



**ZRC SAZU**

In accordance with Article 12 of the Rules on Selecting and Financing Junior Researchers' Training for the Period 2022–2027 (no. P-2022-1) and the General Legal Act on the Block Funding of Research Activities (*Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia*, nos. 87/22, 103/22 – amended, and 3/25), the Research Center of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (ZRC SAZU), Novi Trg 2, Ljubljana, Slovenia, hereby announces the

## **2024 Public Call for Applications for Junior Researcher Positions**

### **1. Subject of the public call**

The subject of this public call is the selection of nine junior researchers that are envisaged to start their doctoral training programs as part of the relevant program group on October 1st, 2025.

### **2. Advisors and available positions**

Applicants may apply for available positions with the following advisors:

Research program: Paleontology and Sedimentary Geology

Slots: 1

**Advisor: Andrea Martín Pérez**

Field/subfield: sedimentology of terrestrial carbonates

Work will take place at the ZRC SAZU Ivan Rakovec Institute of Paleontology. Applicants must have a degree in geology or another related field. Research will focus on sedimentology with an emphasis on studying the role of geobiological processes and early diagenesis in the paleoenvironmental record. Priority will be given to applicants with prior experience in carbonate sedimentology, geochemistry, and paleoecology. Desired qualities and skills: ability to work independently and as part of a team, good communication skills, initiative, and excellent command of English. Applicants will show interest in independent lab and field research both in Slovenia and abroad, and in learning new methods and advanced instrumental techniques. The training program and the detailed content of the doctoral dissertation will be finalized with the applicant selected.

More information: Andrea Martín Pérez, e-mail: [andrea.martin-perez@zrc-sazu.si](mailto:andrea.martin-perez@zrc-sazu.si); tel.: +386 1 470 6376.



Research program: Biodiversity: Patterns, Processes, Predictions, and Conservation

Slots: 1

**Advisor: Urban Šilc**

Field/subfield: botany, vegetation ecology

Work will take place at the ZRC SAZU Jovan Hadži Institute of Biology. Applicants must have a degree in ecology and biodiversity, or another related field. Prior work experience in handling vegetation data and large datasets, and conducting analyses is a plus. Research will focus on exploring urban and suburban vegetation. Priority will be given to applicants familiar with the GIS environment, statistical analyses in R, and species distribution modeling. Desired qualities and skills: ability to work in a team, readiness to spend several months as guest researchers at research institutions abroad, good communication skills, and excellent command of English. Applicants should show interest in conducting field research (and hence have a driver's license) and computational analyses. The training program and the detailed content of the doctoral dissertation will be finalized with the applicant selected.

More information: Urban Šilc, e-mail: urban.silc@zrc-sazu.si; tel.: +386 1 470 6335.



Research program: Incorporation of EU Legal Terminology into the Slovenian Legal System

Slots: 1

**Advisor: Tanja Fajfar**

Field/subfield: linguistics/terminology

Work will take place at the ZRC SAZU Fran Ramovš Institute of the Slovenian Language. Applicants must have a degree in linguistics or another related field. Prior work experience in terminology and interlingual communication is a plus. Research will focus on terminological theory and terminographic practice. Desirable qualifications include a basic knowledge of terminology, excellent command of English, proficiency with corpus tools, ability to work independently and as part of a team, good communication and organizational skills, and initiative. Applicants should show interest in terminographic work. The training program and the detailed content of the doctoral dissertation will be finalized with the applicant selected.

More information: Tanja Fajfar, e-mail: tanja.fajfar@zrc-sazu.si; tel.: +386 1 470 6236.



Research program: Investigations into Literary History, Literary Theory, and Methodology

Slots: 1

**Advisor: Andrejka Žejn**

Field/subfield: eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Slovenian literature

Work will take place at the ZRC SAZU Institute of Slovenian Literature and Literary Studies. Applicants must have a degree in Slovenian studies, comparative literature, or another related field. Prior experience with computer work, including Excel and the basics of Extensible Markup Language (XML), is a plus. Research will focus on exploring the development processes of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Slovenian prose (genres, style, and themes) using traditional and computer-aided methods of literary studies. Priority will be given to applicants with promising research publications or a master's thesis with the top grade, and/or a record of participation in research work. Desired qualities and skills: proficiency in at least two foreign languages, good communication skills, and ability to work in a team. Applicants should show interest in working with manuscripts at libraries and archives. The training program and the detailed content of the doctoral dissertation will be finalized with the applicant selected.

