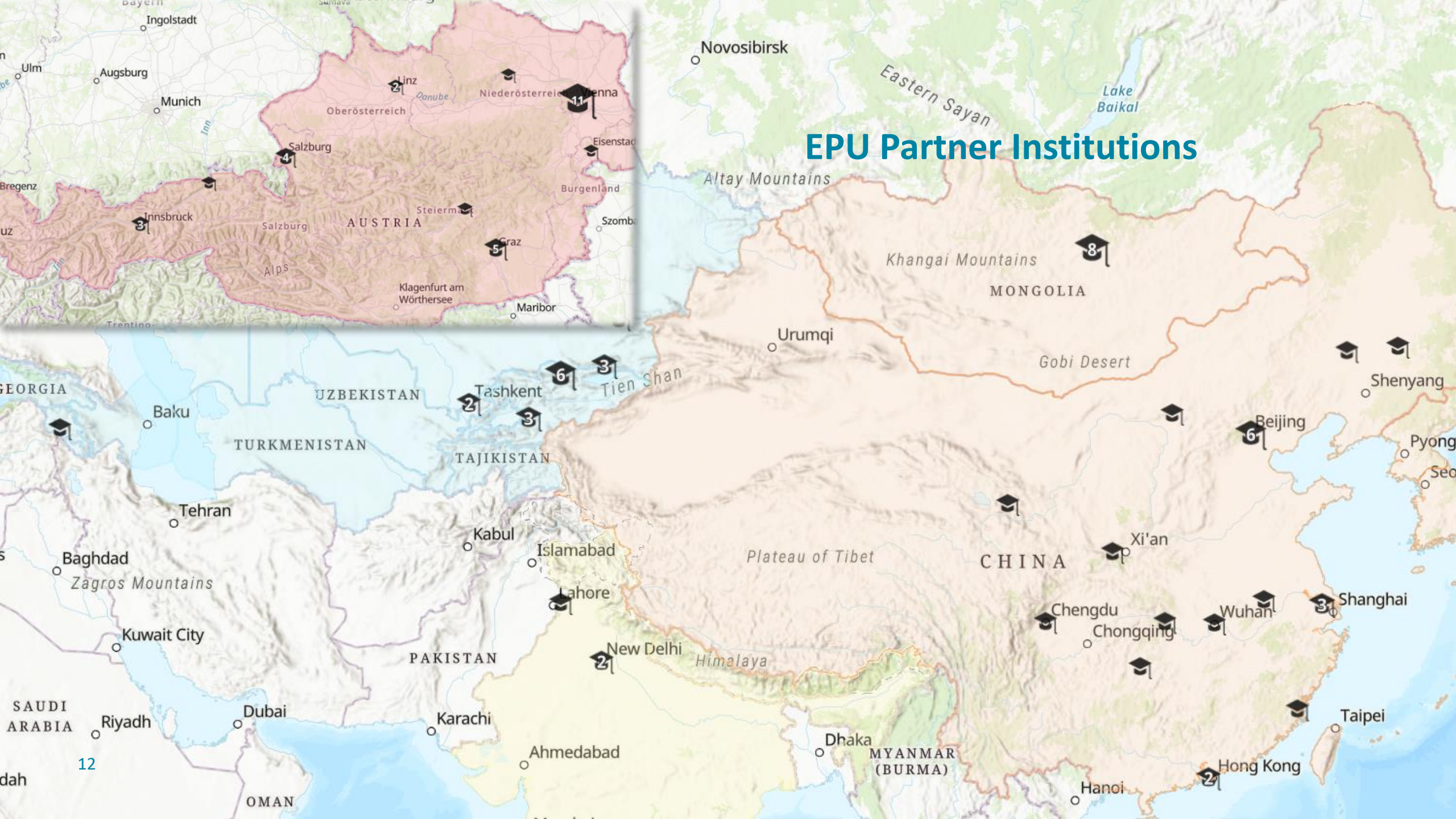
Joint Research Projects

- ... support basic research, research-based teaching and art as well as technology cooperation;
- Projects must be carried out based on bilateral or multilateral partnerships in countries in which EPU member institutions are situated. Projects last one year.
- Only [scientists at] Austrian EPU member institutions can submit project application.
- Submission online at <https://oead.at/en/cooperations/international-he-cooperations/project-support-within-the-eurasia-pacific-uninet>

