



ZRC SAZU

In accordance with Article 12 of the Rules on Selecting Junior Researchers and Financing Their 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 Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (ZRC SAZU), Novi trg 2, Ljubljana, Slovenia, hereby announces the

2026 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, 2026.

2. Advisors and available positions

Applicants may apply for available positions with the following advisors:

Research program: Heritage on the Margins: New Perspectives on Heritage and Identity within and beyond the National

Slots: 1

Advisor: Špela Ledinek Lozej

Field/subfield: ethnology, anthropology, critical heritage studies

Work will take place at the ZRC SAZU Institute of Ethnology. Applicants must have a degree in ethnology, anthropology, heritage studies, or another related field. Prior experience in heritage research is a plus. Research will focus on heritage practices and processes. Desired qualities and skills: ability to work in a team, taking initiative in research, experience in field research, and excellent command of English. The training program and detailed content of the doctoral dissertation will be finalized with the applicant selected.

More information: Špela Ledinek Lozej (e-mail: spela.ledinek@zrc-sazu.si; tel.: +386 5 335 7322).



Research program: Research in the History of Music in Slovenia

Slots: 1

Advisor: Maruša Zupančič

Field/subfield: musicology, historical musicology

Work will take place at the ZRC SAZU Institute of Musicology. Applicants must have a degree in musicology or another related field in the humanities or music. Research will focus on musical life in the first half of the nineteenth century. Prior experience with work in archives and libraries, familiarity with basic methods of historical research, and experience working with manuscript and printed sources from the late eighteenth and first half of the nineteenth century are particularly desired. A good command of English is expected, with knowledge of German at a level allowing the applicant to work with historical sources a plus. Other desired qualities and skills: ability to work in a research team, motivation to learn new skills, taking initiative, showing interest in in-depth research work, diligence, reliability, and strict adherence to the deadlines agreed. The training program and the detailed content of the doctoral dissertation will be finalized with the applicant selected.

More information: Maruša Zupančič (e-mail: marusa.zupancic@zrc-sazu.si; tel.: +386 1 470 6218).



Research program: Conditions and Problems of Contemporary Philosophy

Slots: 1

Advisor: Rok Benčin

Field/subfield: philosophy

Work will take place at the ZRC SAZU Institute of Philosophy. Applicants must have a degree in philosophy or another related field. Research will focus on contemporary French philosophy and related approaches in esthetics and ontology. Desired qualities and skills: ability to work in a team, good communications skills, and excellent command of English. Applicants should show interest in active involvement in the Slovenian and international research sphere. The training program and the detailed content of the doctoral dissertation will be finalized with the applicant selected.

More information: Rok Benčin (e-mail: rok.bencin@zrc-sazu.si; tel.: +386 1 470 6476).



Research program: The Slovenian Language in Synchronic and Diachronic Development

Slots: 1

Advisor: Špela Petric Žižić

Field/subfield: linguistics; lexicology and lexicography

Work will take place at the ZRC SAZU Fran Ramovš Institute of the Slovenian Language. Applicants must have a degree in Slovenian studies or another related field. Research will focus on lexicology and lexicography. Priority will be given to applicants that have previously dealt with issues in lexicology in greater detail and to those with advanced knowledge of another Slavic language. The training program and the detailed content of the doctoral dissertation will be finalized with the applicant selected.

More information: Špela Petric Žižić (e-mail: spela.petric@zrc-sazu.si; tel.: +386 1 470 6173).



Research program: Basic Research on the Slovenian Cultural Past

Slots: 1

Advisor: Gregor Antoličič

Field/subfield: History; nineteenth and early twentieth century

Work will take place at the ZRC SAZU Milko Kos Historical Institute. Applicants must have a degree in history or another related field. Prior experience in work with archival material, historical literature, and other relevant sources is a plus. Research will focus on the period from the nineteenth century to the postimperial transition after the First World War, with emphasis on the historical region of Gorizia and the history of ideas and ideologies, nationalisms, and social networks. Priority will be given to applicants with prior experience in studying archival material and personal archives and correspondence. Desired qualities and skills: ability to work independently and as part of a team, willingness to engage in further research training (including abroad), comprehension of Italian and knowledge of German, familiarity with auxiliary historical disciplines, especially paleography, ethical use of AI and other digital tools, and computer skills. Communication skills, including the ability to communicate with various interested audiences, are also required. Applicants are expected to demonstrate motivation for scholarly work, including work in archives and other forms of field research. The training program and the detailed content of the doctoral dissertation will be finalized with the applicant selected.