More information: Andrejka Žejn, e-mail: andrejka.zejn@zrc-sazu.si.



Research program: Archeological Research

Slots: 1

**Advisor: Brina Škvor Jernejčič**

Field/subfield: archeology (prehistory)

Work will take place at the ZRC SAZU Institute of Archeology. Applicants must have a degree in archeology or another related field. Prior experience in research on prehistory and field research in Slovenia and/or abroad is a plus. Research will focus on the Bronze Age in Slovenia. Priority will be given to those with experience with pure research projects. Desired qualities and skills: ability to work in a team, good communication skills, academic writing skills, independence, and proficiency in at least two foreign languages. Experience in conducting research in Slovenia and/or abroad is also a bonus. Applicants should show interest in independent desk and field research, and further training abroad. The training program and the detailed content of the doctoral dissertation will be finalized with the applicant selected.

More information: Brina Škvor Jernejčič, e-mail: brina.skvor-jernejcic@zrc-sazu.si; tel.: +386 1 470 6500.



Research program: Ethnological, Anthropological, and Folklore Studies of Everyday Life

Slots: 1

**Advisor: Saša Babič**

Field/subfield: ethnology, folklore studies / humor

Work will take place at the ZRC SAZU Institute of Slovenian Ethnology. Applicants must have a degree in the humanities or social sciences. Research will focus on exploring humor. Priority will be

given to those with prior experience in fieldwork. Desired qualities and skills: good communication skills, ability to work with informants and as part of a team, readiness to spend a semester abroad, and excellent command of English. Applicants should be interested in working with folklore material and collecting material in the field. The training program and the detailed content of the doctoral dissertation will be finalized with the applicant selected.

More information: Saša Babič, e-mail: [babic.sasa@zrc-sazu.si](mailto:babic.sasa@zrc-sazu.si); tel.: +386 1 470 6285.



Research program: Folklore and Ethnological Research on Slovenian Folk Culture

Slots: 1

**Advisor: Drago Kunej**

Field/subfield: ethnomusicology, ethnology, cultural anthropology

Work will take place at the ZRC SAZU Institute of Ethnomusicology. Applicants must have a degree in musicology, ethnology, cultural anthropology, or another related field. Research will focus on exploring past and present instrumental musical practices in (folk or vernacular) music culture and their public and media presentations. Priority will be given to those with experience with pure research projects and familiarity with the basics of music theory. Prior experience in archival and field research is also a bonus. Desired qualities and skills: ability to work independently and as part of a team, good communication skills, precision, initiative, creativity, English proficiency, academic writing skills, and interest in further training. The training program and the detailed content of the doctoral dissertation will be finalized with the applicant selected.

More information: Drago Kunej, e-mail: [drago.kunej@zrc-sazu.si](mailto:drago.kunej@zrc-sazu.si); tel.: +386 1 470 6271.



Research program: Karst Research

Slots: 1

**Advisor: Nadja Zupan Hajna**

Field/subfield: karst geomorphology

Work will take place at the ZRC SAZU Karst Research Institute. Applicants must have a degree in geology, geography, or another related field. Prior experience in conducting field and lab research and using GIS tools is a plus. Research will focus on karst geomorphology. Priority will be given to those with prior work experience in karst areas and caves. Desired qualities and skills: ability to work in a team, good communication skills, experience in research and fieldwork, and excellent command of English. Applicants should be interested in field and lab research and brief training abroad. The training program and the detailed content of the doctoral dissertation will be finalized with the applicant selected.

More information: Nadja Zupan Hajna, e-mail: [zupan@zrc-sazu.si](mailto:zupan@zrc-sazu.si); tel.: +386 5 700 1937.



