

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

The new „Stadthaus“ in Paderborn: Opportunities and challenges of a multi-purpose building for administration and community services in a European context

- Paderborn University -

Description of the Project

This internship project is offered by the City of Paderborn. The project can be worked on by students virtually or in a blended format, and may last between 8 and 12 weeks. The internship project should be accomplished between September 15 and December 2025.

Background information:

The city administration of Paderborn is to be located at two different sites in the future:

Location 1: In the city centre (address: Abdinghof)

Location 2: Outside the city centre (address: Hoppenhof)

At its meeting on 30 January, 2020, Paderborn City Council decided to build a new „Stadthaus“ at Location 1 (Abdinghof). The redesign of the surrounding squares (Franz-Stock-Platz, Abdinghofplatz) will also part of the overall project.

Location 1 has been completely vacated over the past weeks and months. Some of the buildings have been demolished in order to create a new building complex.

The new Stadthaus will act as central point of contact for all citizens and visitors of Paderborn, and will not only offer versatile and modern services for citizens, but will also serve as a community centre. The redesigned residents' and registry office as well

as the lost property office, the tourist information, ticket service and digital offers, such as information terminals, will all be located in the new Stadthaus. A café and the new children's health and computer library will also be housed in the building.

A multifunctional area will provide space for a variety of activities, while at the same time, smaller multi-purpose rooms will also be available. In addition, the new Stadthaus will boast a bicycle car park with around 200 public, roofed bicycle parking spaces as well as charging stations for e-bikes.

The Stadthaus is therefore not a classic city administration building. There are numerous rooms available that can also be used by external parties (associations, institutions). At the same time, parts of the building will also be accessible to citizens outside the regular opening hours of the administration services. The building is scheduled to be opened in 2028.

The multifunctional citizen service area will receive €8 million in funding from the Ministry of Regional Identity, Local Government, Building and Digitalization of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia.

Further information on the Stadthaus can be found **here** (website available in German only).

Tasks and objectives of the internship project work

The city administration is currently planning the buildings and outdoor facilities, and coordinating the construction work. The next step, however, will be to fill the new Stadthaus with life.

The creation of a service centre for citizens in the heart of the city, where not only administrative services but also third-party services can be used, brings with it new challenges, opportunities and risks.

As part of the internship project work, taking a look at how other European countries and cities are dealing with similar projects will be very valuable:

- *How do other European city administrations go about public administration?*
- *Are there similar approaches abroad to creating community centres and linking administrative services for citizens with other services?*
- *What role does digitalisation of public administration processes play?*
- *What is the role of libraries?*
- *Which administrative services are high in demand by citizens?*
- *How does citizens participation in other countries work in terms of shaping the existing range of services in their own municipalities? And how well is it accepted?*

The aim of the project work will be to find best practice examples of similar buildings and services in other European municipalities. It should be analysed which ideas and approaches from other countries could be taken into account when creating the Paderborn Stadthaus in order to establish a functioning community centre.

At the same time, any negative experiences and challenges from other countries could should also be gathered so that these could be taken into consideration when designing the new Stadthaus.

Project execution and set-up:

- **(Virtual) exchange and collaboration** between students from at least 2 COLOURS partner institutions from the same or different study fields/ disciplines related to the project task
- **(Virtual) Introduction/ opening presentation** and input on the project by the designated contact person at the City of Paderborn, at the start of the project phase
- **Academic mentorship via two mentors:** One from UPB plus at least 1 COLOURS partner institution act as supervisors for project work

- **Project outcomes** will need to be presented by the students as final presentation and written handout (or final paper). Any grading or ECTS allocation must be arranged individually between students and their academic mentors.
- **Programme:** Humanities, social sciences, economics and business administration, or other programmes
- **Subject(s):** Sociology, Architecture, IT, Business & Economics, Administrative Sciences or other relevant fields
- **Level:** Any
- **External Partners:** City of Paderborn
- **Timing (Dates) of internship:** From 15 September until December 2025
- **Duration/ Length in weeks:** 8 - 12 weeks within the above mentioned timing
- **Mobility Type:** virtual or blended
- **Financing Options:** none (if blended option is chosen, students are encouraged to apply for ERASMUS+ funding at their home institution)
- **Language:** B2 level of English proficiency required (other languages may be used in the joint project setting in consultation with the academic mentors/supervisors).

Application:

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). Applications can be submitted until **15 August 2025**. Applicants must have or find a mentor at their home institution who is willing to supervise their work.

If you have any questions about this process, 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.