

We are looking for a highly motivated and curious candidate for a

PhD position (w/m/d)

30 h/week, 3 years,

In the Research Group of Technical Catalysis (Assoc. Prof. Föttinger), Institute of Materials Chemistry.
The position will start **from 1.4.2026**.

The Project:

Within the FFG-funded project EASYHAc, together with our consortium partners, we aim to develop an electrified single-step process to convert CO from syngas into acetic acid while simultaneously co-producing green hydrogen. The technology will cut energy demand by up to 60% and CO₂ emissions by ~80%, enabling integration into a low-carbon circular economy.

Your role:

- Perform mechanistic studies on liquid phase production of acetic acid over Ni-catalysts
 - Analysis of reaction products and intermediates (NMR, IR),
 - Detection of surface species (IR, XPS),
 - Characterisation of bimetallic catalyst materials (electron microscopy, XRD, XPS),
 - Improvement and maintenance of experimental setups,
- Active collaboration with consortium partners from industry and academia,
- Dissemination of results through conference presentations and scientific publications,
- Contribute to activities of the research group.

Your profile:

- Masters degree in chemistry, materials science, physics or related,
- Strong interest in academic research with excellent analytical and conceptual skills,
- Structured, reliable, and independent working style. Willingness to engage with new topics and methodologies.
- Strong team spirit and enthusiasm for collaboration in an international research group,
- Lab experience in catalysis, materials characterization, spectroscopy is an advantage
- Excellent command of English, both written and spoken; German is an advantage.

If you are interested please send your application with CV and motivation letter until 15.3.2026 via email to karin.foettinger@tuwien.ac.at

Entry level salary as a predoctoral researcher is covered by level B1 of the Austrian Collective Agreement for university staff for 30 hours/week. Relevant working experiences may increase the monthly income.

TU Wien is committed to increase female employment in leading scientific positions. Female candidates are explicitly encouraged to apply. Preference will be given when equally qualified. People with special needs are equally encouraged to apply.