

# IDSA x Ars Electronica FOUNDING LAB

## Call for Fellows

# Apply Now!

**IDSA x Ars Electronica**  
FOUNDING LAB



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**FOUNDING LAB Forum**  
September 6 – 10, 2023

**FOUNDING LAB Fall Term**  
October 2023 – January 2024

**Application period opens:** June 8, 2023  
**Application Deadline:** July 3, 2023 – 11:59pm CEST  
**Notification of selected applicants:** July 14, 2023

 **Federal Ministry**  
Republic of Austria  
Education, Science  
and Research

# FOUNDING LAB

## Shaping the digital transformation

We are delighted to announce an open call for professionals worldwide to join us in creating a university that tackles the challenges of an increasingly digital world. This call is for accomplished individuals including but not limited to Scientists and Artists, Engineers and Designers, Scholars and Practitioners, Entrepreneurs and Visionaries—and everyone in-between and beyond. We seek those with expertise in and insights into the digital transformation of our society, with a proven track record in their field.

### **The Focus of the Program**

**A seminar series on the facts, figures, and futures related to infrastructure, code, machines, the virtual worlds, media, and governance systems that are the founding blocks of digital transformation. It will question, discuss and shape the impact of digital transformation on the future of nature, tech, and people. The program seeks experienced and inspirational experts with a proven track record within their respective fields. Applicants from all disciplines are welcome!**

### **IDSA x Ars Electronica FOUNDING LAB** **Forum**

as part of Ars Electronica Festival  
5 days to create impulses for a pioneering university  
75 Students, 25+ Fellows, Experts, and Mentors  
and

### **IDSA x Ars Electronica FOUNDING LAB** **Fall Term**

A 4-day workshop and online mentoring across  
4 month to share and create expertise  
25 Students, 25+ Fellows, Experts, and Mentors

# Structure

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# **IDSA** Institute of Digital Sciences Austria

The IDSA x Ars Electronica FOUNDING LAB's purpose is to create impulses for IDSA, a pioneering university in Linz, Austria.

IDSA was founded in 2022, its research and teaching are dedicated to all dimensions of digitalization and its transformative effects on science, art, society, and the economy. The university is built on interdisciplinarity and inter-university cooperation. It aims to attract students who are interested in the interaction of technical studies, natural sciences, economics, law, social sciences, humanities, cultural studies, and artistic disciplines.

Within IDSA x Ars Electronica FOUNDING LAB Students and IDSA Fellows from diverse fields and backgrounds will collaborate in questioning, discussing, and shaping the impact of digital transformation on the future of nature, tech, and people.

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## **IDSA x Ars Electronica FOUNDING LAB**

### **Addressing the major challenges of the future through interdisciplinary innovation.**

The FOUNDING LAB is a collaborative effort between the Institute of Digital Sciences Austria (IDSA) and Ars Electronica. Its aim is to identify, develop, and present new areas, approaches, and formats that address the challenges of digital transformation. By overcoming disciplinary boundaries, it confronts the contradictory and conflicting realities of today and cultivates the skills to navigate an increasingly digital world.

Experts, leading thinkers, scientists, and innovators from all disciplines convene to explore and define new pathways towards transformative digital change. The Ars Electronica Festival serves as a public platform to showcase initial ideas and outcomes from the FOUNDING LAB Forum. The results are further explored within a 6-Chapter seminar series during the FOUNDING LAB Fall Term.

The FOUNDING LAB is inspired and builds upon previous initiatives by Ars Electronica, such as the **Future Innovators Summit**, the **Festival University**, the **Transformation Lounge**, and the **Ars Electronica Futurelab Academy**.

# IDSA x Ars Electronica FOUNDING LAB Call for Fellows

## Become a FOUNDING LAB Fellow, share ideas, and co-create the digital transformation

Global challenges of tomorrow require a new approach—one rooted in creativity and co-creation. The FOUNDING LAB serves as an **impulse for IDSA**, a **pioneering university** that shapes the digital transformation. It test-runs new knowledge-creation strategies shaping the future of **nature, tech, and people**. Based on far-reaching trans-disciplinary collaborations, the FOUNDING LAB combines imagination with implementation.

