

University of Graz- Summer Research Programs of Study

Mathematics: Magnetic Resonance Imaging	2
Chemistry: Environmental/Analytical Chemistry	4
Chemistry: Biocatalysis	6
Molecular Biosciences: Bio-inspired materials chemistry	8
Mathematics	10
Human Movement Science: Physical activity and Public Health	12
Biology: Stress impact on intercellular communication in plant leaves.....	14
Molecular Biosciences: antimicrobial research/drug discovery.....	16
Molecular Biosciences: Molecular innovations against ichthyosis	18
Psychology: Clinical Psychology / fMRI Lab	20
Mathematics: Complex Systems and Dynamics	22
Mathematics: Applied Mathematics	24
Psychology: Research on personality and individual differences	26

Mathematics: Magnetic Resonance Imaging

- **Contact Information**

Institution: University of Graz
Contact Person: Christian CLASON, Department of Mathematics and Scientific Computing (c.clason@uni-graz.at)
Additional Contact: Doris Knasar, Office of International Relations (doris.knasar@uni-graz.at)

- **Placement Information**

Program area: **Mathematics: Magnetic Resonance Imaging**
Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is a very versatile medical imaging technique using magnetic fields to map different tissue parameters that are of diagnostic relevance. The mathematical model for the underlying physics is the Bloch equation, which is a system of ordinary differential equations. An interdisciplinary collaboration with medical imaging experts aims at using techniques of optimal control and inverse problems in order to compute optimized imaging protocols and image reconstructions. The offered summer research project will focus on the efficient numerical simulation of the Bloch equation and the optimization of specific aspects of the MRI process.

Placement dates/ weeks: 8 or 12 weeks (May - end of July 2025)
Number of spots: 2
Credit type: Self-designed credit from the home university, no credits from Uni Graz
Enrolment: Summer research students will be enrolled as exchange students and have access to all student services, if they complete all necessary steps in time.

- **Application process**

Eligibility criteria: 2.5 minimum GPA
2-3 years of study at the home institution.
Solid programming skills, ideally in Julia.

Nomination process: CV, Motivation letter & transcript should be sent to the academic coordinator at Uni Graz for **selection**

Nomination deadline: December 18, 2024

- **After acceptance**

Housing details:	Uni Graz does not have a student dorm but there are a great number of different student dorms available in Graz. Students will receive information on student housing options and can decide which one they want to apply to.
Immigration support:	A visa is necessary and students have to purchase health insurance in accordance with the Austrian visa requirements for their stay at Uni Graz. Students will receive information about admission and visa procedures after their acceptance for the research placement.
Additional information:	Uni Graz does not provide a scholarship, i.e. students should budget around EUR 1.200,-- per month to pay for housing and living expenses. Supervisors might approach interested students for a short online interview.

Chemistry: Environmental/Analytical Chemistry

- Contact Information

Institution: University of Graz
Contact Person: Joerg FELDMANN, Department of Chemistry (joerg.feldmann@uni-graz.at)
Additional Contact: Doris Knasar, Office of International Relations (doris.knasar@uni-graz.at)

- Placement Information

Program area: **Chemistry: Environmental/Analytical Chemistry**
Research projects in environmental or food chemistry or environmental analytical chemistry where students will be working in an international research group and with modern analytical equipment such as mass spectrometry to do trace element analysis of natural waters, pilot whale livers or determination of mercury in oil pipelines.

Placement dates/ weeks: 12 weeks
Number of spots: 1
Credit type: Self-designed credit from the home university, no credits from Uni Graz
Enrolment: Summer research students will be enrolled as exchange students and have access to all student services, if they complete all necessary steps in time.

- Nomination process

Eligibility criteria: 2.5 minimum GPA
2-3 years of study at the home institution and **some background in analytical chemistry.**

Nomination process: CV, Motivation letter & transcript should be sent to the academic coordinator at Uni Graz for **selection**

Nomination deadline: December 18, 2024

- After acceptance

Housing details: Uni Graz does not have a student dorm but there are a great number of different student dorms available in Graz. Students will receive information on student housing options and can decide which one they want to apply to.

Immigration support: A **visa is necessary** and students have to purchase health insurance in accordance with the Austrian visa requirements for their stay at Uni Graz. Students will receive information about admission and visa procedures after their acceptance for the research placement.

Additional information: Uni Graz does not provide a scholarship, i.e. students should budget around EUR 1.200,-- per month to pay for housing and living expenses. Supervisors might approach interested students for a short online interview.

