

Position Description

1. General Information

Name of the position	Blitz Change Entrepreneurship
Foreseen enrolment date	January 2026
Position is funded by	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COFUND, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA), Horizon Europe, European Union • Johannes Kepler University Linz – JKU • RMIT University
Research Host	Johannes Kepler University Linz - JKU
PhD awarding institutions	JKU Linz & RMIT University
Locations	Primary: Linz, Austria Secondary: Melbourne, Australia
Salary	EUR 52,007.2 annual gross salary EUR 3,714.8 monthly gross salary (14 times a year)
Supervisors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matthias Fink, Professor, JKU Linz • Daniela Maresch, Professor, IÉSEG & Alma Mater Visiting Professor, JKU Linz • RMIT University Supervisor TBC • RMIT University Supervisor TBC
Group of discipline	Management (Innovation Management, Entrepreneurship)

2. Research topics (only one of these projects will be funded)

Project 1: Blitz Change: An entrepreneurship challenge for societies

Entrepreneurship is concerned with how novel business activities come to the world and transform societies. Disruptive change requires societies to rethink which business activities should be realized and how these activities should be performed to create value under fundamentally changed rules of the game. Thus, entrepreneurship is a promising perspective when theorizing and empirically researching blitz change in societies.

Recently, time has moved into the centre of management research. When theorizing change, time is mostly interpreted as a resource that plays a decisive role in the successful adaption of new business activity to novel societal circumstances. This project looks at an extremely challenging entrepreneurial task that we call blitz change. This term describes the change of business activities in societies within an extremely short period of time, i.e. weeks or even days. Examples of such blitz change include but are not limited to firms having been set up to address the new reality during the Covid-19 pandemic, the failure of major business partners or the outbreak of warfare. Blitz change not only helps societies adapt to novel circumstances, but also offers entrepreneurial opportunities to the members of a society.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement N° 101179842

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In this project, you will mobilize entrepreneurship theories and approaches as well as recent advances on the role of time as a resource in management to capture the phenomenon of blitz change.

This PhD project will implement a mixed method approach with the aim of collecting and analysing rich data from international contexts that capture the phenomenon of blitz change and the characteristics of the contexts in which it unfolded. The project will identify and explain the mechanisms enabling blitz change and define their boundary conditions.

This PhD project will be closely linked to the theme “Blitz Change from an innovation management perspective”, opening opportunities of cooperation and for the realization synergies in the research process. Both projects will be hosted by JKU Linz and will be supervised by the same professors.

Supervisors: Matthias Fink, Professor, JKU Linz; Daniela Maresch, Professor, IÉSEG & Alma Mater Visiting Professor, JKU Linz; RMIT University Supervisor TBC; RMIT University Supervisor TBC

Research Fields: Management (Innovation Management, Entrepreneurship)

Project 2: Blitz Change: A challenge for entrepreneurial teams

Entrepreneurship is concerned with how novel business activities come to the world. Entrepreneurial activities are often pursued in teams. Disruptive change requires these entrepreneurial teams to develop business activities that create value under fundamentally changed rules of the game. Thus, entrepreneurial teams are a promising perspective when theorizing and empirically researching blitz change.

Recently, time has moved into the centre of management research. When theorizing change, time is mostly interpreted as a resource that plays a decisive role in the successful adaption of new business activity to novel societal circumstances. This project looks at an extremely challenging entrepreneurial task that we call blitz change. This term describes the change of entrepreneurial activities performed in teams within an extremely short period of time, i.e. weeks or even days. Examples of such blitz change include but are not limited to firms having been set up to address the new reality during the Covid-19 pandemic, the failure of major business partners or the outbreak of warfare. Blitz change offers entrepreneurial opportunities but at the same time entrepreneurial teams might also disrupt industries or societies leading to blitz change.

We will mobilize entrepreneurship theories and approaches as well as recent advances on the role of time as a resource in management to capture the phenomenon of blitz change.

