

Job description: PhD Position

DC12 – Title of IRP12:

Students' language learning motivation from a critical language awareness perspective

Researcher profile: Doctoral candidate.

Research fields: Migratory and educational plurilingualism, Affective factors in language learning and teaching, Language policies, Language ideologies, Language education

Type of contract: Temporary.

Job status: Full-time.

Duration: 36 months.

Application deadline: 8 July 2026, 11:59 pm (CEST)

Envisaged job starting date: 1 November 2026.

How to apply:

See application process and application form on the project website: www.multilawa.eu, cf. <Recruitment>, <https://www.multilawa.eu/recruitment-for-applying/general-information/>

Hiring organisation and offer posting contact details

Organisation: University of Mannheim, Mannheim

Number of positions available: 1.

Country: Germany.

Address: Universität Mannheim, Romanisches Seminar, L15,1-6, 68131 Mannheim

This PhD position is part of a double-degree programme. Upon completion, candidates will be awarded **one joint doctoral degree**, on two PhD diplomas, following research stays at both institutions: **University of Mannheim** (diploma conferred by the **University of Mannheim**) and **University of Copenhagen** (diploma conferred by the **University of Copenhagen**).

Offer description

We are looking for 1 Doctoral Candidate (DC) to join our project at multiple sites in the EU with a master's degree (or equivalent) in a relevant field with appropriate background for the doctoral project, such as a **Master of Arts**, **Master of Translation**, **Master of Education**, or a **Master of Science** in Linguistics or a closely related discipline.

MultiLAWa:

The MultiLAWa initiative is an interdisciplinary research programme that promotes the concept of **Multilingual Language Awareness** as it investigates Language Awareness in multilingual contexts, zooming in on Critical Language Awareness, Metalinguistic Awareness, and Practical Language Awareness. Adopting a broad understanding of Language Awareness as a general, socially embedded competence, the project addresses major language-related challenges in a

rapidly digitalising society and contributes to the development of sustainable, inclusive, and pluri-/multilingual ecosystems across Europe.

MultiLAWa capitalises on the diverse expertise of its 26 interacting partners and can rely on a solid and highly experienced **multi-stakeholder partnership**. Thanks to the exceptional collaboration between 10 universities in 8 European countries and 16 associated partners, the DC will benefit from an international, interdisciplinary and intersectoral training, including in-depth training in key research skills in the fields of (Applied) Linguistics, Digital Linguistics and Language Technologies, Gender Linguistics, Interactional Linguistics, Sociolinguistics, Lexicography, Terminology, LSP, Didactics and Language Policy and transferable skills (e.g. Open Science, Intellectual Property Rights, Ethics, Scientific Presentation, etc.).

The consortium will train 14 DCs as **plurilingual ambassadors of plurilingualism** in research excellence by using both **English** and **German** for internal communication during the training events and to achieve the respective research objectives in their multilingual Individual Research Project.

Scientific context of the Individual Research Project IRP12:

IRP12 is embedded into **Work Package 4 (WP4) ‘Language learning and plurilingualism in the era of GenAI’**. In light of technological advances in digital tools and resources, as well as the ongoing migration crisis, WP4 reconsiders the main concepts and approaches to language learning and teaching: it investigates practical language awareness, metalinguistic awareness and critical language awareness as well as learner autonomy, motivation and plurilingualism from the learners’ perspective. It will conduct pedagogical experiments and analyse interview, survey and classroom data, as well as curricula and language teaching/learning materials. WP4 will produce guidelines for students, teachers, teacher trainers and decision-makers and innovative teaching materials, resources and pathways for formal and non-formal language learning in a digital Europe.

In this context, IRP12 investigates learner motivations regarding home and additional languages in a digital Europe.

Recruiting University: University of Mannheim (UMA), Germany

Partner University for the Joint Doctorate: University of Copenhagen (UCPH), Denmark

Objectives:

As recent digital developments have created new conditions for students’ language learning motivation in European countries characterised by indigenous, migratory & educational plurilingualism, IRP12 will, based on the UNESCO *World Atlas of Languages*:

- 1) analyse and compare students’ language learning motivation in the countries represented in MultiLAWa and in the context of GenAI, encompassing home languages and additional languages in (non)formal contexts (survey study);
- 2) triangulate and validate the findings as well as provide a more nuanced and contextualised perspective on the results, through qualitative data collected in a number of countries selected on the basis of the survey results (interviews);
- 3) formulate, from a critical language awareness perspective, extended points of attention for education and language policies regarding home and additional languages, to be disseminated.

Expected Results:

- An analysis of learner motivations regarding home and additional languages in (non)formal learning environments;
- Student data on the challenges/opportunities represented by the recent digital developments;
- Guidelines for stakeholders, such as students/teachers/decision-makers concerning the use, challenges and benefits of GenAI, and their impact on students' language learning motivation.

Secondments:

- UNESCO, Paris (France), 5 months
- Observatoire Européen du Plurilinguisme (*Online*), 1 month

Special selection criteria for the IRP12:

Languages: German at level B2 (written and spoken), knowledge in English at level C1 is expected.

Methodology/Digital skills: Quantitative methods (experiences with survey studies and statistics), Qualitative methods (interviews), Comparative methods, GenAI skills

For further information contact the co-supervisors of IRP12:

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