Chemistry: Biocatalysis

- **Contact Information**

Institution: University of Graz
Contact Person: Mélanie HALL, Department of Chemistry (melanie.hall@uni-graz.at)
Additional Contact: Doris Knasar, Office of International Relations (doris.knasar@uni-graz.at)

- **Placement Information**

Program area: **Chemistry: Biocatalysis**
Join our dynamic research team and explore the exciting field of biocatalysis, where organic chemistry, biotechnology, and molecular biology meet to solve real-world challenges. In our lab, we aim to revolutionize the way important molecules are synthesized by developing environmentally friendly methods.
You'll have the chance to:

- Work with enzymes that drive green chemical reactions.
- Engineer enzymes to enhance their efficiency.
- Synthesize compounds that help analyze key transformations.
- Use cutting-edge computational tools to model enzyme structures and predict how they bind to substrates.

This project offers hands-on experience at the forefront of sustainable chemistry, preparing you for the future of science.

Placement dates/ weeks: 12 weeks
Number of spots: 2
Credit type: Self-designed credit from the home university, no credits from Uni Graz
Enrolment: Summer research students will be enrolled as exchange students and have access to all student services, if they complete all necessary steps in time.

- **Nomination process**

Eligibility criteria: 2.5 minimum GPA

2-3 years of study at the home institution.

For students in the area of chemistry: completed laboratory course in organic chemistry with focus on the synthesis of organic molecules under state-of-the-art and safe working conditions
OR for students in the area of molecular biology/biochemistry: completed laboratory course involving molecular cloning or biochemical assays.

Nomination process: CV, Motivation letter & transcript should be sent to the academic coordinator at Uni Graz for **selection**

Nomination deadline: December 18, 2024

- **After acceptance**

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Immigration support: A **visa is necessary** and students have to purchase health insurance in accordance with the Austrian visa requirements for their stay at Uni Graz. Students will receive information about admission and visa procedures after their acceptance for the research placement.

Additional information: Uni Graz does not provide a scholarship, i.e. students should budget around EUR 1.200,-- per month to pay for housing and living expenses.
Supervisors might approach interested students for a short online interview.

Molecular Biosciences: Bio-inspired materials chemistry

- Contact Information

Institution: University of Graz
Contact Person: James JENNINGS, Department of Molecular Biosciences (james.jennings@uni-graz.at)
Additional Contact: Doris Knasar, Office of International Relations (doris.knasar@uni-graz.at)

- Placement Information

Program area: **Molecular Biosciences: Bio-inspired materials chemistry**
Clean hydrogen is a promising alternative to fossil fuels in a decarbonized world. Fuel cells (FCs) play a key role in the hydrogen economy, deriving power from the electrochemical reaction of hydrogen and oxygen. The proton exchange membrane (PEM) is a key component of FCs, but state-of-the-art membrane technology is based on per/poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) that are under strong regulatory pressure owing to their accumulation in the environment. Thus, the search for PFAS-free PEMs is imminent.
At the Institute of Molecular Biosciences, we have invented new hydrocarbon PEMs using a bio-inspired approach. Our goal is to found a spin-off company that would manufacture these membranes by the end of 2025. The membranes are synthesized from efficient chemical reactions, which can be conducted in parallel using high-throughput methods. We are seeking motivated students to synthesize a new library of compounds using some bio-based starting materials, which will potentially improve the properties and lower the cost of the PEM materials. The project will involve the synthesis, purification, and characterization of the new compounds, and/or involvement in the membrane fabrication and property testing. The student will learn about synthetic methods (including photochemistry), material processing (film preparation), and characterisation techniques (impedance spectroscopy, X-ray scattering, NMR).

Placement dates/ weeks: 12 weeks
Number of spots: 2
Credit type: Self-designed credit from the home university, no credits from Uni Graz
Enrolment: Summer research students will be enrolled as exchange students and have access to all student services, if they complete all necessary steps in time.

