

Call for Interest

Doctoral Students at the EC2U Staff Week

Mental Health and Well-being in Doctoral Education

1–3 December 2026 | Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria

Are you a doctoral candidate interested in making doctoral education more supportive, inclusive, and sustainable?

The EC2U University Alliance invites doctoral candidates from its nine member universities and Ivan Franko National University of Lviv to participate in the Staff Week “Mental Health and Well-being in Doctoral Education”, hosted by Johannes Kepler University Linz (JKU) from 1 to 3 December 2026.

The event will bring together staff members who shape doctoral education at their universities and across the EC2U Alliance and doctoral candidates will play an important role in the programme by sharing perspectives on the challenging realities of doctoral life.

We are looking for doctoral candidates who:

- Are currently enrolled at one of the nine EC2U universities and IFNUL in Lviv.
- Would like to contribute actively to improving doctoral education.
- Have personal experience, are research-active on the topic, or have gathered insights through representative roles (e.g., councils, doctoral schools, labs, surveys, or similar initiatives) related to doctoral researchers’ mental health and well-being.
- Are interested in constructive exchange with doctoral-education staff, peers, and university representatives.
- Can participate in the full event in Linz from 1 to 3 December 2026.



Dedicated sessions will bring doctoral candidates and staff together to discuss issues affecting doctoral education, including supervision, motivation, mental-health challenges, isolation, workload, work–life balance, doctoral dropout, and access to support. Participants may contribute through a short presentation, a research-based input, an example of a support initiative, or a facilitated discussion of shared experiences and possible solutions.

The aim is not only to identify challenges, but also to develop practical ideas that may be implemented at participating universities or jointly within the EC2U Alliance.

Selected participants will receive mobility support through EC2U funding, subject to the applicable funding rules and procedures.