Research program: Image—Word—Knowledge. The Transmission and Transformation of Ideas in the Territory Between the Eastern Alps and the Northern Adriatic, 1400–1800

Slots: 1

**Advisor: Vanja Kočevar**

Field/subfield: historiography, early modern period

Work will take place at the ZRC SAZU Milko Kos Historical Institute. Applicants must have a degree in history. Prior experience in studying primary archival sources in German and Latin and familiarity with auxiliary sciences of history are a plus. Desired qualities and skills: good communication skills, reliability, readiness to study abroad, interest in conducting research at archives, and ability to work independently and as part of a team. Priority will be given to those with study experience abroad, a completed academic program and a published research contribution, and a command of German, German Kurrent handwriting, and Latin. Research will focus on exploring early modern Slovenian culture within the general European context. The training program and the detailed content of the doctoral dissertation will be finalized with the applicant selected.

More information: Vanja Kočevar, e-mail: [vanja.kocevar@zrc-sazu.si](mailto:vanja.kocevar@zrc-sazu.si); tel.: +386 1 470 6213.



Research program: \* P6-0061 Art in Slovenia at a Cultural Crossroads

Slots: 1

**Advisor: Katarina Mohar**

Field/subfield: art history, twentieth-century visual arts

Work will take place at the ZRC SAZU France Stele Institute of Art History. Applicants must have a degree in art history or another related field. Research will focus on the visual arts of the second half of the twentieth century. Priority will be given to those with prior experience in conducting research and writing specialized texts. Desired qualities and skills: experience in archival and field research, good communication skills, command of English, and a driver's license. Applicants should be interested in conducting (archival and field) research and writing academic texts. The training program and the detailed content of the doctoral dissertation will be finalized with the applicant selected.

More information: Katarina Mohar, e-mail: [katarina.mohar@zrc-sazu.si](mailto:katarina.mohar@zrc-sazu.si).

**\*P6-0061 will be included in this year's call for applications as a "reserve" if any of the other program groups fail to fill the advisor position.**

### **3. Requirements for junior research applicants**

Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- They have not yet completed a doctoral program or been awarded a doctoral degree;
- They have never been employed as junior researchers;
- They are proficient in at least one world language;
- They have a second-cycle (master's) degree or a comparable degree from a university abroad (applicants that have not yet completed their second-cycle degree program at the time of applying for the open call must complete their program by September 15th of the current year);
- Their Slovenian grade point average in the second-cycle program is at least 8.00 (including their master's thesis grade);
- No more than four years have passed since the end of their second-cycle degree program or the acquisition of a degree that corresponds to the degree obtained in a second-cycle degree program and, under the law governing the Slovenian qualifications framework, is classified as level 8 (master's degree), or since the end of a comparable academic program completed abroad (the year of graduation). If the applicant took parental leave, this period can be extended by the period of the applicant's justified absence, whereas for other types of justified absence specified in the health insurance regulations it can be extended at most by the period of the justified absence only if the absence was continuous and lasted longer than six months;
- Before concluding the employment contract, they have enrolled (via the eVŠ portal) in the first or second year of a third-cycle (doctoral) program.

Foreign nationals or junior researcher applicants that have completed their education abroad must have all the documentation required for employment in Slovenia in order before concluding the employment contract. If applicants have not completed a second-cycle academic program or an academic program that meets the requirements for enrollment in a doctoral program in Slovenia, they must obtain a decision from a higher-education institution recognizing a degree completed abroad for the purposes of pursuing further education in Slovenia.

### **4. Evaluation criteria**

- Slovenian grade point average in a second-cycle program or an academic program that meets the requirements for enrollment in a doctoral program (3 points for an average grade between 9.00 and 10, and 1 point for an average grade between 8.00 and 8.99);
- Awards or other recognitions received (a university award: 1 point; other awards or recognitions for professional work: 0.50 points each, but up to a maximum of 2.00 for all awards or recognitions together);
- Research articles published (up to 1.00 point for authorship or a proportional part for co-authorship, but up to a maximum of 2.00 points altogether);
- Participation in research projects (up to 2.00 points);
- Applicant interview assessment (up to 10.00 points).