- **Nomination process**

Eligibility criteria:	2.5 minimum GPA 2-3 years of study at the home institution and basic knowledge of organic synthesis and chemical analysis techniques, and/or materials science, with an interest in green and hydrogen technologies (fuel cells, electrolyzers)
Nomination process:	CV, Motivation letter & transcript should be sent to the academic coordinator at Uni Graz for selection
Nomination deadline:	December 18, 2024

- **After acceptance**

Housing details:	Uni Graz does not have a student dorm but there are a great number of different student dorms available in Graz. Students will receive information on student housing options and can decide which one they want to apply to.
Immigration support:	A visa is necessary and students have to purchase health insurance in accordance with the Austrian visa requirements for their stay at Uni Graz. Students will receive information about admission and visa procedures after their acceptance for the research placement.
Additional information:	Uni Graz does not provide a scholarship, i.e. students should budget around EUR 1.200,-- per month to pay for housing and living expenses. Supervisors might approach interested students for a short online interview.

Mathematics

- Contact Information

Institution: University of Graz
Contact Person: Elias KARABELAS, Department of Mathematics and Scientific Computing (elias.karabelas@uni-graz.at)
Additional Contact: Doris Knasar, Office of International Relations (doris.knasar@uni-graz.at)

- Placement Information

Program area: **Mathematics:**
Personalisation of cardiovascular models: the cardiovascular function can be modelled by mathematical models integrating physical laws and known physiology. This enables to have access to important clinical biomarkers (e.g. pressure values) that are often unaccessible or impractical to measure non-invasively and better study the physiology and development of pathologies. However, in the perspective of personalised medicine, it is important to calibrate these models using patients' data, in order to optimise diagnosis and potential treatments. We will look at different approaches to perform model personalisation, combining biophysical models and machine-learning methods.

Placement dates/ weeks: 12 weeks
Number of spots: 3
Credit type: Self-designed credit from the home university, no credits from Uni Graz
Enrolment: Summer research students will be enrolled as exchange students and have access to all student services, if they complete all necessary steps in time.

- Nomination process

Eligibility criteria: 2.5 minimum GPA
2-3 years of study at the home institution and **good coding skills in either Python or C++ required, basic knowledge about machine learning**

Nomination process: CV, Motivation letter & transcript should be sent to the academic coordinator at Uni Graz for **selection**

Nomination deadline: December 18, 2024

- **After acceptance**

Housing details: Uni Graz does not have a student dorm but there are a great number of different student dorms available in Graz. Students will receive information on student housing options and can decide which one they want to apply to.

Immigration support: A **visa is necessary** and students have to purchase health insurance in accordance with the Austrian visa requirements for their stay at Uni Graz. Students will receive information about admission and visa procedures after their acceptance for the research placement.

Additional information: Uni Graz does not provide a scholarship, i.e. students should budget around EUR 1.200,-- per month to pay for housing and living expenses. Supervisors might approach interested students for a short online interview.

Human Movement Science: Physical activity and Public Health

- **Contact Information**

Institution: University of Graz
Contact Person: Annika KRUSE, Department of Human Movement Science, Sport and Health (annika.kruse@uni-graz.at)
Additional Contact: Doris Knasar, Office of International Relations (doris.knasar@uni-graz.at)

- **Placement Information**

Program area: **Human Movement Science: Physical activity and Public Health**
Work in a project about the effects of endurance training in individuals with cerebral palsy.
Placement dates/ weeks: 12 weeks (May - end of July 2025)
Number of spots: 1
Credit type: Self-designed credit from the home university, no credits from Uni Graz
Enrolment: Summer research students will be enrolled as exchange students and have access to all student services, if they complete all necessary steps in time.

- **Nomination process**

Eligibility criteria: 2.5 minimum GPA
2-3 years of study at the home institution. **Experience in sports science/training science or training therapy desirable.**
Nomination process: CV, Motivation letter & transcript should be sent to the academic coordinator at Uni Graz for **selection**
Nomination deadline: December 18, 2024

- **After acceptance**

- Housing details: Uni Graz does not have a student dorm but there are a great number of different student dorms available in Graz. Students will receive information on student housing options and can decide which one they want to apply to.
- Immigration support: A **visa is necessary** and students have to purchase health insurance in accordance with the Austrian visa requirements for their stay at Uni Graz. Students will receive information about admission and visa procedures after their acceptance for the research placement.
- Additional information: Uni Graz does not provide a scholarship, i.e. students should budget around EUR 1.200,-- per month to pay for housing and living expenses. Supervisors might approach interested students for a short online interview.