## Key Facts

	FOUNDING LAB Forum	FOUNDING LAB Fall Term
<b>Commitment</b>	5 days (As part of the Ars Electronica Festival)	4 days (4 day workshop in Linz + online mentoring)
<b>Date</b>	September 6 – 10, 2023	October 2023 – January 2024
<b>Number of Fellows</b>	15 Fellows	
<b>Benefits</b>	Travel, accommodation and visa costs during the FOUNDING LAB Forum as well as an honorarium of €2,500.–	Travel, accommodation for the four days incl. visa costs during the FOUNDING LAB Fall Term as well as an honorarium of €5,000.–
<b>Location</b>	Linz, Austria	Linz, Austria and online
<b>Language</b>	English	
<b>Target Group</b>	Experts, leading thinkers, scientists, innovators from all disciplines.	
<b>Application fees</b>	There is no application fee.	
<b>Application Deadline</b>	July 3, 2023 – 11:59pm CEST	

**Be part of a pioneering university for digital transformation!**

## Program Details

The FOUNDING LAB fellowship program includes two parts: The FOUNDING LAB Forum as part of the Ars Electronica Festival and the FOUNDING LAB Fall Term.

Prospective FOUNDING LAB Fellows can apply for only one part but are invited to contribute to both. Preference will be given to applicants who join both program parts.

### **The FOUNDING LAB Forum**

September 6 – 10, 2023, onsite in Linz.

### **The FOUNDING LAB Fall Term**

4-day workshop onsite and occasional online mentoring of the Students from October 2023 through January 2024.

#### **Students**

**FOUNDING LAB Summer School**

August 23 – September 13, 2023

**Duration:** 3 weeks, onsite

**Venue:** POSTCITY Linz

**Who:** 75 Master/PhD students  
(25 will be transferred to the Fall Term)

#### **Fellows**

**FOUNDING LAB Forum**

September 6 – 10, 2023

**Duration:** 5 days, onsite

**Venue:** POSTCITY Linz

**Who:** 15 Fellows

### **FOUNDING LAB Fall Term**

October 2023 – January 2024

**Duration:** 4 month online and onsite

**Who:** Faculty of 25+ Fellows, Experts, and Facilitators

# FOUNDING LAB Forum

**September 6 – 10, 2023**

The FOUNDING LAB Forum is the inaugural program for the FOUNDING LAB Fellows and Students and a central component of the Ars Electronica Festival. It benefits from the inspiring atmosphere of the festival with its diverse exhibitions, performances, concerts, and discursive programs.

The Forum focuses on the co-creation of knowledge between Fellows and Students to tackle the challenges of an increasingly digital world.

## Who Owns the Truth?

With “Who Owns the Truth?” as this year’s title of the Ars Electronica Festival, the FOUNDING LAB Forum focuses directly on key challenges of our time: truth and ownership, interpretive authority, and sovereignty. The topics serve as a guiding structure with the Students and Fellows contributing to them:

Can truth be owned? Is there a right to truth? If yes, does it belong to anyone in particular? What control and responsibility are associated with it? Related questions include:

**Who owns nature?**  
**Who owns infrastructure?**  
**Who owns technology?**  
**Who owns data?**  
**Who owns knowledge?**

The questions will be discussed with relation to the 6 Chapters of the Fall Term.

Assisted by IDSA x Ars Electronica FOUNDING LAB Facilitators, Fellows meet and exchange with **75 trans-disciplinary Master’s and/or PhD Students**, who contribute their insights, experiences, and innovative ideas.

The 5-day Forum is held at the Ars Electronica Festival facilities in Linz, Austria and will be supported by FOUNDING LAB Facilitators.



# FOUNDING LAB Fall Term

**October 2023 – January 2024**

The FOUNDING LAB Fall Term continues the reflections on the topics of the Forum by exploring the six thematic Chapters highlighted below. Art Thinking represents a fundamental aspect of each course.

Fellows work with **25 trans-disciplinary Master's and/or PhD Students**, who share their insights, experiences, and innovative ideas.

Each Fellow selects one of the 6 Chapters to contribute to. Together with 1–2 other Fellows, they co-develop a 4-day workshop as well as an online mentoring program. The 4-day workshop is held at the IDSA facilities in Linz, Austria. FOUNDING LAB Facilitators assist the work and support a group of 4-5 Students throughout the term.

