

ACTIVITY REPORT

ACADEMIC

COLLABORATION

INDIA-AUSTRIA



CONNECTING INDIAN AND AUSTRIAN HIGHER EDUCATION

The European Union and India are connected by long-standing relations: 2024 marked the 20th anniversary of the strategic partnership between the European Union and India as well as the 75th year of diplomatic relations between Austria and India.

In July 2024, Karl Nehammer, then Chancellor of Austria, welcomed Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Vienna. On this occasion, the two leaders emphasised the importance of future-oriented bilateral partnerships between academic institutions of both countries.

Funding opportunities provided both at European and at national level play a key role in promoting innovative research, facilitating academic exchange and strengthening ties between Austrian and Indian institutions.

This publication provides an overview of facts and figures as well as relevant programmes for academic collaboration between Austria and India. It illustrates the wide range of instruments available to facilitate the Austrian higher education sector's cooperation with Indian universities and research institutions.

For each programme, the publication outlines the relevant information, including partner countries, eligible costs, thematic scope and available budget. Selected project examples are included to showcase the dynamic academic relationship between the two nations.

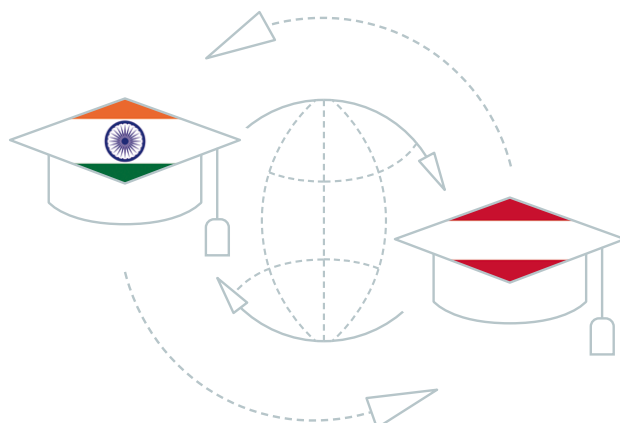
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Funding opportunities provided by Austrian programmes

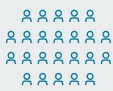











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AT A GLANCE

INDIA

AUSTRIA

	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

There are 15 cooperation agreements between Austrian and Indian universities.

Sources: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, World Bank

With **more than 40 million students**, India's higher education system is one of the largest in the world. As of 2022, India's higher education landscape includes **1,168 universities**, **45,473 colleges**, which are affiliated with or supervised by a university, and **12,002 stand-alone institutions**. Stand-alone institutions in vocational higher education, such as nursing institutes or technical institutes are not affiliated with a university and generally run diploma level programmes.

In 2022, around **440,000 students** were enrolled at Austria's higher education institutions. Students can choose between **23 public universities**, **19 private universities**, **21 universities of applied sciences** and **14 university colleges of teacher education**.



Learn more about the Indian higher education system in this DAAD publication (in German)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED BY EUROPEAN PROGRAMMES

Erasmus+ Mobility

For more than 30 years, students and staff have moved between European universities in the Erasmus programme. In 2015, Erasmus+ opened mobility opportunities in the field of higher education to individuals and organisations from all parts of the world. The objective is to enhance cooperation in higher education, strengthen international ties between higher education institutions and foster personal development on a professional, intercultural and social level.



Erasmus+
ICM Handbook

The budget of Erasmus+ for 2021–2027 amounts to 26.2 billion euros, supplemented by 2.2 billion euros from the EU's external instruments for global activities. It places a strong focus on social inclusion and diversity, green and digital transitions, and promoting young people's participation in democratic life. The EU budget is divided along different regions of the world, India being represented in Region 5 (Asia)¹. In the 2024 call, the budget available for Austria for Region 5 amounts to around 370,000 euros, 13.5% of which were awarded to projects between Austrian and Indian institutions.

Funding opportunities

International Credit Mobility (KA171) supports the mobility of individuals enrolled or employed at a higher education institution, from EU Member States and third countries associated to the Programme to third countries not associated to the Programme² or vice versa.

In addition, the international opening of the classic Erasmus+ programme (KA131) entitles universities to spend up to 20% of their mobility budget on worldwide exchange of students and staff (although higher education institutions in third countries not associated to the Programme can only host students/staff from EU Member States and third countries associated to the Programme).

Eligible costs for mobile persons include travel costs, individual support and – if needed – top-ups for students with fewer opportunities to promote inclusion and diversity.

Higher education institutions are eligible to receive contributions for **organisational support**.

Erasmus+ call 2024

In the 2024 call (International Credit Mobility/KA171), a total of 14 mobilities between Austrian and Indian institutions were granted and may take place between August 2024 and July 2027.

¹ For detailed information on Erasmus+ please visit erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu or consult the [Erasmus+ Programme Guide](#) and the [Erasmus+ ICM Handbook](#).