More information: Gregor Antoličič (e-mail: gregor.antolicic@zrc-sazu.si) and Petra Svoljšak (e-mail: petra.svoljsak@zrc-sazu.si; tel.: +386 40 641 710).



Research program: Archeological Research

Slots: 1

Advisor: Matija Turk

Field/subfield: archeology, archaeozoology

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 bone artefacts and archaeozoology is a plus. Research will focus on exploring faunal remains from Mesolithic sites and bone artefacts. Priority will be given to applicants with experience in working with bone remains from archeological contexts. Desired qualities and skills: ability to work in a team, communication skills, experience with research abroad, and knowledge of at least one foreign language. Applicants are expected to demonstrate an interest in independent desk-based 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: Matija Turk (e-mail: matija.turk@zrc-sazu.si; tel.: +386 1 470 6342).



Research program: Geography of Slovenia

Slots: 1

Advisor: Matjaž Geršič

Field/subfield: regional geography and geographic information systems

Work will take place at the ZRC SAZU Anton Melik Geographical Institute. Applicants must have a degree in geography, linguistics, history, or another related field in the humanities. Prior experience in conducting research and project work is a plus. Research will focus on regional geography with an emphasis on geographical names. Desired qualities and skills: ability to work in a team, good communication skills, foreign language proficiency, and familiarity with geographic information systems. Applicants will show interest in scholarly research. The training program and the detailed content of the doctoral dissertation will be finalized with the applicant selected.

More information: Matjaž Geršič (e-mail: matjaz.gersic@zrc-sazu.si; tel.: +386 1 470 6509).



Research program: Historical Interpretations of the Twentieth Century

Slots: 1

Advisor: Ana Hofman

Field/subfield: musicology, anthropology

Work will take place at the ZRC SAZU Institute of Culture and Memory Studies. Applicants must have a degree in the humanities or social sciences. Research will take place as part of the program Historical Interpretations of the Twentieth Century, which is based on an interdisciplinary approach to studying the cultural past. Priority will be given to applicants with an educational background in anthropology, musicology, cultural studies, history, or other humanities disciplines. Desired qualities and skills: ability to work in a team, communication skills, excellent command of English, and an interest in further training. Applicants will show an interest in fieldwork and archival research. The training program and the detailed content of the doctoral dissertation will be finalized with the applicant selected.

More information: Ana Hofman (e-mail: ana.hofman@zrc-sazu.si; tel.: +386 1 470 6528).



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: Helena Seražin

Field/subfield: art history; art and architecture of the early modern period

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. Prior experience in archival research and fieldwork is a plus. Research will focus on written sources related to art and architecture from the fifteenth to eighteenth century. Priority will be given to applicants with previous work experience in art history that possess basic skills in working with archival sources and conducting fieldwork (e.g., photo

Research Center of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (ZRC SAZU)

Novi trg 2, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia, tel.: +386 1 470 6555, e-mail: zrc@zrc-sazu.si, www.zrc-sazu.si

documentation). Desired qualities and skills: ability to work in a team, communication skills, excellent command of English, and ability to read Latin and German. Applicants will show an interest in research at archives and libraries as well as field research in Slovenia and abroad. The training program and the detailed content of the doctoral dissertation will be finalized with the applicant selected.

More information: Helena Seražin (e-mail: helena.serazin@zrc-sazu.si).

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 (i.e., English, German, Russian, French, Spanish, or Chinese);
- 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 16th, 2026**, 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 2026*** (i.e., Junior researcher public call – Do not open – 2026 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). (Foreign nationals or individuals applying from abroad may also send their applications in electronic form to kadrovska@zrc-sazu.si (Re: ***Razpis za MR – Ne odpiraj – javni razpis za kandidate za mlade raziskovalce v letu 2026***).

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 applicant has already completed his or her 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 (e.g., a high school diploma);
- 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 Marko (e-mail: jelka.pekolj@zrc-sazu.si; tel.: +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.

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 2026/2027 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](#)

Ljubljana, March 16th, 2026