Biology: Stress impact on intercellular communication in plant leaves

- **Contact Information**

Institution: University of Graz
Contact Person: Johannes LIESCHE, Department of Biology (johannes.liesche@uni-graz.at)
Additional Contact: Doris Knasar, Office of International Relations (doris.knasar@uni-graz.at)

- **Placement Information**

Program area: **Biology: Stress impact on intercellular communication in plant leaves**
How stresses influence intercellular communication in plant leaves. Plants responses to stresses (e.g. drought, heat or pathogen attack) are highly coordinated within and across organs and tissues. Many signaling molecules move from cell to cell via cell wall channels called plasmodesmata. However, it remains largely unknown which routes these signal molecules take and how the routes are reshaped to enable efficient stress responses. You will use fluorescence photoactivation microscopy to measure intercellular diffusion capacities on intact plants (Arabidopsis) subjected to different stresses. In this way, you can map the signaling routes. These experiments will be complemented by measurements of signaling molecule concentrations and the analysis of plant lines with aberrant stress responses.

Placement dates/ weeks: 12 weeks preferred, 8 weeks possible
Number of spots: 2
Credit type: Self-designed credit from the home university, no credits from Uni Graz
Enrolment: Summer research students will be enrolled as exchange students and have access to all student services, if they complete all necessary steps in time.

- **Nomination process**

Eligibility criteria: 2.5 minimum GPA
2-3 years of study at the home institution.
Nomination process: CV, Motivation letter & transcript should be sent to the academic coordinator at Uni Graz for **selection**
Nomination deadline: December 18, 2024

- **After acceptance**

- Housing details: Uni Graz does not have a student dorm but there are a great number of different student dorms available in Graz. Students will receive information on student housing options and can decide which one they want to apply to.
- Immigration support: A **visa is necessary** and students have to purchase health insurance in accordance with the Austrian visa requirements for their stay at Uni Graz. Students will receive information about admission and visa procedures after their acceptance for the research placement.
- Additional information: Uni Graz does not provide a scholarship, i.e. students should budget around EUR 1.200,-- per month to pay for housing and living expenses.
Supervisors might approach interested students for a short online interview.

Molecular Biosciences: antimicrobial research/drug discovery

- **Contact Information**

Institution: University of Graz
Contact Person: Nermina MALANOV, Department of Molecular Biosciences (nermina.malanovic@uni-graz.at)
Additional Contact: Doris Knasar, Office of International Relations (doris.knasar@uni-graz.at)

- **Placement Information**

Program area: **Molecular Biosciences: antimicrobial research/drug discovery**
Culturing of bacteria, different antimicrobial susceptibility assay, novel drugs, peptides, mode of action of the compounds using cell based assays and various in vitro biophysical methods to investigate structure-function relationship of the novel compounds.
Placement dates/ weeks: 12 weeks (May - end of July 2025)
Number of spots: 2
Credit type: Self-designed credit from the home university, no credits from Uni Graz
Enrolment: Summer research students will be enrolled as exchange students and have access to all student services, if they complete all necessary steps in time.

- **Nomination process**

Eligibility criteria: 2.5 minimum GPA
2-3 years of study at the home institution.
Nomination process: CV, Motivation letter & transcript should be sent to the academic coordinator at Uni Graz for **selection**
Nomination deadline: December 18, 2024

- **After acceptance**

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Immigration support: A **visa is necessary** and students have to purchase health insurance in accordance with the Austrian visa requirements for their stay at Uni Graz. Students will receive information about admission and visa procedures after their acceptance for the research placement.

Additional information: Uni Graz does not provide a scholarship, i.e. students should budget around EUR 1.200,-- per month to pay for housing and living expenses.
Supervisors might approach interested students for a short online interview.

Molecular Biosciences: Molecular innovations against ichthyosis

- **Contact Information**

Institution: University of Graz
Contact Person: RADNER, Department of Molecular Biosciences (franz.radner@uni-graz.at)
Additional Contact: Doris Knasar, Office of International Relations (doris.knasar@uni-graz.at)

- **Placement Information**

Program area: **Molecular Biosciences: Molecular innovations against ichthyosis**
In our research team at the Institute of Molecular Biosciences (IMB) at the University of Graz, we focus on unraveling the complex molecular mechanisms involved in the formation and maintenance of the skin permeability barrier. Our specific interest lies in the molecular pathologies of genetic skin disorders such as ichthyosis, in which affected individuals suffer from aberrant keratinization leading to excessive scaling of the skin and a spectrum of accompanying symptoms. Our research not only aims to elucidate the functional dysregulation in ichthyosis, but also to contribute to the development of novel therapeutic strategies that could alleviate the symptoms of those affected by this condition. The summer research assistant will play a crucial role in enhancing our understanding of skin barrier physiology by contributing to the characterization of a novel lipid hydrolase that may open new options in the treatment of skin disorders. The candidate will be involved in a variety of experimental and analytical procedures, including gene expression analysis, protein isolation from mammalian cell cultures, enzymatic activity measurements, and possibly advanced imaging techniques such as high-resolution confocal laser-scanning microscopy. In this role, the summer research assistant will gain invaluable experience in cutting-edge molecular biology techniques and contribute meaningfully to a field with direct implications for human health.