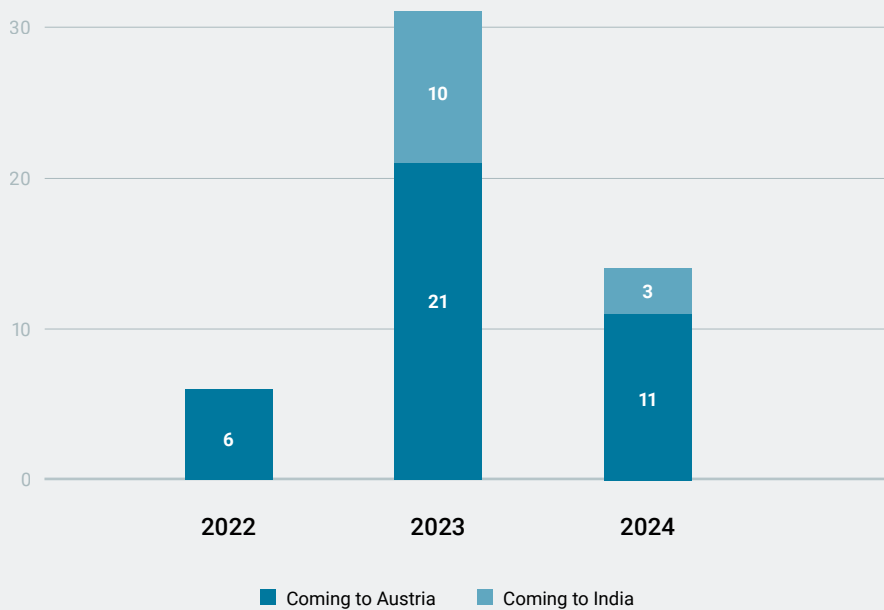
² Third countries associated to the Programme are the following six countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, North Macedonia, Türkiye and Serbia. Third countries not associated to the Programme include countries all over the world; they are divided into 14 regions (Source: Erasmus+ ICM Handbook, Version 6.1 – October 2024, p. 3).

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Mobility type	Student mobility for studies	Student mobility for traineeships	Staff mobility for teaching	Staff mobility for training
Target group	open to bachelor, master and PhD students (doctoral candidates)	open to bachelor, master and PhD students (doctoral candidates) and recent graduates	for academic staff and for invited staff from non-academic organisations to teach at a partner higher education institution abroad	for teaching and non-teaching staff as training periods abroad
Eligible mobility period and activities	long-term mobility can last from 2 to 12 months; short-term doctoral mobility or mobility as part of a blended mobility can last from 5 to 30 days	long-term mobility can last from 2 to 12 months; short-term doctoral mobility or mobility as part of a blended mobility can last from 5 to 30 days	the mobility can last from 5 to 60 days and can also be carried out as blended mobility	the mobility can last from 5 to 60 days and can also be carried out as blended mobility

Source: Erasmus+ ICM Handbook, Version 6.1 – October 2024, p. 4

PLANNED MOBILITIES BETWEEN AUSTRIA AND INDIA (ERASMUS+ KA171)



Projects ongoing, the number of mobilities may in-/decrease during project implementation.

Source: OeAD Programme Controlling

Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE)

Capacity Building in Higher Education supports international cooperation projects between higher education institutions from EU Member States or third countries associated to the Programme and third countries not associated to the Programme.



CBHE

CBHE projects promote the relevance, quality, modernisation and accessibility of higher education in third countries not associated to the Programme to drive sustainable social and economic development.

Budget of up to one million euros per project.

Central goals are

- the development of curricula
- reform of governance and management systems and structures
- improving the level of skills in higher education institutions through new education programmes
- fostering regional integration and cooperation across different regions of the world

Eligible to participate in CBHE projects are

- higher education institutions or organisations of higher education institutions
- organisations active in the labour market or in the fields of education, training and youth

PROJECT EXAMPLE

CESTour – Centers of Excellence in sustainable tourism to boost economic development and enhance university-business cooperation in Southern Asia

15 January 2021 – 14 April 2024

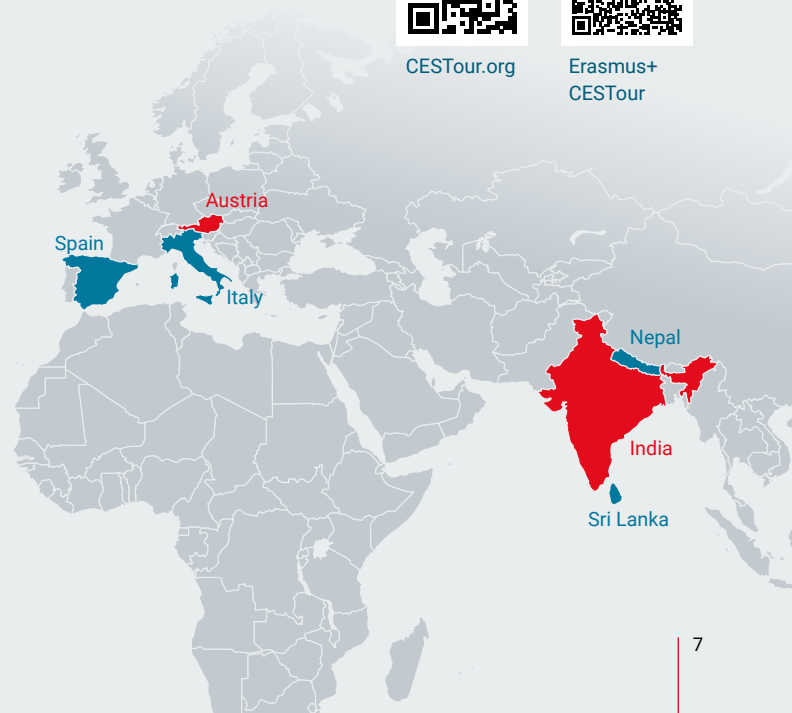
Coordinator: FH JOANNEUM, Austria

Participating institution in India: Birla Academy of Art and Culture, Institute of Public Enterprise, Nirma University

The tourism industry is one of the fastest growing industries in India, Sri Lanka and Nepal. Through its rapid growth, the industry is creating social, environmental and economic disparities and thus, not everybody benefits equally from its progress. The development of a robust ecosystem for sustainable tourism at higher education institutions and beyond academic borders is key for sustainable growth. The aim of this project is to install Centres of Excellence for sustainable tourism at seven universities in India, Nepal and Sri Lanka in order to share the concept of sustainable tourism on a regional and national level and create a positive impact for tourism development.



