

Get your Phd in Slavic studies in Graz/Gradec, at a stone's throw from Ljubljana and Zagreb!

Why Graz?

Graz, with its rich Slavic history and its vibrant modern Slavic-speaking communities sits on the brink of the Slavic world, culturally and geographically. The impact of these communities is evident in the omnipresence of Slavic languages in the city's cultural events, from literary readings to pop concerts, as well as in the emergence of local Slavic heritage varieties with their unique grammatical characteristics and cultures.

Why the Institute for Slavic studies in Graz?

The Institute for Slavic studies is a meeting point of experts in Slavic languages, literatures and cultures from both Austria and all over the (Slavic) world. The institute hosts various international and interdisciplinary research projects in which cutting-edge research is performed by teams of highly motivated researchers with various scientific and linguistic backgrounds. It also has lively collaborations with various cultural and research institutions which feature Slavic linguistic and cultural content, as well as an international network of research partners which broadens the prospects for further career advancement.

How about the formalities?

Most MA degrees enable enrolling in our PhD programmes. The English-language version of the curriculum can be found [here](#). Note that in our case it is possible to complete your PhD in English.

If you are interested in doing a PhD with us, the first step is to get in touch with the potential supervisor and coordinate the application process.

PhD supervisors currently accepting candidates:

[Andreas Leben](#)

[Boban Arsenijević](#)

Testimonials from our current and past PhD candidates

My name is Lisa Maria Haibl and I completed my master's degree in Graz with a master thesis about literary representations of the Danube Swabians in Croatia. Currently, I am in the third semester of my PhD. In my doctoral thesis, I am analysing contemporary literary works which deal with Goli otok, an island on which alleged supporters of Stalin were imprisoned after 1948. The main focus of research lies on transgenerational memories on Goli otok.

I appreciate that PhD students here in Graz have the opportunity to study interdisciplinarily and to participate in doctoral colloquia at different departments. In the well-stocked library (the second largest Slavic Studies library in Austria) you will find almost everything you need for your research and what is missing can be ordered. Furthermore, I really appreciate the helpful and competent support provided by my supervisor. Besides that, supportive study and career counselling is offered in various forms and various courses are offered that are useful and supportive for your PhD.

[Lisa Haibl](#)

My name is Felix Kohl and I completed my master's degree in Slovene Studies at the Department of Slavic Studies in Graz with a thesis on the so-called generacijski roman, a genre of Slovene literature. In my dissertation I am analysing the impact of the past and memory on individual identities in contemporary Slovene novels.

I decided to enrol in a PhD programme in Graz for several reasons. Firstly, I really like the city. To me it's an ideal combination of perks offered by both large and small cities. There are enough possibilities for distraction and fun, but at the same time they don't overwhelm you. Also it is surrounded by beautiful nature to relax and recreate and it can be accessed easily and fast. Graz is situated in an ideal location for researchers at the crossroads of the German- and Slavic-speaking world. Ljubljana, Zagreb and Vienna are nearby, so you can use their national libraries.

Our Department of Slavic Studies has a long tradition. It offers a familiar atmosphere and people are always willing to help you. In the research group on Slovene literature and culture, I like the intercultural and transnational approaches and views the research is based on. They can help you to broaden your research views and to get new input. Our department also offers several possibilities of collaborations, e. g. in projects. As an MA student I was part of the research project "Bilingual Literary Practice in Carinthia after the Discontinuation of mladje (1991) and its Position in the Supra-regional Sphere of Interaction" and later got the opportunity to be co-author of a monograph on the project results. Also, our department has its own academic journal (Anzeiger für Slavische Philologie) where you can publish your research output. Our library is well-equipped and probably has the largest collection of scientific and fiction books in Slovene language outside

of Slovenia. Graz also offers a lot of events on Slovene literature and culture, so all in all, in Graz you can get the best combination of Austrian and Slovene culture. 😊

Felix Kohl

I've completed my two master's degrees at the University of Belgrade (Serbian language, Social sciences and Computing) and started my Ph.D. program at the same university. However, I decided to move to Graz in 2020 to study at the Institute of Slavic studies (study program Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, with English as the language of tuition). The motivation for such a move was twofold: to work on the project (Hyperspacing the verb) as a Ph.D. candidate and to study Slavic linguistics from a formal perspective. I'm currently in the process of finalising my doctoral thesis on Slavic aspectual composition. The primary goal of the thesis is to account for (apparent) mismatches between Slavic (im)perfectivity and (a)telicity, a hot topic in (Slavic) aspectology with decades-long tradition.

Ph.D studies at our Institute offer a wide range of (interdisciplinary) oriented topics, and virtually all of those that I attended were organised as 'research-based teaching' – that is, in such a way as to incorporate a theory into actual research. Consequently, every course was a small research project, where students were encouraged to develop their own ideas with constant support from the teachers/supervisors.

What truly sets studying at the Institute of Slavic studies apart is the opportunity to engage in reading groups and collaborative projects. Participating in the reading group From Morphophonology to Morphosyntax and back every Thursday morning has helped me to improve my knowledge of linguistics significantly and encouraged me to take part in more than fifteen talks at international conferences, as well as to write more than ten articles (some of them already published, some still in the process) – something I didn't even know I could do. Many of these talks and papers are co-authored, and co-authorships are in my experience one of the most captivating ways of learning academic writing and linguistics, and – enjoying linguistics! Some additional activities included being a part of organising teams at three international conferences, reviewing various international abstracts and papers, learning how to write a scientific project, teaching an MA course, to name just a few. Nothing of this would be possible without the great people (colleagues, teachers, supervisors), who, I would say, are one of the most important resources at our Institute.

I don't think I'm exaggerating if I say that the Institute of Slavic Studies in Graz is currently a place that helps people realise their linguistic dreams.

Stefan Milosavljević

I have completed my graduate studies at the Department of Serbian Literature at the University of Belgrade and my master studies at the Department of Comparative Literature at the University of Vienna. Currently, as a doctoral candidate at the Department of Slavic

Studies at the University of Graz, I am completing my PhD thesis on postmodern political satire in the (post-)Yugoslav literatures.

The first reason I chose the Department of Slavic Studies in Graz for my PhD was the excellent initial communication that I had with my current supervisor and her scientific expertise in my research field. Now when I know the other staff members, I can say that they are just as open and competent to supervise your PhD project. The Department itself, with its excellent library, provides excellent conditions for your research. Opportunities for interdisciplinary courses and exchange with experts and researchers from related humanities fields are very diverse.

Especially if you are coming from Southeast Europe, Graz is an ideal place for your PhD studies. Non-EU citizens have several options for obtaining a waiver or [reimbursement](#) of tuition fees. In addition, the status of a doctoral student at our Department opens the door to many internal or external opportunities for financing your project. In the first two years of my PhD I was a [project assistant](#) at the Faculty of Humanities, and I have worked as a [DOC-Fellow](#) of the Austrian Academy of Sciences for the other two.

May the Graz be with your PhD!

[Goran Lazičić](#)