

**Strategic Partnership:  
Matched PhD Programme TU Graz – University of Strathclyde  
Call 2024/25**

Within their strategic partnership the University of Strathclyde (UoS) and TU Graz are promoting different forms of collaboration to facilitate the establishment of long-term engagements with an international perspective. One of these initiatives is the Matched PhD Programme, which enables collaborative research for doctoral students between the partners. A match consists of two students and their two supervisors (one at each partner university). Within this call three grants will be awarded by the TU Graz rectorate.

**Aim**

The intention is to establish collaborative research teams (PhD students and supervisors) in a specific subject area. The current call is open to all research fields. Within a PhD cluster, a pair of two PhD students (i.e. one TU Graz student and one University of Strathclyde student) work together with their advisors in the same thematic field. These students are considered matched PhDs as each of them has a match at the partner university. In total three such teams will receive global funding.

**Benefits for doctoral students and professors**

The aim is to create a critical mass in a thematic field. It is expected that these partnerships will result in substantial research and knowledge exchange, joint publications, and joint applications for funding as well as educational collaboration. Students will profit from virtual intercultural exchange as well as from working and living in a different culture for a given period of time. This competence is considered an essential tool for their future career as researchers.

**Application process at TU Graz**

Applications need to be submitted by the supervisors of the doctoral students. Please hand in a separate application form at each partner university! Due to internal processes the application forms differ slightly.

**Application must include:**

- Project summary for the Matched PhD Programme: Description of a collaborative research programme within the match
  - Brief summary of the present level of activity with the partner university
- Description of the chosen thematic area and the individual areas of research coverage for *both* TU Graz and University of Strathclyde Doctoral students
  - Benefits of the collaboration for students on both sides
- Description of intended long-term collaboration: joint publications, participation at conferences, joint grant applications (e.g.: EU-funds, regional funds, ...), teaching cooperation

## Requirements

The TU Graz rectorate will initially fund **one third of a doctoral position for 3 years**

- One third of the funds for a doctoral position will be covered by global budget funding for 36 months. **One third of the salary must be covered by the Faculty and one third by the Institute employing the doctoral student.** Therefore, it is necessary to get in touch with the head of the institute as well as the dean before handing in an application to secure the required funding.
- Doctoral students must be fully employed (100%) at TU Graz (Univ.-Ass.)
- The employment should start on October 1, 2025 to match with the start at the University of Strathclyde.
- TU Graz students within the Matched PhD Programme have to spend at least 2 to max. 6 months at the partner university.
- Students within the Matched PhD Programme can apply for funding of mobility periods at the International Office – Welcome Center of TU Graz.
- Extension of the programme: After a positive review of the progress report an extension for one more year can be granted and 1/3 of the doctoral position can be funded for one more year by global budget funding.

## Award Process

- **Application Deadline: 27. February 2025**
- Applications must be submitted electronically to:  
International Office – Welcome Center, Barbara Boettger, [barbara.boettger@tugraz.at](mailto:barbara.boettger@tugraz.at)
- Applications at TU Graz will be reviewed by the Vice Rector for Research and the Head of the respective Field of Expertise

## Reporting

- Upon recruitment of the doctoral candidates: names and starting dates of candidates for transferring of global budget funding
- Each year report about the activities that have taken place so far (i.e. meetings, trainings, mobilities, conferences, publications, ...) and the progress of the thesis paper as such is required. Reporting will either take place at a meeting with the Vice Rector of Research or in a written document.
- At the end of the Matched PhD Programme: a report displaying achievements and further activities planned

## Contact TU Graz:

International Office – Welcome Center,

Barbara Boettger: [barbara.boettger@tugraz.at](mailto:barbara.boettger@tugraz.at)

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