CESTour.org

Erasmus+
CESTour

Erasmus Mundus

The Erasmus Mundus action comprises the **Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters (EMJM)** and the **Erasmus Mundus Design Measures (EMDM)** and aims at fostering excellence and worldwide internationalisation of higher education institutions via study programmes at master course level.

PROJECT EXAMPLE

MARIHE – Master in Research and Innovation in Higher Education

1 October 2024 – 30 November 2030

Coordinator: University for Continuing Education Krems, Austria

Participating institution in India: Thapar Institute of Engineering & Technology Patiala

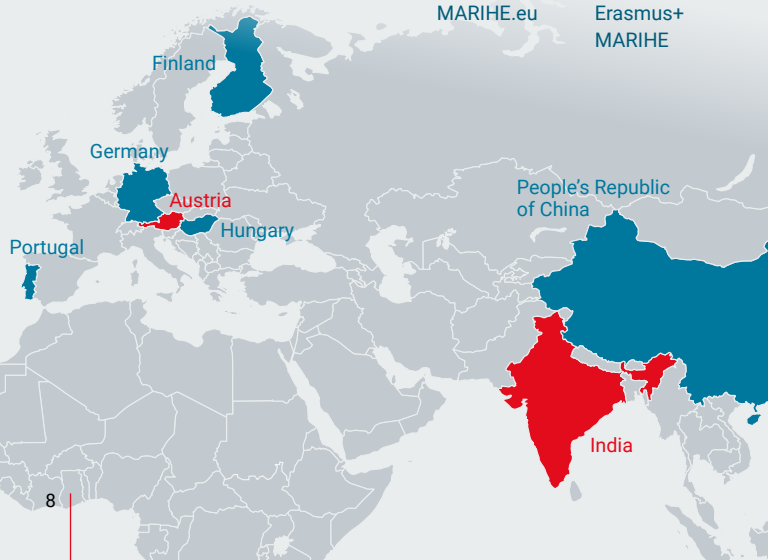
The critical role of research and innovation in fostering growth and sustainable development has triggered significant shifts in higher education sectors all over the world. This shift necessitates professionals adept at navigating these changes, linking systematic and institutional transformations, and developing management skills for the changing landscape within higher education and research institutions. The MARIHE programme addresses this need by offering a curriculum that provides a deep understanding of these change processes and their impact on education systems and labour markets. Students in the MARIHE programme benefit from significant mobility and intercultural experiences and ample opportunities to acquire transferable skills such as critical thinking and leadership.



MARIHE.eu



Erasmus+
MARIHE



Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters (EMJM)

The EMJM supports high-level integrated and transnational study programmes at master level. At least three universities from three different countries (including at least two EU Member States and/or third countries associated to the Programme) offer a joint master programme, during which students complete their education at several locations in Europe and worldwide.

Higher education institutions from India can both participate in the consortium of higher education institutions on an equal footing under the Erasmus+ programme and assume the coordination of a joint programme.

- **Budget** of up to 5 million euros per project.
- **The funding period** of an EMJM lasts 74 months so that the master programme can be carried out several times in succession.
- An EMJM lasts one to two academic years.
- All students spend at least two study periods in two different countries and receive either a joint degree or multiple degrees at the end of their studies.
- High-level scholarships (1,400 euros per month) are available to excellent students worldwide.
- Other entities such as companies, NGOs or research institutions can participate as associated partners.



Erasmus Mundus
Joint Masters
(EMJM)

Erasmus Mundus Design Measures (EMDM)

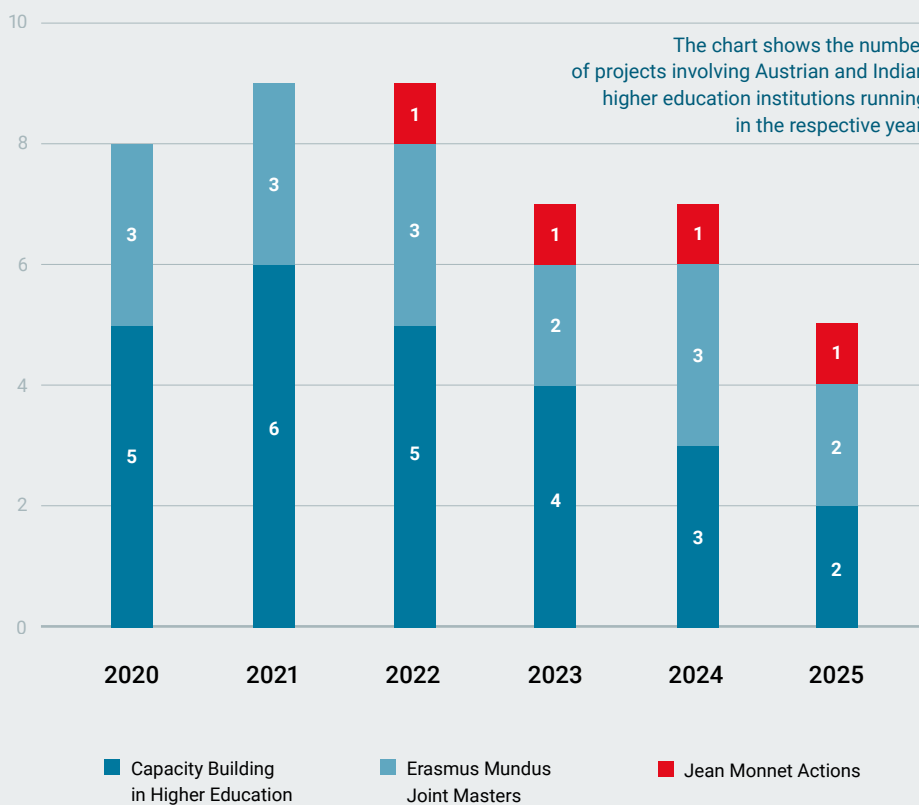
Launched in 2021, Erasmus Mundus Design Measures support the design of new high-level study programmes at master level. The programme encourages higher education institutions to develop innovative and highly integrated master programmes by facilitating the establishment of international partnerships. It is possible to involve EU Member States and third countries associated to the Programme as well as third countries not associated to the Programme.

