

Code of Conduct for the establishment of endowed professorships at the University of Innsbruck

The Leopold Franzens University Innsbruck is the largest and most important research and educational institution in Western Austria. The 16 faculties offer a wide range of studies across all subject areas. Scientists research and teach in a wide variety of fields. In this balanced diversity, the University of Innsbruck operates out of and in the middle of the society and thus also assumes a leading role in regional development.

The University of Innsbruck is a central partner for the systematic search for new findings on various research questions. In doing so, the university can offer not only many years of experience in the implementation of third-party-financed research projects, but also in the establishment of endowed professorships by business, private foundations or the public sector.

The aim of endowed professorships is a far-reaching benefit for all involved, for the university, for the region and, of course, also for the donor. The benefit for the benefactor is above all an indirect one: the donor promotes the expansion or the installation of an innovative, economically and socially relevant, future-oriented subject area and ultimately benefits from the knowledge and the graduates gained from it.

1. Guiding Principles for the Establishment of endowed Professorships

Independence

The University of Innsbruck decides freely on the acceptance of endowed professorships. The donor and the University of Innsbruck agree on the field of research to be covered by the professorship. Contract negotiations are conducted exclusively by the Rector. The Donor exerts no influence on the filling of positions at endowed professorships.

Objectivity

The University applies its standardized, objective selection procedure for the appointment of the endowed professorship, which is carried out exclusively in accordance with the provisions of the University Act 2002, the Collective Agreement for University Employees as well as the relevant intra-university guidelines and works agreements. Both in the establishment of the endowed professorship and the appointment procedure the usual procedures at the University of Innsbruck are adhered to and the responsible bodies are involved.

Freedom of Research and Teaching

Freedom of research and teaching as well as the university's independence from economic and other interests of the donor are guaranteed. The donor has no influence on the content of research and teaching, nor on the content of the publication of research results.

Waiver of financial and other economic benefits

The donor does not expect any monetary benefits from the grant, such as the generation of additional revenues from procurements, rentals, etc.. Similarly, the founder is not entitled to exploit research results (in contrast to so-called contract research). Irrespective of this it is permissible that a reference to the donor is made in the endowed chair's title. Likewise, an advisory board can be set up jointly by the university and the donor, to assist the professorship in an advisory function.

Transparency

Purpose and content of the endowment must be recognisable and comprehensible to the public. All participants undertake to account for their activities related to the endowed professorship at all times and to report comprehensively on the progress of the funding. The University of Innsbruck guarantees the appropriate use of the Endowment's funds and is accountable to the donor as agreed. Publications of the endowed professorship, stating the name of the donor, the appointed person and the title of the chair, will be published on the homepage of the University of Innsbruck.

2. Continuation of the Professorship after Evaluation

The University of Innsbruck sets up endowed professorships primarily to initiate new fields of research or to close existing discrepancies in its research fields. An endowed professorship is therefore designed as a long-term and sustainable project. Consequently, the continuation of an endowed professorship beyond the funding period will be considered already when establishing the endowed professorship. This is done either by a declaration of intent from the founder or by the university management providing for the chair in its further personnel planning. Each endowed professor will be evaluated by the University of Innsbruck.

3. Written Form of the Agreement

The endowment contract must be in written form. All agreements relating to the endowment have to be set down in writing. These include e.g.:

- Agreement on research field
- Agreement on type of chair and facilities:
 - establishment of a professorship in accordance with § 98 or § 99 of the University Act 2002 (temporary or permanent employment)
 - positions for scientific assistants and non-scientific staff

- professional equipment
- cost of materials
- premises
- Agreement on designation of endowed professorship
- Determination of eligibility period and payment modalities
- Agreement on advisory board
- Definition of reporting obligations/exchange of information with the donor
- Reference to the Code of Conduct and the guideline for good scientific practice as well as the IPR guideline of the University of Innsbruck

Guided by these principles, endowed professorships open up the possibility of conducting research and teaching not only in breadth and depth, but also in areas of research at the University of Innsbruck that are not yet (sufficiently) equipped. Guided by a sense of responsibility for society the knowledge generated by endowed professorships makes an additional contribution to the further development of an ever more rapidly changing society.