Placement dates/ weeks: 12 weeks
Number of spots: 1
Credit type: Self-designed credit from the home university, no credits from Uni Graz
Enrolment: Summer research students will be enrolled as exchange students and have access to all student services, if they complete all necessary steps in time.

- **Nomination process**

Eligibility criteria: 2.5 minimum GPA
2-3 years of study at the home institution. **A strong foundation in biochemistry or cell biology required, with prior laboratory experience being an asset. Eagerness to learn and the ability to work collaboratively within our multidisciplinary team are essential.**

Nomination process: CV, Motivation letter & transcript should be sent to the academic coordinator at Uni Graz for **selection**

Nomination deadline: December 18, 2024

- **After acceptance**

Housing details: Uni Graz does not have a student dorm but there are a great number of different student dorms available in Graz. Students will receive information on student housing options and can decide which one they want to apply to.

Immigration support: A **visa is necessary** and students have to purchase health insurance in accordance with the Austrian visa requirements for their stay at Uni Graz. Students will receive information about admission and visa procedures after their acceptance for the research placement.

Additional information: Uni Graz does not provide a scholarship, i.e. students should budget around EUR 1.200,-- per month to pay for housing and living expenses.
Supervisors might approach interested students for a short online interview.

Psychology: Clinical Psychology / fMRI Lab

- **Contact Information**

Institution: University of Graz
Contact Person: Anne SCHIENLE, Department of Psychology (anne.schienle@uni-graz.at)
Additional Contact: Doris Knasar, Office of International Relations (doris.knasar@uni-graz.at)

- **Placement Information**

Program area: **Psychology: Clinical Psychology / fMRI Lab**
Assisting with participant recruitment and data analysis
Placement dates/ weeks: 8 weeks
Number of spots: 1
Credit type: Self-designed credit from the home university, no credits from Uni Graz
Enrolment: Summer research students will be enrolled as exchange students and have access to all student services, if they complete all necessary steps in time.

- **Nomination process**

Eligibility criteria: 2.5 minimum GPA
2-3 years of study at the home institution. **Basic knowledge in statistics/biology.**
Nomination process: CV, Motivation letter & transcript should be sent to the academic coordinator at Uni Graz for **selection**
Nomination deadline: December 18, 2024

- **After acceptance**

Housing details: Uni Graz does not have a student dorm but there are a great number of different student dorms available in Graz. Students will receive information on student housing options and can decide which one they want to apply to.

Immigration support:

A **visa is necessary** and students have to purchase health insurance in accordance with the Austrian visa requirements for their stay at Uni Graz. Students will receive information about admission and visa procedures after their acceptance for the research placement.

Additional information:

Uni Graz does not provide a scholarship, i.e. students should budget around EUR 1.200,-- per month to pay for housing and living expenses.
Supervisors might approach interested students for a short online interview.

Mathematics: Complex Systems and Dynamics

- Contact Information

Institution: University of Graz
Contact Person: Quoc Bao TANG, Department of Mathematics and Scientific Computing (quoc.tang@uni-graz.at)
Additional Contact: Doris Knasar, Office of International Relations (doris.knasar@uni-graz.at)

- Placement Information

Program area: **Mathematics: Complex Systems and Dynamics**
The goal of this project is to numerically investigate the influence of stochasticity to stability and pattern formation of reaction-diffusion systems (RDS) arising from biology. Turing instability in RDS is an important phenomenon in biology as it allows, in many cases, to explain how patterns emerge. On the other hand, the impact of stochastic noise in many realistic situations is unavoidable. Recent studies show that random noise does not only destabilize systems, but can also stabilize unstable systems when having suitable intensities/frequencies. Due to this, it is conjectured that random noise can also lead to emergence of patterns. This project aims to numerically confirm this conjecture through numerical simulations of RDS with random noise.