## Program Timeline

Chapters	Founding Themes*	Timeframe ONSITE, Linz	Deep Dive Talks ONLINE
Chapter I	<b>Infrastructure</b> Heavy Lift – The infrastructure to run the code	04.–07.10.2023	12 keynotes to spotlight applications of digital systems and services in various fields.  → open to the general public
Chapter II	<b>Data &amp; Code</b> Soft Wars – The data, code and models that run our lives	08.–11.10.2023	
Chapter III	<b>Machines, Robots &amp; Tangibles</b> Moral Machines – Living with robots that care and scare	22.–25.11.2023	
Chapter IV	<b>Interfaces &amp; Visualizations</b> Intangible Worlds– The Reality of the Virtual	26.–29.11.2023	
Chapter V	<b>Media</b> Fake, Re-check, Double Check – A new civic media contract in the age of AI	17.–20.01.2024	
Chapter VI	<b>Digital Society &amp; Policy</b> Tech-diplomacy – Negotiating with Nature, Tech and People	21.–24.01.2024	

Each Chapter starts with a virtual onboarding session.  
**FOUNDING LAB Event: January 2024**

\*Ars Electronica and IDSA reserve the right to make program changes (both in terms of times and themes).



**ONSITE:**

**6 Program Chapters**

Each Fellow prepares and hosts, together with 1–2 other Fellows, one 4-day workshop onsite. This offers an exceptional opportunity to meet other Fellows and the Students in person, as well as to participate social activities and excursions.

Besides benefitting from knowledge exchange within their Chapter, Fellows have the possibility to participate in social activities and conduct their own research onsite. IDSA will provide workspace and support.

Please indicate your interest and the suggested timing in the application.

**ONLINE:**

**Onboarding Sessions, Mentoring and Deep Dive Talks**

Next to the onsite events, each group of Fellows prepares a half-day online onboarding meeting to introduce their Chapter.

Fellows, with support from FOUNDING LAB Facilitators, are expected to be available for online consultations for the Students throughout the FOUNDING LAB Fall Term.

Fellows are expected to be available for occasional online mentoring of the Students from October 2023 through January 2024.

The FOUNDING LAB will also host 12 Deep Dive Talks. These online keynote and discussion sessions provide insights into practical applications of digital systems and services.

## Ideal Candidate

We recognize that the digital transformation of our society and economy is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that has far-reaching implications for a wide range of disciplines and fields. Therefore, we are dedicated to fostering a trans-disciplinary approach.

The program is looking for experienced and inspirational experts with a proven track record in key areas of digital transformation. These experts should be open to **forward-thinking approaches to learning** and the co-creation of knowledge within the fields of technical and digital infrastructures, data, code and AI, machines and robots, interfaces and virtual worlds, and the transformation of media and policymaking. We welcome applicants from all backgrounds, including practitioners, from all fields, including but not limited to:

AI Engineers, Architects, Biologists, Chemists, Computer Scientists, Dancers, Data Scientists, Economists, Experimental Physicists, Genetic Engineers, Hackers, Historians, Journalists, Mathematicians, Musicians, Neuroscientists, Philosophers, Policy Experts, Sociologists, Theologists... and everyone in-between and beyond.

# Entry Requirements, Benefits and Commitment

There are no registration fees for this program.

**Submissions to only one program part are accepted, but preference will be given to applicants who are available for the Forum and Fall Term activities.**

**Successful applicants will receive the following benefits:**

- A welcome package.
- Full access to all program parts of the FOUNDING LAB Forum and the Ars Electronica Festival, including full festival pass and full access to all discursive events, concerts, workshops, and social activities.
- Full access to the FOUNDING LAB Fall Term, including workshops, Deep Dive Talks, excursions, and social activities.

## **Part I: FOUNDING LAB Forum**

- Reimbursement of travel, accommodation, and visa costs during the program.
- Honorarium of €2,500.–
- Fellows are expected to be onsite in Linz for the entire duration of the Forum (September 6 – 10, 2023).

## **Part II: FOUNDING LAB Fall Term 2023**

- Reimbursement of travel, accommodation, and visa costs during the 4-day workshop.
- Honorarium of €5,000.–
- Fellows are expected to be onsite in Linz during the 4-days workshop and available for online mentoring.

# Application

Prospective Fellows should submit a proposal **written in English through the official submission platform**. Submissions sent via email will not be accepted. A jury comprised of representatives from Ars Electronica and the Institute of Digital Sciences Austria (IDSA) will select the Fellows.

By participating in this competition, applicants automatically accept the terms and conditions of this call. Results will be published on the program partners' website from July 2023 onwards. All applicants will be notified by email by mid-July 2023.