- **Budget** of up to 60,000 euros per project.
- **The funding period** of an EMDM project lasts 15 months.
- Special focus on involving EU Member States and third countries associated to the Programme, and/or institutions from these countries, and/or thematic areas that are under-represented in Erasmus Mundus.
- India can participate in Erasmus Mundus Design Measures as a third country not associated to the Programme.



Erasmus Mundus Design Measures (EMDM)

ERASMUS+ CENTRALISED ACTIONS



Funding opportunities and information on how to apply are announced on the European Commission's Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal

Source: Erasmus+ Public Dashboard (9 January 2025)

Jean Monnet Actions

The Jean Monnet Actions in the field of higher education promote teaching and research in the field of European Union studies worldwide. “EU studies” refers to the study of Europe in its entirety, with particular emphasis on the EU dimension, from an internal but also from a global perspective.

Duration of the projects is **3 years**.

Four different action types are relevant for India:

Jean Monnet Modules:

- Short teaching programmes of at least 40 teaching hours per academic year in the field of European Union studies at the applicant higher education institution.
- Funding of up to 35,000 euros.

Jean Monnet Chair:

- The chair holder (one professor) delivers 90 teaching hours per academic year.
- Funding of up to 60,000 euros.

Jean Monnet Centres of Excellence:

- Focal points of competence and knowledge of European Union subjects. They play a key role in reaching out to students from faculties not normally engaging with European Union issues as well as to policy makers, civil society and the general public at large.
- Funding of up to 100,000 euros.

Jean Monnet Networks on External Policy:

- Large thematic networks in higher education that collect, share and discuss research findings, content of courses and experiences. Each year, one or two networks on foreign policy issues addressing one specific priority are supported.
- Funding of up to 1.2 million euros.



Jean Monnet Actions



PROJECT EXAMPLE

Jean Monnet Network: EUIP – What role for Europe in the Indo-Pacific?

Identifying regional policy responses towards the EU's Indo-Pacific Strategy 2022–2025

1 December 2022 – 30 November 2025**Participating institution in India:**

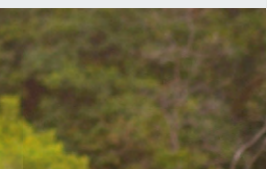
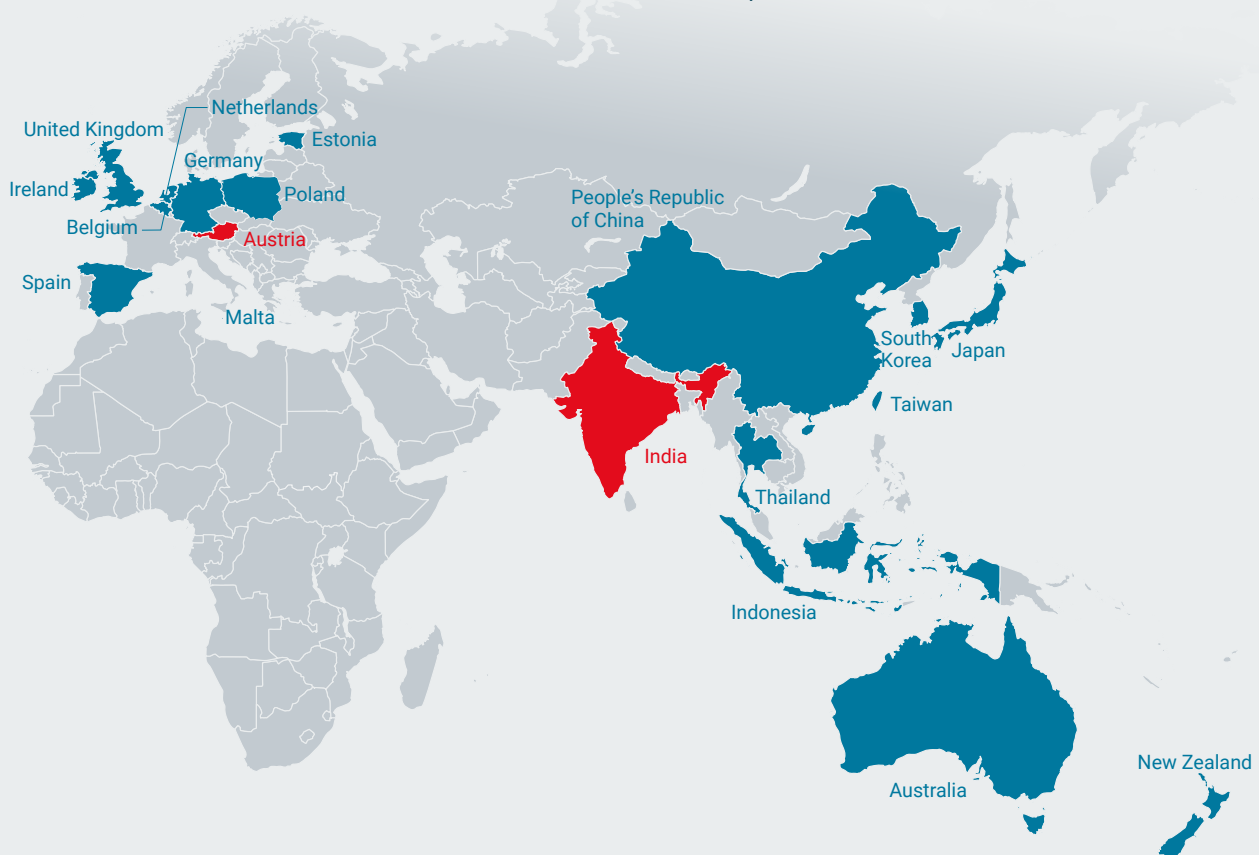
Jawaharlal Nehru University

