

## Job description: PhD Position

### DC3 – Title of IRP3:

*Multilingual digital practices and digital literacy: Designing and using digital applications in the workplace and higher education*

**Researcher profile:** Doctoral candidate.

**Research fields:** Applied Linguistics, Conversation Analysis, Interactional Linguistics, Sociolinguistics

**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](http://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, D-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** (degree conferred by the **University of Mannheim**) and **University of Milan** (degree conferred by the **University of Milan**).

### 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 IRP3:

IRP3 is embedded into **Work Package 1 (WP1)** ‘Multilingual communication and resources in the Digital Age: discourses, practices, stereotypes’. WP1 investigates how the concepts of Language Awareness and pluri-/multilingualism are discursively constructed, ideologically framed, and technologically mediated in digital contexts across various societal fields (e.g., media, education, industry, politics). It will provide a research-based catalogue of arguments and language ideologies, with particular attention to issues of linguistic justice, gender fairness, and inclusion.

In this context, IRP3 explores multilingual digital practices and digital literacy in the workplace and higher education.

Recruiting University: University of Mannheim (UMA), Germany

Partner University for the Joint Doctorate: University of Milan (UNIMI), Italy

## Objectives:

IRP3 will investigate the complex interdependence of linguistic digital tools and communicative practices in different areas by analysing the conception of these applications and their everyday use:

- 1) Analyse how a) multilingual digital applications are designed and conceived, also with respect to the designers’ underlying assumptions about plurilingualism and users’ needs and expectations, b) digitally competent adult users (in a Higher Education setting) use text & translation generating tools in their language learning practices;
- 2) Provide a qualitative study on different types of data to compare the designers’ and users’ perspectives, also considering possible gender differences, a) on linguistic

structures and patterns and their Language Awareness, and b) on the assumed and current state of digital literacy these two participant groups consider when talking about, designing, & using such multilingual digital applications.

### **Expected Results:**

- Assessment of Language Awareness in designing linguistic digital tools in the sense of Metalinguistic Awareness and Critical Language Awareness, and recommendations for making their design more sensitive to plurilingual matters and users' needs and practices;
- Assessment of digital skills that foster language learning processes, Language Awareness and the importance of digital literacy;
- One podcast during the secondment at associated partner UVB.

### **Secondments:**

- Univerbal (UVB), Zurich, 2 months
- University of Copenhagen (UCPH), Copenhagen, 2 months

### **Special selection criteria for the IRP3:**

**Languages:** English at level B2, German at level C1 (written and spoken), basic knowledge of Italian is an advantage

**Methodology/Digital skills:** Knowledge of qualitative approaches and methods (e.g., ethnography, fieldwork, interviews, video recordings, sequential/multimodal analysis of social interaction, transcription) and experience with suitable software tools (e.g., video editing, video analysis, transcription software) are an advantage

### **For further information contact the co-supervisors of IRP3:**

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