### **5. Term of employment**

ZRC SAZU shall conclude a fixed-term employment contract with the applicant selected. This term covers the period of training, which is the same as the period of financing (junior researchers are financed until they obtain a doctorate, but for no more than four years; if the applicants are enrolled in

the second year of their doctoral program when starting work, their training is financed until they receive a doctorate, but for no more than three years). The employment contract is terminated if the junior researcher completes his or her training (receives a doctorate) before the envisaged expiry of the contract.

## 6. Junior researchers' obligations

Junior researchers must successfully defend their doctoral dissertations within one year after the termination of their employment contract at the latest.

If junior researchers discontinue their training early, their employment contract is terminated. A request for discontinuing the training may also be filed by an advisor due to a junior researcher's failure to fulfill his or her obligations.

Junior researchers whose employment contracts are terminated before the envisaged completion of their training and that fail to complete their training with the successful defense of their doctoral dissertation shall reimburse ZRC SAZU for all the tuition fees covered by the employer. The same applies to junior researchers that fail to complete their doctoral program within one year after the termination of their employment contract concluded for the duration of training.

## 7. Application procedure and deadline

The written application must arrive at ZRC SAZU (Novi trg 2, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia) **by 2 pm on April 17th, 2025**, regardless of the manner in which it is sent. Each envelope must be labeled in Slovenian: ***Razpis za MR – Ne odpiraj – javni razpis za kandidate za mlade raziskovalce v letu 2024*** (i.e., Junior researcher public call – Do not open – 2024 Public Call for Applications for Junior Researcher Positions), and it may only contain one application for one junior researcher position. Applicants may also submit their applications by the deadline above in person at the ZRC SAZU front desk (Novi trg 2, Ljubljana). A written application may also be sent in electronic form to [kadrovska@zrc-sazu.si](mailto:kadrovska@zrc-sazu.si) (Re: **Razpis za MR v letu 2025 / 2025 Call for Junior Researcher Applications**), with no electronic signature required to make the application valid.

The application for the open call must include the following:

- A CV and a motivation letter;
- A signed application form with statements properly marked;
- Proof of education if the applicants have already completed their program (a photocopy of a second-cycle degree diploma);
- Proof of grade point average in a second-cycle (master's) program (i.e., a diploma supplement or an officially confirmed transcript of courses taken from which the grade point average rounded to two decimal places is evident);
- Proof of proficiency in a world language;
- Proof of enrollment in a third-cycle (doctoral) program and proof of requirements completed if the applicant is already enrolled.

For the purposes of evaluation in accordance with the criteria set, the following can also be enclosed with the application:

- Proof of any awards and recognitions received;
- A list of research articles published;
- Proof of participation in research projects;
- Proof of the applicant's justified absence in order to meet the requirement regarding the permissible number of years after the end of the academic program specified under indent 6 of point 3 hereof.

For more information on the formal procedures, please contact Jelka Pekolj at [jelka.pekolj@zrc-sazu.si](mailto:jelka.pekolj@zrc-sazu.si) or +386 1 470 6459.

## 8. Selecting the applicants

Only complete applications that arrive in time and meet all the call's requirements will be considered.

Dissertation advisors propose individuals for the junior researcher positions in agreement with the head of the program group and the head of the institute.

Applicants will be notified if they have been selected for the position in accordance with the Slovenian Work Relationships Act. The applicants selected will receive a request at the e-mail address provided

in their application form to confirm within three working days that they accept the junior researcher position.

**Important:**

The applicants selected for the junior researcher positions are required to apply separately to the call for applications for enrollment in graduate programs in the 2025/2026 academic year and to submit proof of enrollment in a third-cycle (doctoral) program to ZRC SAZU before concluding the employment contract.

Applicants that fail to enroll in a graduate program by the enrollment deadlines via the eVŠ system will not be able to conclude a junior researcher training contract with ZRC SAZU.

Encl.:

- Application form available at:  
<https://www.zrc-sazu.si/en/razpisi/2025-public-call-for-applications-for-JR-positions>

Ljubljana, March 17th, 2025