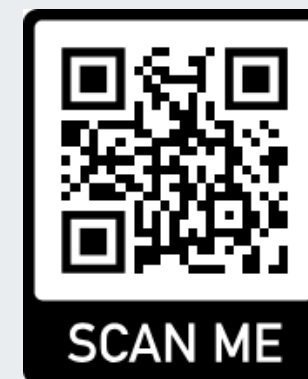
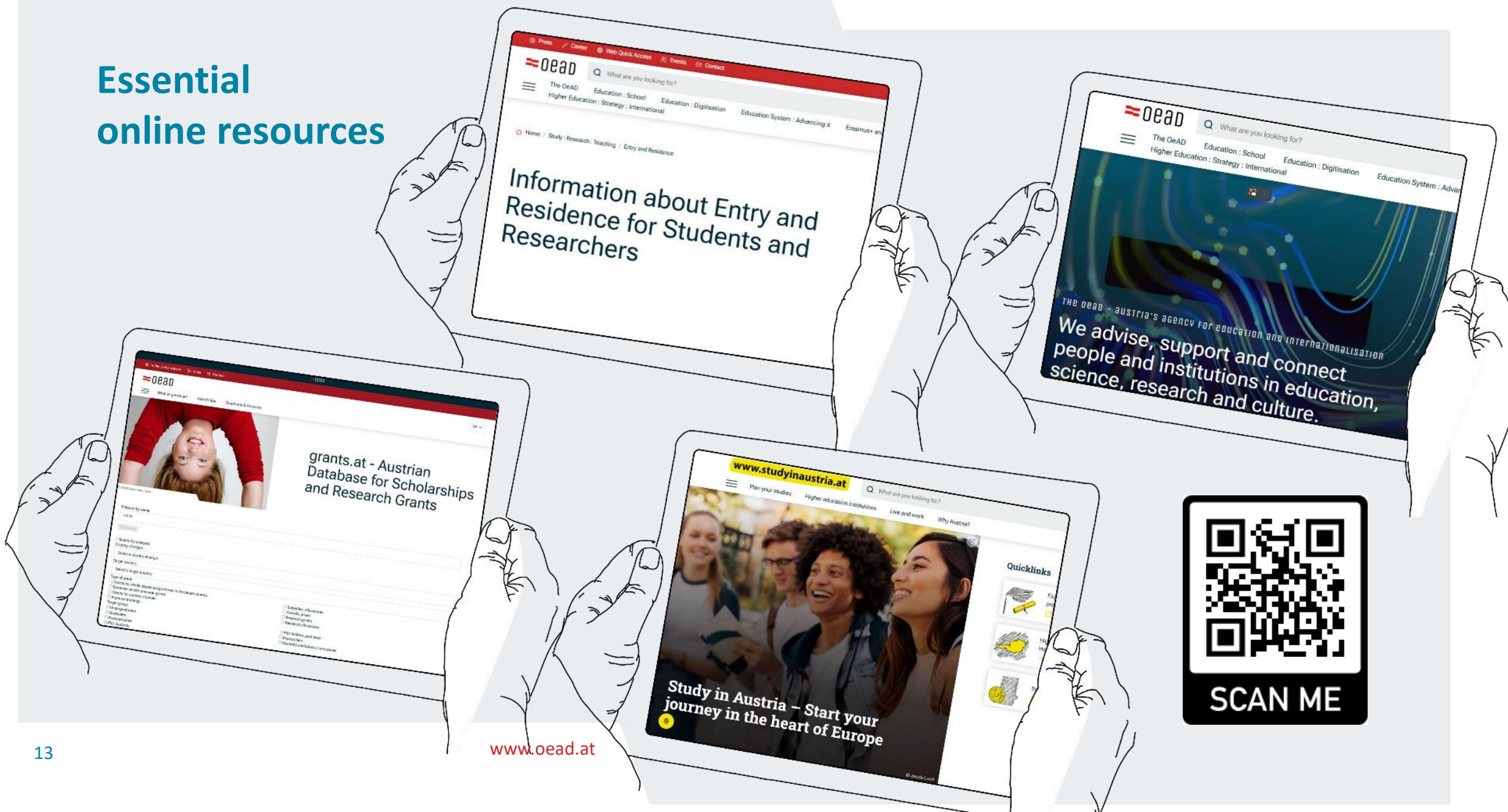
Funding

