

Call for Participation

in the project “The tensions of internationalisation – international and transnational educational exchanges in Moldova”

Students and doctoral students of Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU) are invited to gain international research experience in the project “The tensions of internationalisation – international and transnational educational exchanges in Moldova”.

The project is led by the Chair of Diversity Education and International Educational Research at Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU) (Germany) in cooperation with the Ion Creangă State Pedagogical University of Chișinău. The project is funded by the DAAD (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst - DAAD) from the funds provided by the German Foreign Office (Auswärtiges Amt – AA) as part of the programme “East-West Dialogue. Academic exchange and scientific cooperation for security, collaboration and civil society development in Europe”.

About the Project

The project addresses the tensions of internationalization within Moldova's educational system, specifically through the lens of educational exchanges. The project reflects on the development of internationalization in Moldovan education, focusing on three key sectors: higher education, school education, and non-formal international youth exchanges. The project will systematically describe and analyse cross-border educational exchanges in Moldova, paying special attention to key tensions. These include the selection of cooperation partners, the dynamics between state-led foreign cultural and educational policies and private transnational exchanges by NGOs, and the different pedagogical concepts used in these exchanges (goal 1). By involving established researchers, early-career researchers, and students the project promotes the cross-border academic dialogue and the networks in the field of international education between Germany and Moldova and contributes to the development of the expertise of (early-career) researchers and professionals in this thematic field (goal 2). By involving non-university civil-society actors the project connects the theory and practice of cross-border educational exchanges and provides deeper insights for the research and recommendations for the educational practices of educational exchanges (goal 3). The results will be presented and discussed at two dialogue forums in Germany and Moldova, making them available to the public beyond the academia (goal 4).

The project's activities include virtual meetings, a visit of a delegation from FAU to the Ion Creangă State Pedagogical University of Chișinău for preparatory workshops, a summer school for Moldovan and German participants in Germany, research stays for small-scale projects in both Germany and Moldova, and a final event (dialogue forum) in Chișinău for the discussion and dissemination of the project's results, including a project-related publication. Participants of the project work on individual topics related to the overall topic of the project. They deepen their knowledge and research skills in the field of International Education, foster their intercultural competence, develop professional networks, and thus contribute to the development of the civil society and democracy and to reducing conflicts in the region.

Futher information about the project:

<https://www.interedu.phil.fau.de/forschung/forschungsbereich-1/aktuelle-projekte/the-tensions-of-internationalisation-in-moldova/>

Project Activities and Funding

Project members will participate in workshops and dialogue forums (online /on-site), in a summer school at FAU and – if selected for the scholarships – in the international academic mobility to Moldova.

Doctoral students selected for the academic mobility will receive financial support from the project funds:

- 2 scholarships (doctoral students) for research stay (1 month) at the Ion Creangă State Pedagogical University of Chișinău in the Republic of Moldova. The funding includes mobility and residence scholarships according to the DAAD funding framework.

The tentative dates of the summer school in Germany: 22 – 26 June 2026.

Specific dates for the research stay are to be arranged individually; the recommended timeframe is September – October 2026.

Who may apply?

Students and doctoral students of Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU) with a research focus on educational, social or political studies related to the internationalisation of education. Scholarships for research stays in Moldova are primarily reserved for doctoral students.

Selection Criteria

- Excellent academic performance and interests related to internationalization in education and international educational exchanges
- motivation and the specific topic proposal for the project
- good English language skills (B2/C1 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) and the motivation to improve the English language skills for academic purposes
- prior international experience.

How to apply?

Please send until 23 February 2026

- a letter of motivation in English (max. 1 page), detailing your research interests in the internationalization of education and international educational exchanges
- a CV including a record of your research activities and outputs
- proof of status as a (doctoral) student at FAU.

to the project director Prof. Dr. Anatoli Rakhkochkine (anatoli.rakhkochkine@fau.de).