Participating institution in Austria:

University for Continuing Education Krems

Erasmus+
EUIP

This Jean Monnet Network, encompassing EU and Indo-Pacific partners, assesses the critical question of “what is the most effective role for the EU in the Indo-Pacific?”. The EU’s effectiveness in the region relies on accurate contemporary knowledge of the states in the Indo-Pacific. This network creates a unique grouping of EU and Indo-Pacific expertise to conduct interviews, engage in Delphi style policy debates, and discussion forums in several Indo-Pacific countries. Early researchers, especially postdocs and PhD students, from all 28 participating universities are heavily involved in the project. The network provides high-level foreign policy analysis, forecasting, and outputs that will be of significant use for practitioners in the European External Actions.



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED BY AUSTRIAN PROGRAMMES



STUDENTS AND RESEARCHERS COMING TO AUSTRIA

Ernst Mach Grant

Students and young researchers can apply for this grant to come to Austria for a research or study stay.

The **Ernst Mach Grant – worldwide** is targeted at young researchers from all disciplines and countries (except Austria) who wish to pursue a research project in Austria.

- duration: 1 to 9 months
- monthly grant rate: 1,300 euros
- age limit: 35 years

The **Ernst Mach Grant for studying at an Austrian University of Applied Sciences** allows students from non-European universities to spend a semester or two at an Austrian University of Applied Sciences.

- duration: 4 to 10 months
- monthly grant rate: 1,300 euros
- age limit: 35 years

The **Ernst Mach Follow-Up Grant** is aimed at postdocs from non-European developing countries who are former OeAD scholarship holders and who are working at a higher education institution in a non-European developing country. The grant is intended to support the applicant's scientific career and to deepen the cooperation with Austrian higher education institutions.

- duration: 1 to 3 months
- monthly grant rate: 1,300 euros
- age limit: 45 years



Ernst Mach Grant

SPOTLIGHT

Saptarshi Mallick

Ernst Mach Grant – worldwide alumnus

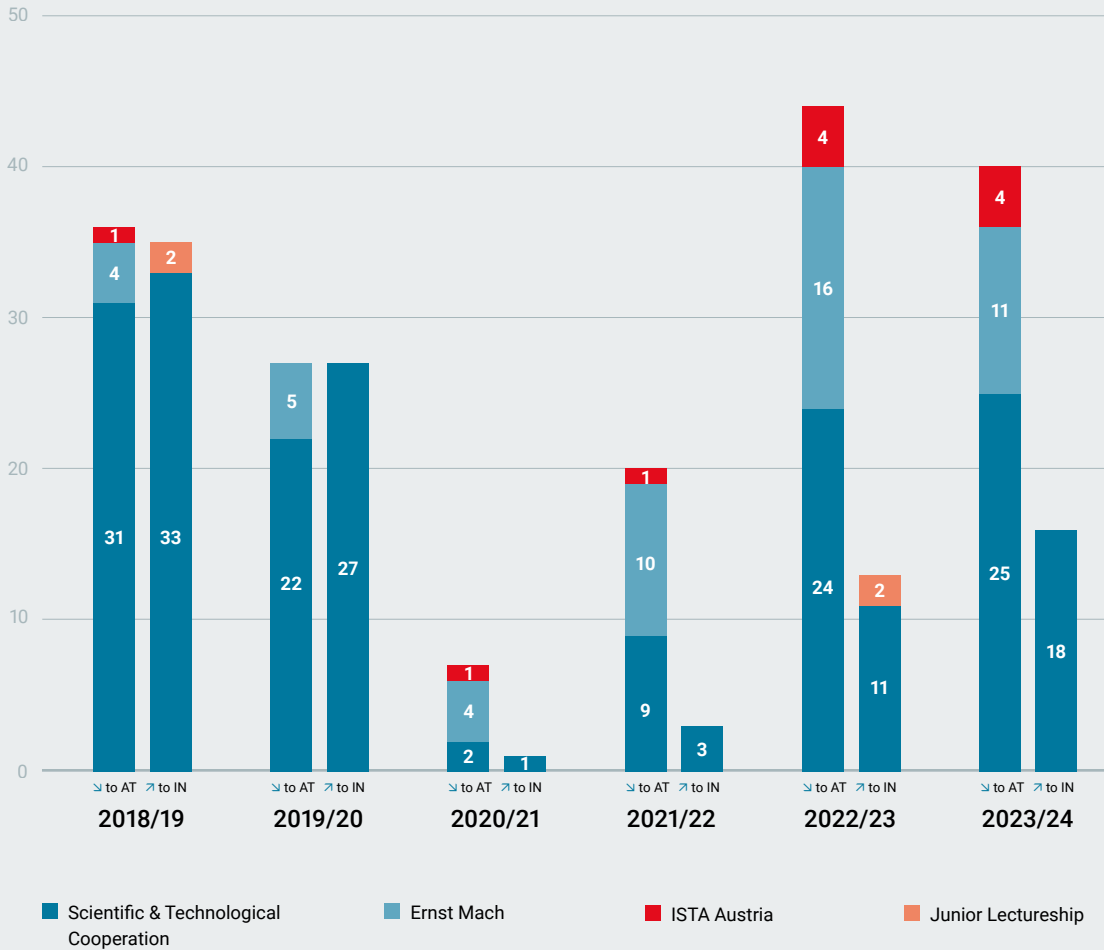
Saptarshi Mallick received the Ernst Mach Grant – worldwide in 2020 and came to Austria for five months to conduct his postdoctoral research at the University of Graz. During his stay, he worked on the travel writings of Lady Abala Bose (1865–1951), who toured India in colonial times and Europe, America and Japan at the height of British imperialism. Her travelogues relate to the hegemonic role of Western ideologies and deconstruct stereotypes of women's travelogues.