- Travel & accommodation costs as well as project related material costs. The amount of funding depends on the individual projects (min. Euro 5,000 to max. Euro 20,000)

EPU Partner Institutions

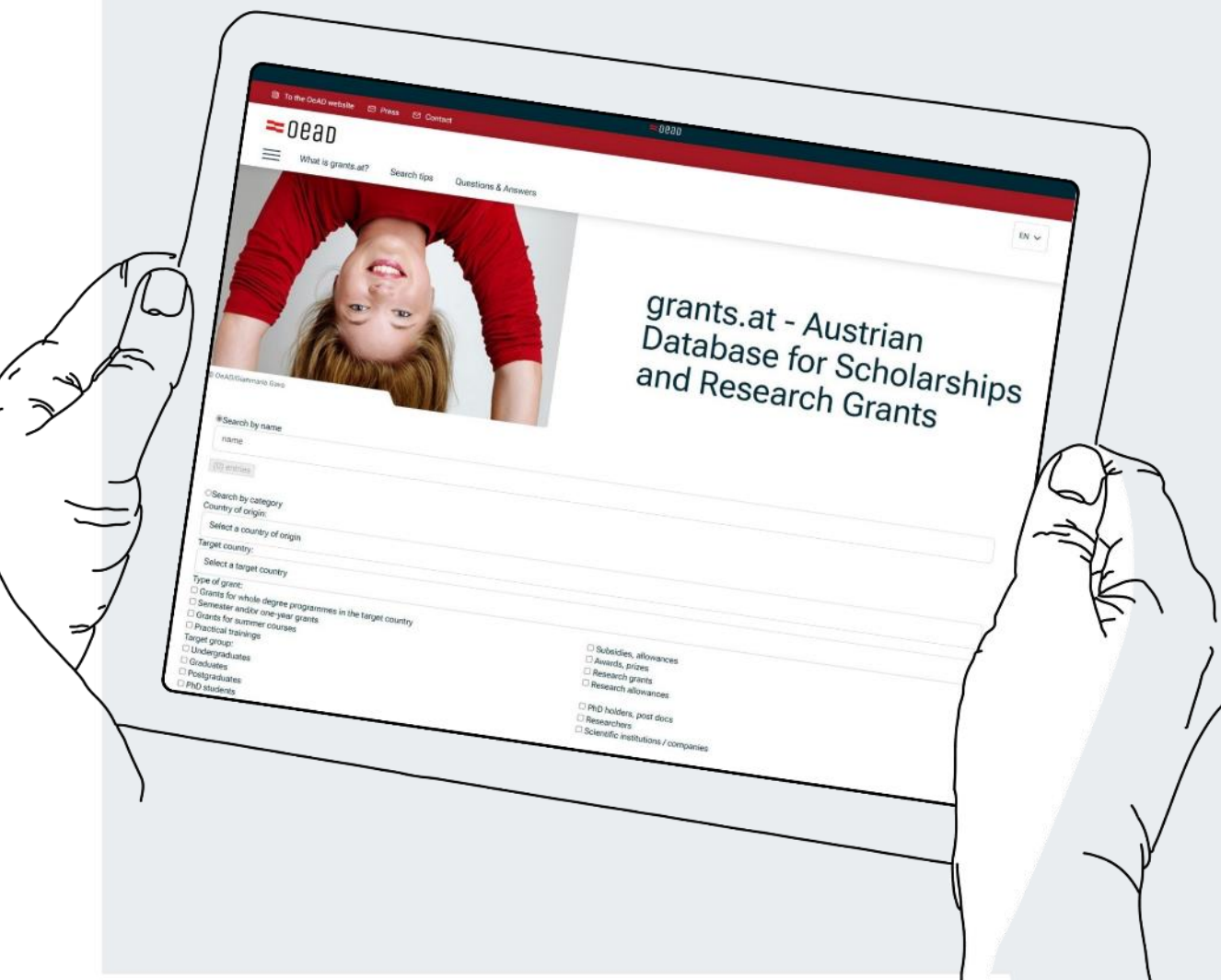
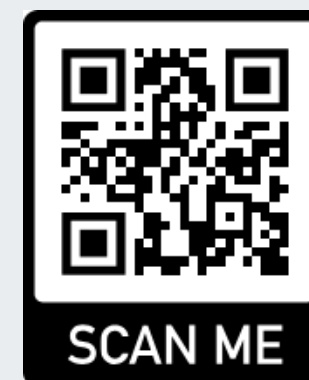


