

# Vienna Research Groups for Young Investigators (VRG)

Vienna in the **global competition** for the brightest minds: With our VRG program, we systematically attract **future leaders** to Vienna as a top location for science and research.

## What makes the VRG program special?

- **Substantial funding:** Up to € 1.8 million per research group over 6–8 years
- **Long-term perspective:** Clear tenure-track career paths at Viennese research institutions. 80 % of funded scientists stay in Vienna, and most become full professors
- **International rising stars:** Targeted recruitment of top scientific talent in early career phases (up to 8 years after PhD)
- **Tandem application with a Viennese research institution:** Direct integration of rising stars into established Viennese research networks
- **Stringent quality criteria:** Selection process with an international top jury
- **Strategic selection of topics:** Focus on future fields with high innovation potential for Vienna



**“The VRG funding not only provided me with financial resources but also the scientific freedom to pursue my own research ideas. The long-term perspective was decisive for my journey from the USA via ETH Zurich to Vienna.”**



**Mark Anthony**, Assistant Professor at the Division of Terrestrial Ecosystem Research, University of Vienna, VRG Group Leader since 2024 (US citizen)

## VRG program: A Viennese success story since 2010

- **More than 30 top international researchers recruited to Vienna**
- **Investment of over € 50 million and substantial financial contribution from universities**
- **Strategic strengthening of Vienna as a research location in key interdisciplinary areas with US connections**, including the life sciences, computer sciences, AI/ML (e.g., AI/ML in Biomedicine), cognitive sciences, complexity research, and environmental research
- **Catalyst for Viennese science and economy**

**“The VRG funding was crucial in helping me relocate my research from Harvard Medical School to Vienna. The Viennese environment and WWTF support offer ideal conditions for my work, complemented by an ERC grant from the EU.”**



**Sarah Melzer**, Department of Neuronal Cell Biology, MedUni Vienna, VRG Group Leader since 2022 (German citizen)





**“The WWTF’s streamlined administration and flexible use of funds make an enormous difference. After my time at the Simons Foundation’s Flatiron Institute in New York, I can now concentrate fully on my research in Vienna.”**



**Sebastian Fürthauer**, Institute of Applied Physics, TU Wien,  
VRG Group Leader since 2022 (Austrian citizen)

### Professional management by Vienna Science and Technology Fund (WWTF)

- **Fast and efficient:** Swift processes with minimal administrative effort
- **Highest quality standards:** International best-practice review procedures
- **Comprehensive support, including dual career service for family members**
- **Transparency and network access:** Regular reporting, invitations to exclusive events, and access to top researchers

**Bringing  
excellent science  
to Vienna –  
with your support**

### Attracting Rising Stars – Securing Vienna’s research future

The WWTF VRG program brings international rising stars to Vienna. Since 2010, we have enabled young researchers to establish their own research groups.

### Double your impact: Matching funds from the City of Vienna

Every euro you donate to the VRG program is doubled by Matching Funds from the City of Vienna, maximizing the impact of your contribution!

“Invest in top research and help strengthen Vienna as an international location for science. Your support creates sustainable perspectives for rising stars and innovative research in Vienna.”

**Michael Stampfer**, WWTF Managing Director  
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