This PhD project will implement a mixed method approach with the aim of collecting and analysing rich data from international contexts that capture the phenomenon of blitz change on the level of entrepreneurial teams and the characteristics of the contexts in which it unfolded. The project will identify and explain the mechanisms enabling blitz change and define their boundary conditions.

This PhD project will be closely linked to the theme “Blitz Change from an innovation management perspective”, opening opportunities of cooperation and for the realization synergies in the research process. Both projects will be hosted by JKU Linz and will be supervised by the same professors.

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Research Fields: Management (Innovation Management, Entrepreneurship)

Project 3: Blitz Change: A challenge for individual entrepreneurs

Entrepreneurship is concerned with how novel business activities come to the world. The idea is that single individuals can make substantial change to industries and even whole societies. Disruptive change requires such entrepreneurs to develop activities which create value under fundamentally changed rules of the game.



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Thus, entrepreneurship on the individual level is a promising perspective when theorizing and empirically researching blitz change in societies.

Recently, time has moved into the centre of management research. When theorizing change, time is mostly interpreted as a resource that plays a decisive role in the successful adaption of new business activity to novel societal circumstances. This project looks at an extremely challenging entrepreneurial task that we call blitz change. This term describes the change of entrepreneurial activities within contexts that radically change within an extremely short period of time, i.e. weeks or even days. Examples of such blitz change include but are not limited to firms having been set up to address the new reality during the Covid-19 pandemic, the failure of major business partners or the outbreak of warfare. Entrepreneurs can recognize or create opportunities in the context of blitz change. However, they may also kick-off blitz change with disruptive entrepreneurial activities.

We will mobilize entrepreneurship theories and approaches as well as recent advances on the role of time as a resource in management to capture the phenomenon of blitz change.

This PhD project will implement a mixed method approach with the aim of collecting and analysing rich data from international contexts that capture the phenomenon of blitz change and the characteristics of the contexts in which it unfolded. The project will identify and explain the mechanisms enabling blitz change and define their boundary conditions.

This PhD project will be closely linked to the theme “Blitz Change from an innovation management perspective”, opening opportunities of cooperation and for the realization synergies in the research process. Both projects will be hosted by JKU Linz and will be supervised by the same professors.

Supervisors: Matthias Fink, Professor, JKU Linz; Daniela Maresch, Professor, IÉSEG & Alma Mater Visiting Professor, JKU Linz; RMIT University Supervisor TBC; RMIT University Supervisor TBC

Research Fields: Management (Innovation Management, Entrepreneurship)

3. Employment Benefits and Conditions

Johannes Kepler University Linz (JKU) offers a 48-months full-time work contract. The total working hours per week are 40.

The remuneration, in line with the European Commission rules for Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant holders, will consist of a **gross annual salary** of yearly 52,007.2 EUR (monthly 3,714.8 EUR gross paid 14 times a year). Of this amount, the estimated net salary to be perceived by the Researcher is 2,570 EUR per month. However, the definite amount to be received by the Researcher is subject to national tax legislation.

Benefits include

- Becoming a Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellow and be invited to join the Marie Curie Alumni Association
- Access to all the necessary facilities at Johannes Kepler University and RMIT University
- Tuition fees exemption at both PhD awarding institutions
- Travel allowance to cover flights and accommodation for participating in DREAM+PLAN events
- Up to 12 months in Australia
- 25 days paid holiday leave



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- Social security coverage
- Sick leave
- Parental leave
- Vivid research environment in an international team
- Modern sustainable campus located in one of the economically strongest regions of Europe

4. PhD enrolment

Successful candidates for this position will be enrolled by the following institutions and must comply with their specific entry requirements, in addition to DREAM+PLAN's conditions.

Johannes Kepler University

Visit the website: <https://www.jku.at/en/degree-programs/prospective-students/register-to-enroll/doctorate-phd/>

RMIT University

Visit the website: <https://www.rmit.edu.au/research/research-degrees/how-to-apply>



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