Essential online resources



grants.at

- Austria's largest database for scholarships and research grants with more than 1,200 entries
- funding provided by international organisations, the EU, national governments, and private foundations or companies
- able to search for grants by name or by selecting filters: country of origin, target country and/or type of grant



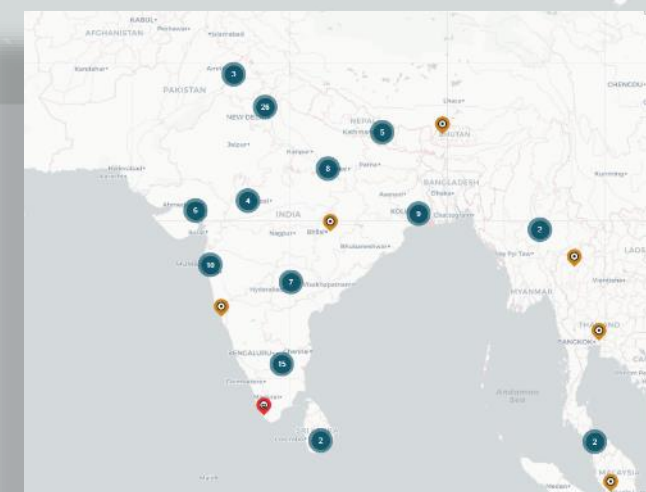
www.oead.at/entry

- To enter Austria for study, teaching or research purposes, one might need a **visa** and/or a **residence permit**.
- Detailed requirements on legal obligations depend on the nationality and on the duration of the intended stay.



Map of OeAD Projects and Alumni

- Virtual map which displaying registered **projects** funded by the OeAD ...
- ... and allowing OeAD scholarship holders to present themselves in an international context
- It enables searching for OeAD scholarship holders and connecting with alumni
- OeAD Map for **India**: map.oead.at/india



EURAXESS Researchers Portals



- [Euraxess Austria](#) offers information and advice for researchers and supports them during research stays in Austria.



- [EURAXESS India](#) links researchers in India with Europe and provides free information and events on research funding, research careers and collaboration opportunities
→ Mr **Samrat Kumar** will be joining in the evening



Join us on LinkedIn!

OeAD – Agency for Education and Internationalisation

The OeAD is an agency of the Republic of Austria with 65 years of experience & expertise ...

- ... in supporting academic mobility and in initiating international scientific cooperation
- ... of relevant policies in education and science across Europe and in the respective partner countries
- ... in globally positioning of Austria as an attractive centre for education, science and research
- ... in promoting mutual learning between different cultural settings and education systems
- ... as facilitator between stakeholders at all levels