During his time in Graz, Saptarshi Mallick was able to focus on his research thanks to the support of the OeAD. In June 2024, his research project "Connecting Spaces: The Travelogues and Letters of Lady Abala Bose" was published by Routledge.

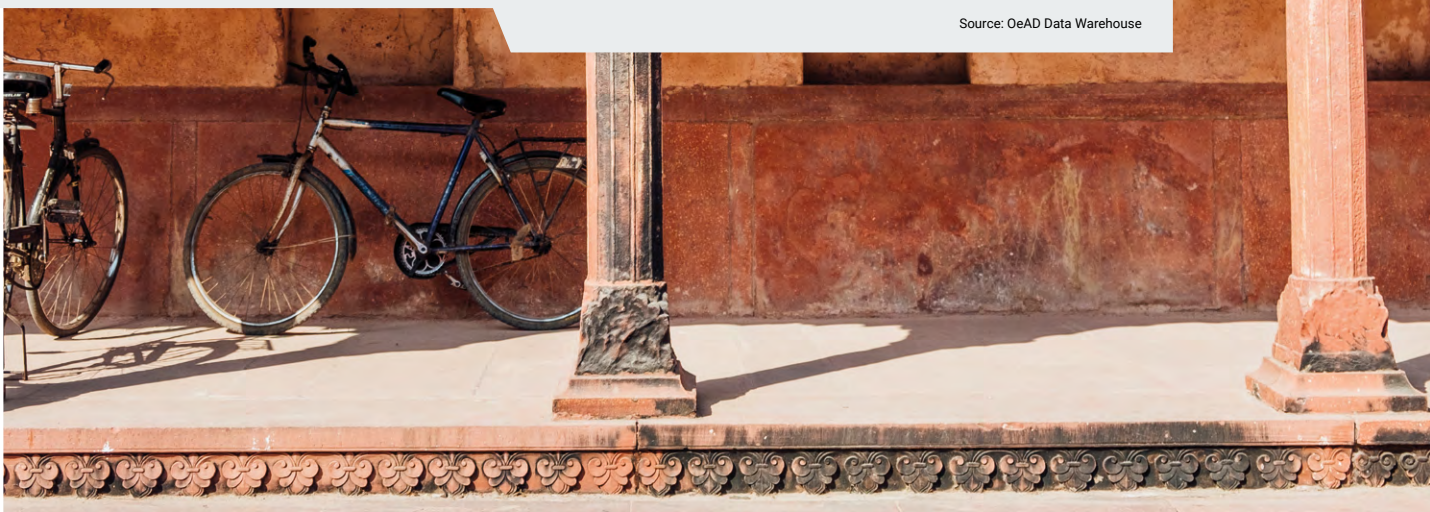


MOBILITIES BETWEEN AUSTRIA AND INDIA

Number of mobilities between Austria and India funded by Austrian programmes and administered by OeAD



Source: OeAD Data Warehouse





RESEARCHERS COMING TO AUSTRIA

Franz Werfel Grant



Franz Werfel Grant

The Franz Werfel Grant is open to applications from young university teachers who are primarily occupied with Austrian literature. It enables them to work as visiting researchers at university departments and

carry out research in libraries, archives or at research institutions in Austria.

- duration: 4 to 9 months
- monthly grant rate: 2,500 euros



RESEARCHERS COMING TO AUSTRIA

Richard Plaschka Fellowship



Richard Plaschka Fellowship

The Richard Plaschka Fellowship is aimed at PhD students and young researchers in the historical sciences who are primarily occupied with Austrian history. It promotes research cooperation and helps establish a network of researchers with ties to Austria.

- duration: 4 to 18 months (the grant is initially awarded for up to 12 months; following a positive evaluation, it is possible to extend the grant for up to 18 months)
- monthly grant rate: 2,500 euros
- The fellowship should take place in the first half of the fellow's academic career.



MASTER STUDENTS COMING TO AUSTRIA

Erhard Busek Grant



Erhard Busek Grant

The Erhard Busek Grant allows students from non-European third countries to complete a two-year master programme in Austria. The grant supports highly qualified students, particularly in STEM fields and in English-language master programmes.

The main goal of the grant is to open career opportunities and contribute to integrating graduates in the Austrian labour market.

- duration: 24 months
- monthly grant rate: 1,300 euros
- age limit: 35 years



STUDENTS COMING TO AUSTRIA

ISTA Austria – ISTernship Summer Programme



ISTernship

Each summer, the Institute of Science and Technology Austria (ISTA) invites students and graduates from all over the world to join the ISTernship Summer Programme. Selected ISTerns have the opportunity of developing their scientific research skills by working on short research projects together with ISTA's host professors. Eligible to apply are highly qualified bachelor or master students in the fields of biology,

computer science, data science & scientific computing, mathematics, physics, neuroscience, chemistry & materials, and interdisciplinary areas.

- duration: 2 to 3 months between 15 May and 15 September
- ISTerns receive a monthly allowance to cover basic living costs and reimbursement for travel costs.

PHD STUDENTS COMING TO INDIA

Marietta Blau Grant

The Marietta Blau Grant offers excellent doctoral or PhD students at Austrian universities the opportunity of research stays abroad. The grant serves to optimise the dissertations of young Austrian academics.

- duration: 6 to 12 months
- monthly grant rate: 1,800 euros



Marietta Blau Grant

STUDENTS COMING TO INDIA

Junior Lectureship/Internship for teaching German as a foreign language abroad

The Junior Lectureship allows students to gain teaching experience at a university in a non-German-speaking country. Eligible to apply are students studying German as a Foreign and Second Language at an Austrian university. In India, students can complete the Junior Lectureship in either New Delhi or in Pune.