## Timetable

Application period opens: **June 8, 2023**

Application deadline: **July 3, 2023 – 11:59pm CEST**

Notification of selected applicants: **July 14, 2023**



**Apply here!**

<https://ars.electronica.art/university>

# Submission Details

The following details are requested for the application process (all information must be in English):

- **Personal details**, including your name, contact information, and any relevant affiliations.
- **Curriculum vitae** including teaching experience (max. 3 pages).
- **Motivation letter** highlighting your professional background relevant to the FOUNDING LAB and the reasons for your interest in becoming a Fellow (max. 1 page).
- **Proposal for one of the 6 Chapters** detailing a brief concept of how you intend to contribute to the creation of the next-generation university (max. 2 pages).
  - Highlight the thematic Chapter of the FOUNDING LAB Fall Term you are choosing and explain how your expertise relates to it.
  - Detail the topics you would like to focus on and the method of delivering content (including both lecture-based and participatory formats), and how you think these activities will enhance the learning experience for Students.
  - Outline how you plan to showcase your own research and expertise as part of the FOUNDING LAB and how you hope this will impact future research and study programs of IDSA.
- **Video** (max. 2 minutes) answering the following question:
  - What makes you the ideal Fellow for this program, and how do you resonate with the focus of the FOUNDING LAB?
- **Optional:** Additional materials reflecting your passion and expertise, such as artwork, projects, prototypes, research, systems, activities, and strategies.  
Please ensure that any links provided are accessible and provide passwords whenever necessary.

No alternative forms of submission and no late applications will be accepted.

Please note that parts of your application, including your video, may be made public for communication and promotion purposes (see below).

# Contact, Privacy, Support

If you have any questions or require any support, feel free to reach out to our team:

**foundinglab@ars.electronica.art**

Ars Electronica Linz GmbH & Co KG respects each person's right to privacy. We do not sell or distribute personal information for commercial purposes. Your application will be treated confidentially. Only selected members of Ars Electronica Linz GmbH & Co KG and the Institute of Digital Sciences Austria (IDSA) have access to your application. Processing of the applicant's personal data takes place in accordance with the provisions of the General Data Protection Regulation (EU 2016/679). The program is organized by Ars Electronica and Institute of Digital Sciences Austria (IDSA).

## Publication and Public Representation

The organizers and sponsors of IDSA and the Ars Electronica intend to make the results of the FOUNDING LAB accessible to the wider public. To achieve this, they intend to conduct a public relations campaign in print media outlets, radio and TV stations, and on the internet, as well as in various publications and by public presentations of the results of the said FOUNDING LAB. The entrants hereby consent to make their activities available for these purposes as a condition of participation. (There will be no commercial exploitation of the ideas and works that are created during the course of this FOUNDING LAB.)

## Ars Electronica Archive

Ars Electronica Archive Ars Electronica maintains an archive for the purpose of documenting digital media art and intends to make the contents of this archive accessible by interested members of the public both onsite and on the internet. As a condition of participation, entrants hereby consent to the inclusion of all documentation material to be produced during the FOUNDING LAB as well as to its public display both online and in the context of exhibits staged by Ars Electronica.

## Public Relations and Documentation

Likewise as a condition of participation, entrants hereby consent to the material which is being created during the workshops, as a whole or in part, being used, stored to a data storage medium, and/or made public on the internet or via some other digital medium by Ars Electronica or by a third party authorized by Ars Electronica for purposes of public relations, advertising & promotion, documentation, archiving or scientific research. The exercise of this right is restricted to activities for the purpose of disseminating information about and/or promoting the FOUNDING LAB, IDSA and Ars Electronica. Prior consent is required for any activities that go beyond this scope and/or constitute commercial usage. In using such works, Ars Electronica will accord all due consideration to the entrants' legitimate interests but assumes no statutory duty in this connection.

# Visa Requirements

Citizens of EU member states, European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland do not need a visa for entering the Republic of Austria.

Nationals of other countries may require a visa in order to enter the Schengen Area or the Austrian territory.

**Please check the information on whether you require a visa or not on the [website of the Federal Ministry of the Interior](#).**

Nationals of those states for which the visa requirement has been lifted by means of an EU regulation are entitled to visa-free entry to Austria for a maximum of 90 days per 180 days in case of no gainful employment.

**For more information and to initiate your visa application, please contact the Austrian representation, which is competent for your place of residence.**

Find more information in the following links:

<https://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/travel-stay/entrance-and-residence-in-austria/>

<https://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/embassies-consulates/search-for-austrian-representations/>



Created with the AI-System DALL-E2.



## **Apply now**

**as a IDSA x Ars Electronica  
FOUNDING LAB Fellow**

**Become a FOUNDING LAB Fellow, share ideas,  
and co-create the digital transformation.**

The Organizer reserves the right in its sole discretion, to terminate, modify or suspend the Program for any reason, at any time.