Placement dates/ weeks: 8 weeks (June - July or July - August 2025)
Number of spots: 1
Credit type: Self-designed credit from the home university, no credits from Uni Graz
Enrolment: Summer research students will be enrolled as exchange students and have access to all student services, if they complete all necessary steps in time.

- Nomination process

Eligibility criteria: 2.5 minimum GPA
2-3 years of study at the home institution and **programming skills with Matlab or Python as well as a basic understanding of finite difference or finite element methods.**

Nomination process: CV, Motivation letter & transcript should be sent to the academic coordinator at Uni Graz for **selection**

Nomination deadline: December 18, 2024

- **After acceptance**

Housing details:	Uni Graz does not have a student dorm but there are a great number of different student dorms available in Graz. Students will receive information on student housing options and can decide which one they want to apply to.
Immigration support:	A visa is necessary and students have to purchase health insurance in accordance with the Austrian visa requirements for their stay at Uni Graz. Students will receive information about admission and visa procedures after their acceptance for the research placement.
Additional information:	Uni Graz does not provide a scholarship, i.e. students should budget around EUR 1.200,-- per month to pay for housing and living expenses. Supervisors might approach interested students for a short online interview.

Mathematics: Applied Mathematics

- **Contact Information**

Institution: University of Graz
Contact Person: Lara TRUSSARDI, Department of Mathematics and Scientific Computing (lara.trussardi@uni-graz.at)
Additional Contact: Doris Knasar, Office of International Relations (doris.knasar@uni-graz.at)

- **Placement Information**

Program area: **Mathematics: Applied Mathematics**
The topic of the project is « opinion formation model ». Starting from a given microscopic problem for a given fixed number of agents, we investigate some mathematical properties and do simulation. Eventually also the derivation of a mesoscopic model will be studied and simulations will be carried out.

Placement dates/ weeks: 8 or 12 weeks (May - July 2025)
Number of spots: 1
Credit type: Self-designed credit from the home university, no credits from Uni Graz
Enrolment: Summer research students will be enrolled as exchange students and have access to all student services, if they complete all necessary steps in time.

- **Nomination process**

Eligibility criteria: 2.5 minimum GPA
2-3 years of study at the home institution.

Nomination process: CV, Motivation letter & transcript should be sent to the academic coordinator at Uni Graz for **selection**

Nomination deadline: December 18, 2024

- **After acceptance**

- Housing details: Uni Graz does not have a student dorm but there are a great number of different student dorms available in Graz. Students will receive information on student housing options and can decide which one they want to apply to.
- Immigration support: A **visa is necessary** and students have to purchase health insurance in accordance with the Austrian visa requirements for their stay at Uni Graz. Students will receive information about admission and visa procedures after their acceptance for the research placement.
- Additional information: Uni Graz does not provide a scholarship, i.e. students should budget around EUR 1.200,-- per month to pay for housing and living expenses. Supervisors might approach interested students for a short online interview.

Psychology: Research on personality and individual differences

- **Contact Information**

Institution: University of Graz
Contact Person: Barbara WEISSENBACHEN, Department of Psychology (barbara.weissenbachen@uni-graz.at,
gabriela.hofer@uni-graz.at)
Additional Contact: Doris Knasar, Office of International Relations (doris.knasar@uni-graz.at)

- **Placement Information**

Program area: **Psychology: Research on personality and individual differences**
Opportunity to gain experience in various aspects of research in personality psychology (literature research, study planning, study implementation, data analysis, ...) with a focus on topics related to teacher selection, test construction and/or self-knowledge and human sexuality.
Placement dates/ weeks: 8- 12 weeks; preferred start: May 2025
Number of spots: 2
Credit type: Self-designed credit from the home university, no credits from Uni Graz
Enrolment: Summer research students will be enrolled as exchange students and have access to all student services, if they complete all necessary steps in time.

- **Nomination process**

Eligibility criteria: 2.5 minimum GPA
2-3 years of study at the home institution. **Previous statistical/methodological knowledge desired.**
Nomination process: CV, Motivation letter & transcript should be sent to the academic coordinator at Uni Graz for **selection**
Nomination deadline: December 18, 2024

- **After acceptance**

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- Additional information: Uni Graz does not provide a scholarship, i.e. students should budget around EUR 1.200,-- per month to pay for housing and living expenses. Supervisors might approach interested students for a short online interview.