



## Job Announcement

The University of Potsdam was founded in 1991 and has firmly established itself within the scientific landscape and developed into an outstanding economic factor and growth engine for the region. The university excels in acquiring third-party funds, has received multiple teaching awards, has a very service-oriented administration, and has been honored several times for its family-friendly culture. About 20,000 students and 3,000 employees study and work at three campuses – Am Neuen Palais, Griebnitzsee and Golm – at one of Germany’s most scenic institutions of higher education.

The **University of Potsdam, Faculty of Human Sciences, Professorship Teaching in Schools/Empirical Research into Teaching** with the project **“Teachers’ Use of Motivational Messages in the Classroom”** invites applications at the earliest possible date a position as:

### **Academic Staff Member** **Requisition No.: 376/2024**

The salary is determined by the collective bargaining agreement for public employees in Germany (TV-L 13 Ost). The position is for 26 hours per week (65 %) in the project and 10 hours per week (25 %) in the professorship – making a total of 36 hours per week (90 %).

This is a temporary position limited to a term of 3 years/36 months in accordance with Section 2 subsection 1 of the Academic Fixed-Term Contract Law (WissZeitVG).

#### **Your Field of Work:**

The Research Unit "Research on Schools and Instruction" is concerned with school and instruction-related teaching and learning processes. Focal points of our empirical quantitative research are motivational research and high-quality instruction. In this context, we also consider the question of how artificial intelligence informs educational research processes.

The project „Teacher motivational messages in class: Using Large Language Models to understand social dynamics in classrooms“ is funded by the German Research Foundation and is an innovative project that will use large language modelling to classify teachers’ motivational messages in authentic classrooms. We aim to better understand the role that such messages play in motivating students to learn.

#### **The Scope of Your Responsibilities:**

In the project “Teachers’ Use of Motivational Messages in the Classroom”:

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- Planning, coordinating, and participating in the recruitment of schools, teachers, and students for study participation, leading data collection in schools and supervising student assistants
- Contributing to the development of survey instruments and assisting in the development of a language model for classifying teachers' motivational language
- Data management and conducting quantitative analyses
- Preparing project-related manuscripts, conference presentations and project reports

#### **Professorship:**

- Teaching in the field of education/educational science
- Participation in the research priorities of the Chair and attendance at meetings, team meetings, etc.

At least one-third of the working hours will be dedicated to the individual's own in-depth scientific work (PhD/habilitation).

The teaching load for the 10 hours per week at the professorship is based on the requirements of the Teaching Obligations Ordinance (LehrVV) of the State of Brandenburg, as amended, and the Regulation for Calculating Teaching Load that was passed by the Senate of the University of Potsdam. This position is assigned to the group of academic employees "with ...".

### **Your Qualifications:**

Applicants must hold an academic degree (Diploma/Master and possibly a PhD) in Psychology, Education, Human Factors or related sciences.

Applicants should have knowledge in the following areas:

- Strong understanding of research designs and data collection methods
- Excellent skills in planning, conducting, and statistically analyzing quantitative studies (including longitudinal analyses, process and multilevel analyses)
- Knowledge of statistical software such as SPSS, R, or Mplus
- Excellent written scientific communication skills
- Strong team collaboration and cooperation skills
- Very good written English skills

The position offers a dedicated team where great importance is placed on a productive and stimulating work atmosphere, characterized by cooperation and mutual exchange.

We are also looking for the following competences:

- Very good written and spoken German skills desirable
- Experience in data collection (e.g., psychological experiments, research in educational settings)
- Experience with or interest in using AI-based methods in educational research, such as Large Language Models

### **What We Offer:**

As a university, we combine the developmental strength of a teaching and research institution with the attractive working conditions of the public sector. The University of Potsdam is a reliable employer that supports its employees with a variety of offers and benefits:

- Develop yourself and your professional as well as interdisciplinary competencies in various continuing education and networking opportunities offered by the University of Potsdam.
- All locations have good transport connections. They can receive a monthly subsidy for the public transport job ticket and use campus bicycles.
- Benefit from a company pension plan, a special annual payment and asset-building services.
- Take advantage of the diverse offers from occupational health management as well as university sports.
- To improve work-life balance, the University of Potsdam offers its employees flexible working hours and proportional home office hours. You have 30 vacation days per year and are also exempt from work on December 24 and 31. Our service for families can advise you on issues relating to the reconciliation of work and family life.

You can find more information about working at the University of Potsdam at <https://www.uni-potsdam.de/de/arbeiten-an-der-up/arbeitgeberin/uebersicht>

For further information regarding the position, please contact Prof. Dr. Rebecca Lazarides, E-Mail: [rebecca.lazarides@uni-potsdam.de](mailto:rebecca.lazarides@uni-potsdam.de)

**Your Application:**

Please send us your application by **January 6, 2025** via email to <mailto:ina.tausche@uni-potsdam.de> with the subject time "**Application ID. 376/2024**". Your application (a single PDF) should contain a cover letter, your curriculum vitae, your list of publications, statement of past and future research activities.

The University of Potsdam values the diversity of its community and pursues the goals of equal opportunity regardless of gender, nationality, ethnic and social origin, religion/belief, disability, age, and sexual orientation and identity. Applications from abroad and from persons with an immigrant background are expressly encouraged. The university strives for a balanced gender ratio in all employment groups; in areas where women are underrepresented, women are given preference in case of equal suitability (Section 7 paragraph 4 of the Brandenburg Higher Education Act). People with disabilities are given preferential consideration in cases of equal qualifications. In aptitude tests and selection interviews, individual disadvantage compensations are granted that are appropriate to their disability. If a person with a disability would like to make use of individual disadvantage compensation, please state this in the application letter.

Potsdam, December 2, 2024