- duration: 3 to 5 months
- monthly grant rate: approximately 850 to 1,000 euros



Junior Lectureship



Punjabi University, Patiala

Eurasia-Pacific Uninet (EPU)

The Eurasia-Pacific Uninet (EPU) is a network based in Vienna which aims at establishing contacts and scientific partnerships between Austrian universities, universities of applied sciences, as well as other research institutions, and member institutions in East Asia, Central Asia, South Asia and the Pacific region.



EPU

PROJECT EXAMPLE

Conservation of Cultural Heritage across Borders

2024–2025

Coordinator: University of Applied Arts Vienna, Austria

Partner institution in India: Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts

The Institute of Conservation at the University of Applied Arts Vienna has been actively involved in the conservation of tangible cultural heritage around the globe. Building on previous projects in India funded by the Eurasia-Pacific Uninet, this project showcases cross-border collaboration in the field of sustainable cultural heritage preservation. Workshops in preventive conservation and collection care educate students, researchers and professionals and are organised in collaboration with partner institutions such as the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts.



EPU project example

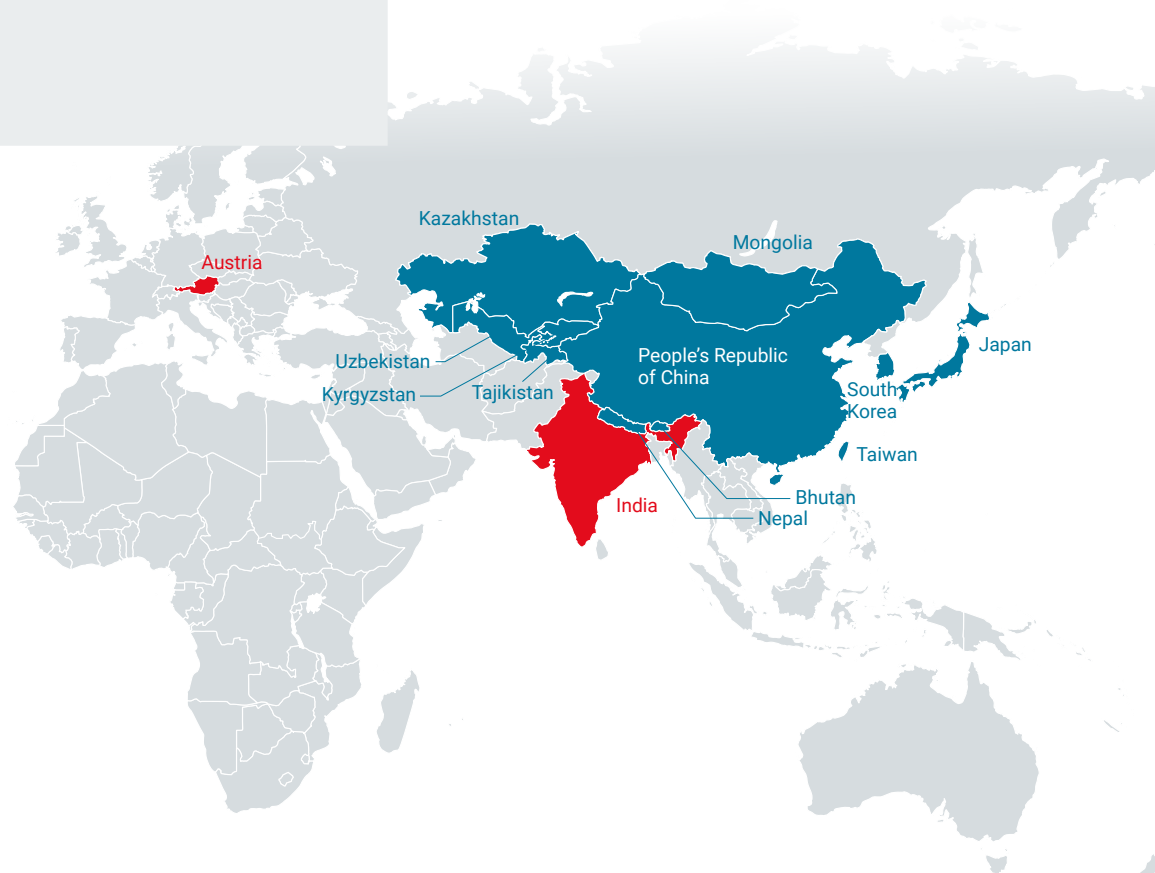


Visit the EPU Partners Map for an overview of current EPU member organisations

The network promotes multilateral scientific cooperation, joint research projects, conferences as well as faculty and student exchange. The Eurasia-Pacific Uninet supports the concept of Austrian higher education policy with its focus on excellence.

Indian partner institutions can receive funding for bilateral projects with Austrian partner institutions in the field of arts, or for multilateral projects in other fields of higher education. PhD students and young scientists from partner institutions of the Eurasia-Pacific Uninet can apply for the Ernst Mach Grant – worldwide.

As of January 2025, 33 institutions in Austria and 10 institutions in India are members in the EPU network.



Scientific & Technological Cooperation

The objective of the Scientific & Technological Cooperation (S&T Cooperation) programmes is to stimulate international research cooperation, to establish new, sustainable international partnerships and to increase the share of young and female researchers in international research project consortia.



S&T Cooperation

- Eligible to apply are researchers at universities, universities of applied sciences and other research institutions.
- Eligible costs are travel and accommodation costs of researchers as well as project-related costs of up to 3,000 euros per project for the two-year project period.
- Calls for proposals are usually published every two years.

