

Job description: PhD Position

DC14 – Title of IRP14:

Language awareness and communicative ability through exposure: Data-driven approaches with corpora and GenAI

Researcher profile: Doctoral candidate.

Research fields: Applied Linguistics, Contrastive Linguistics, Corpus Linguistics, Didactics

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 Vienna

Number of positions available: 1.

Country: Austria.

Address: Universitätsring 1, 1010 Wien

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 Vienna** (diploma conferred by the **University of Vienna**) and **Université de Lorraine** (diploma conferred by the **Université de Lorraine**).

Offer description

In brief:

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 IRP14:

IRP14 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, IRP14 investigates how massive exposure to structured language can enhance Language Awareness and communicative ability.

Recruiting University: University of Vienna (UNIVIE), Austria

Partner University for the Joint Doctorate: Université de Lorraine (UL), Nancy, France

Objectives:

Digitisation has a massive impact on the availability and usability of language data, but its effect on Language Awareness and communicative ability is only gradually being explored. IRP14 investigates how massive exposure to structured language can enhance Language Awareness and communicative ability. Structured language mainly involves: a) corpora of authentic language in the form of data-driven learning (DDL); b) LLMs that underlie GenAI chatbots. Drawing on a usage-based approach, IRP14 will:

- 1) compare the learning potentials/affordances from different forms of ‘authentic’ language exposure;
- 2) analyse current uses of corpora and GenAI for language learning in formal and non-formal contexts, exploring how the strengths of corpora and GenAI can be best combined;
- 3) develop new practices for combining use of corpora and GenAI in developing language skills, testing these empirically.

Expected Results:

- Identification and inventory of existing resources (e.g., corpora, GenAI, platforms or interfaces) for commonly and less commonly taught languages;
- Compilation of an NLP-ready corpus for a Less Commonly Taught Language ;
- Development of resources and recommendations for personalised or personalisable uses for life-long learning.

Secondment:

- Lexical Computing (LC), Prague (Czech Republic), 4 months

Special selection criteria for the IRP14:

Languages: English and German at level B2 (written and spoken), Knowledge of at least one Less Commonly Taught (European (endangered)) Language is expected.

For further information contact the co-supervisors of IRP14:

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