

Offer for an Open Education Internship Project in the COLOURS European University Alliance

- Internship as Part of the Practical Semester in the Master of Education -
Paderborn University

Description of the Project

The internship is offered within the Master of Education programme at Paderborn University (UPB) and forms part of the practical semester in physical education. While the practical semester lasts five months (from October 2025 to February 2026), the internship project can be completed flexibly over a period of 4 to 5 weeks during the semester.

Interns will work in tandem with their counterpart from UPB, or in a group of four alongside another intern from a COLOURS partner institution and another UPB student.

The internship project will focus on the central question: „What does it mean to be a teacher in your country?“

Students shall explore and compare the opportunities and challenges of the teaching profession in the participating countries, thus learning about different perspectives about the job and gaining intercultural skills and understanding through working with and in a diverse and international group. Depending on the intern's background, specific sub-topics to analyse may include teaching about gender issues in schools, inclusion, teaching student with refugee backgrounds, special needs education, the role of digital media in schools, and others.

Please note that the specific topics covered in the internship are flexible and can be adapted based on the intern's academic background. The topics will be discussed and decided upon with the academic mentors of the participating institutions.

Project execution and set-up:

- **Virtual exchange and collaboration** between students from Paderborn University and at least one other COLOURS partner institution in the field of education.
- **Academic mentorship** via two mentors: Prof. Elke Grimminger Seidensticker from UPB and a further supervisor from a COLOURS partner institution that needs to be named by the participating student (s).
- **Project outcomes** should be discussed with mentors and can take various formats, such as a short article, presentation, portfolio or a podcast. Any grading or ECTS allocation must be arranged individually between students and their academic mentors.
- **Programme:** Master of Education – Physical Education
- **Subject(s):** All fields related to teacher training/education – preferably physical education
- **Level:** Master’s or Bachelor’s students in higher/advanced semesters
- **External Partners:** Different schools of the district government (Detmold district government)
- **Timing of internship:** Between October 2025 to February 2026
- **Duration/ Length in weeks:** 4 to 5 weeks plus preparatory phase/ digital “get-to-know phase”
- **Mobility Type:** virtual
- **Financing Options:** none
- **Language:** English (other languages may be used in the joint project setting in consultation with the academic mentors/ supervisors).

Application:

Only **master's students or Bachelor's students in higher/advanced semesters in education/teacher training or a related field, preferably physical education**, are eligible to apply for the internship project. Applicants must have or find a mentor at their home institution who is willing to supervise their work. Applications can be submitted until **June 15, 2025**.

To apply, please submit a motivation letter outlining your academic background, experience and reasons for applying to the internship, along with your CV, to Mouna Amhoud (implementation.colours@uni-paderborn.de). If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Amhoud.

COLOURS European University Alliance

Since January 2024, Paderborn University has been coordinating the [Colours European University Alliance](#), funded by the European Commission with approximately 14 million euros. The initiative aims to foster long-term collaboration in research, teaching, and knowledge transfer, enhance international visibility, and promote the mobility of students and researchers across Europe.

COLOURS stands for *"COLlaborative innOvative sUustainable Regional univerSities,"* and focuses on *open innovation, challenge-based teaching, challenge-based learning, and impact-driven research*. These topics are closely linked to the regional *"Smart Specialisation Goals"*: Health and Well-being, Food Production, green transition & IT and digitalisation. Through this approach, COLOURS seeks to drive social and technological innovation for citizens across Europe and accelerate progress through strategic cooperation.

Through hands-on, challenge-based activities like the Open Education Internship Projects, the Alliance aims to engage students from all COLOURS partners, empowering them to contribute actively and collaborate in developing innovative solutions while fostering cultural exchange.

Alongside Paderborn University as the coordinating institution, the Alliance includes Le Mans University (France), the University of Castilla-La Mancha (Spain), the University of Ferrara (Italy), Kristianstad University (Sweden), Jan Długosz University in Częstochowa (Poland), Josip Juraj Strossmayer University in Osijek (Croatia), Ventspils University of Applied Sciences (Latvia), as well as St. Kliment Ohridski University in Bitola (North Macedonia). Additionally, Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University (Ukraine) is an associated partner.