

FAQs about the Linz Clinician Scientist Program

1. I do not want to give up my employment contract with KUK. Will my salary still be paid by KUK?

Participation in the CSP/ACSP does not affect your employment at the Kepler University Hospital. For employment-related questions, please contact the HR department at KUK.

2. Can I apply for the CSP with a completed specialist medical training?

In principle, yes. The CSP is aimed at doctors at the beginning of their scientific careers.

3. Does participation in the CSP extend my specialist medical training?

No, it does not.

4. I will complete my specialist medical training before finishing the CSP. Can I still participate in the CSP if I do not know whether I will continue working at KUK after my specialist training?

The CSP is generally intended for young doctors during their specialist training. It is at the discretion of the clinic/institute head to decide whether they will support the candidate and intend to employ them as a specialist doctor. The continuation of employment beyond the specialist training should be clarified with the HR department at the Kepler University Hospital. Participation in the CSP is linked to an employment contract with KUK.

5. I will likely complete my specialist medical training in November, but the CSP starts in October. Can I apply for the ACSP before I am a certified specialist doctor?

Yes. The ACSP is aimed at candidates who have completed a doctoral program or have equivalent qualifications, with existing research experience. A completed specialist medical training is not a strict requirement. What matters is that the foundational skills for scientific work were acquired through a structured doctoral program and that the candidate has already conducted successful research (e.g., publications).

6. Can I complete my doctoral studies at a university other than JKU MED and still participate in the CSP? Will courses from other doctoral programs be credited?

If you have already started a doctoral program at another university, transferring to the structured "Medical Sciences" doctoral program at JKU MED is a requirement for participation in the CSP. The courses you have already completed in another doctoral program will be reviewed by the Examination and Accreditation Service at JKU and additional study content for the doctoral program at JKU MED will be determined.

7. Is participation in the ACSP program only possible if one has completed their doctorate?

Yes! If you have completed a rigorous study program (e.g., graduates of the medical degree program before 2002) and are active in research (e.g., publication record), you can also apply for the ACSP.

8. Can I attend courses from the doctoral program at JKU MED during my research leave within the CSP?

Participants in the CSP program are allowed to attend doctoral courses at JKU MED during research leave, provided the courses fall within the usual working hours of the respective organization unit.

9. At which locations can I carry out the activities related to my research leave?

The location should be discussed with the supervisor and primarily depends on the specific research project. Generally, the Kepler University Hospital and the specific research facilities at JKU MED are to be used for research activities under the CSP/ACSP.

10. If I go on parental leave during the CSP/ACSP will this cause my participation in the program to be terminated?

There is a legal entitlement to parental leave according to the MSchG (Maternity Protection Act) and VKG (Parental Leave Act) for employees at KUK. The program can be resumed after an interruption due to parental leave.

11. How is the decision regarding admission to the Linz Clinician Scientist Program made?

Admission to the CSP or ACSP requires the successful completion of an application procedure. The submitted application materials (research proposal, CV, etc.) will be reviewed by three evaluators using defined assessment criteria and examined by a nominated selection committee.