PROJECT EXAMPLE

A Data-Driven Toolkit for Fostering a Modal Shift of Freight on Inland Waterways in India and Austria

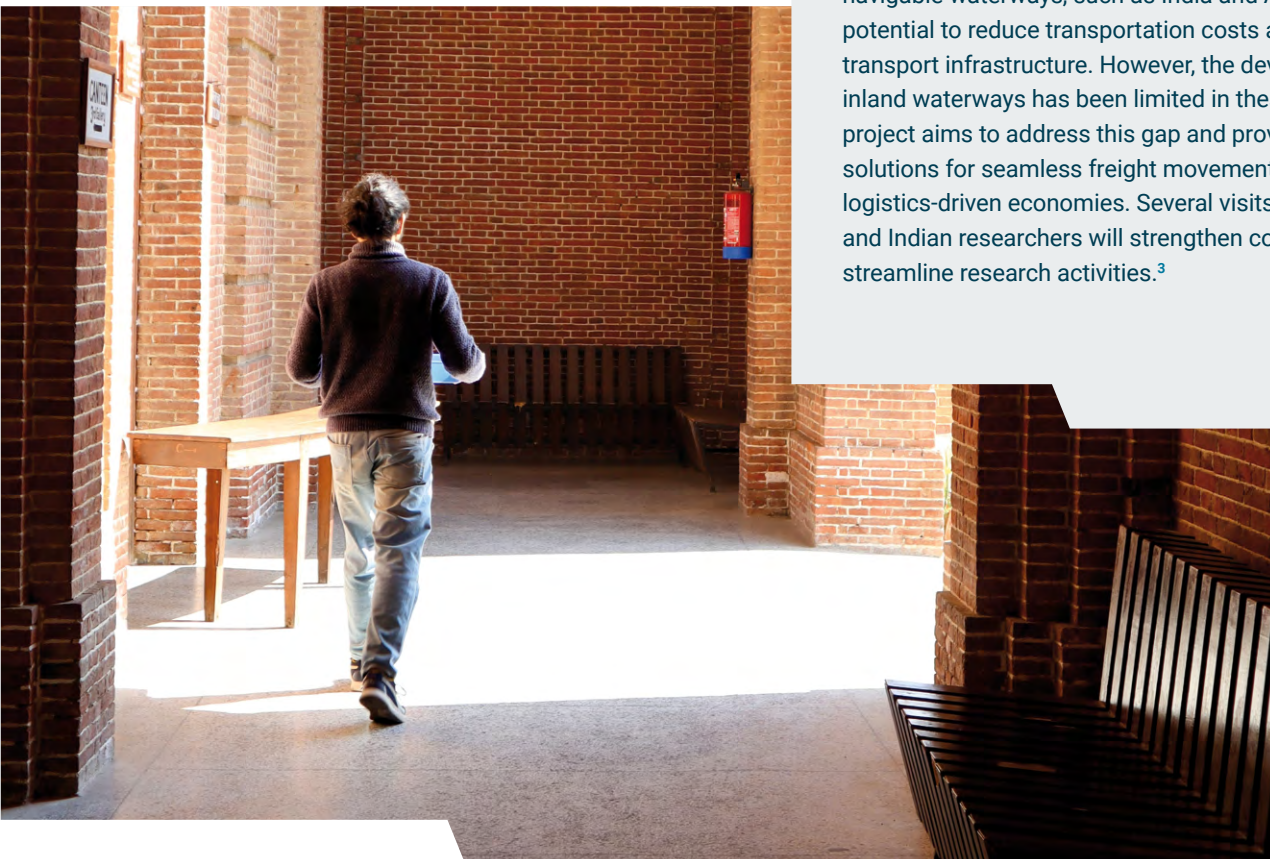
2023–2025

Coordinator: University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria
Partner institution in India: Indian Institute of Technology, Banaras Hindu University (BHU)

The development of multimodal freight transportation systems, particularly in Asia and Europe, is driven by the need for efficient goods transportation. Countries with navigable waterways, such as India and Austria, have the potential to reduce transportation costs and improve river transport infrastructure. However, the development of inland waterways has been limited in these countries. This project aims to address this gap and provide quantitative solutions for seamless freight movements in urbanised, logistics-driven economies. Several visits from Austrian and Indian researchers will strengthen collaboration and streamline research activities.³



S&T project example



³ Source: India Science, Technology and Innovation Portal

STAY CONNECTED



www.oead.at

The OeAD, Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation, works on behalf of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research with funding from various ministries and from the European Commission.

For more than 60 years, the OeAD has been advising, supporting and connecting people and institutions in education, science, research and culture with future-oriented programmes.

Furthermore, it is the national agency for the implementation of Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps.



studyinaustria.at

Study in Austria

The international promotion of Austria as an academic destination is one of the main tasks of the OeAD.

The brand "Highlight your future. Study in Austria" represents all Austrian HEIs at international fairs and events. The **website** www.studyinaustria.at provides universities as well as international students and researchers with comprehensive information about studying in Austria. Additionally, several publications such as the **Study Guide** support prospective students in finding suitable study programmes in Austria. In contrast, the brochure on **Higher Education Institutions** offers potential partner institutions worldwide an overview of Austria's diverse higher education landscape.



Brochure on Higher Education Institutions



Study Guide

OeAD Map

By funding projects and mobilities, the OeAD enables researchers and students from across the globe to pursue their scientific endeavours and gain international experience. This map makes OeAD funding visible and gives OeAD scholarship holders and alumni the opportunity to create a profile to get in touch with each other.



grants.at

grants.at is Austria's most extensive online database for scholarships and research grants for all academic areas and provides students, graduates and researchers with information about financial support options. The scope of funding providers ranges from international organisations, the EU, national governments in Austria and abroad and their provincial governments or municipalities to private foundations, associations and companies.

Please visit grants.at for information on upcoming calls and application deadlines for the programmes mentioned in this publication.



grants.at

EURAXESS

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.



EURAXESS
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