

Call for the

EERA Summer School 2025



Cultures in education, cultures in research –
education and research in cultures

2 – 6 June 2025
Chemnitz, Germany



We warmly invite doctoral students to apply to our five-day Summer School 2 - 6 June 2025.

The theme of the EERA Summer School 2025 is „Cultures in education, cultures in research – education and research in cultures“. The Summer School will take place at the University of Technology Chemnitz in Germany, 2 - 6 June 2025.

In 2025, the city of Chemnitz will be the European Capital of Culture. This is why the Chemnitz University of Technology, host of the EERA Summer School 2025, decided to focus on the role of „culture“ in educational research, policy and practice.

People commonly understand by culture something determined by what used to be called *kalokagathia* in ancient Greek. It meant 'the beauty' and 'the good' as common qualities of a person. Plato added 'the truth' – and this triad became the central idea of German new humanism. From then on, this was the absolute measure of any kind of art for many decades. But: does 'culture' equal 'art'? Does it consist in artefacts – as opposed to 'natural' phenomena? Is it the language? Is it the way of clothing, the way of building houses, the way of creating tools and making use of them? Is it the traditional organization of a society or is it the way of organizing a society? Is it the constitution of an economy, the integration of people into an occupation, or, the approach to vocational education? The Summer School aims at critically questioning the concept of 'culture' and its understanding in processes of educational research, policies and practices.

In fact, there is still hardly any topic in educational research, that lacks the notion of 'culture', often with highly contrasting and opposing understandings of the concept. And sometimes it appears in the first row, as one of the few formalized criteria of evaluation at the ECER conferences is the criterion 'the paper speaks out to a European audience'. This shows that the EERA, too, assumes that educational research can be grounded in quite different cultural national or regional backgrounds – without referring explicitly to 'culture'. The more: as we can find different cultures in educational research, nothing to say in different faculties – just to talk to an economist, a physician, an engineer on their research.

Quite contrarily to these observations of cultural diversity, the ideal of science was to strive for universality in the results of our research. The outcomes were expected to be independent against time and group: How can we, as researchers, handle today this challenging antagonism? How can education address differences and the diversification of diversity within research without falling into the trap of culturalization and the (re)production of cultural stereotypes? How can researchers address the context specificity by at the same time generate research results that contribute to more equitable education systems around the globe?

Today, we would not hesitate to expect different results from different backgrounds. And we could profit by difference. Culture counts, and, in the understanding of context specificity, it counts in educational research, too. But this requires obviously

- a broad, differentiated and critical understanding of culture and cultures.
- a deep reflection of what our personal embeddedness means to the topics and results of our research.
- an awareness of how the results of our research are not only a question of method, but also a question of the specific disciplinary, university, faculty, and research group culture(s).

This Summer School will open the ground to the participants to connect the approach of enhancing the awareness of effects or conditions of the cultural context. For this purpose, we are proud to announce a keynote speech by Prof. Paul Standish (University College

of London). Paul Standish is a true leader in philosophy of education and has dealt with the topos of 'culture' in his educational works. In their work as educationalists, his input will excite the participants to search for their way to a critical idea of culture as a medium of their research work, of their topic, and, of their faculty.

We will try to enlarge the methodological horizon of the participants in favour of their future research. We will provide an introduction or refreshment into the method of phenomenology and train our phenomenological skills. Alongside with working on the capital of awareness of culture in the capital of culture, this would be the central aim of the 2025 Summer School.

Who can apply and what does it cost?

Applicants are doctoral students who primarily come from or study in member countries of EERA. Their thesis must relate to educational research. Preferably, the participant should be a Ph.D. student in the first or second year of his/her studies in order to benefit the most from this Summer School.

The application process will include:

- Abstract of your research (objectives and research questions of your PhD project; conceptual framework; intended methodology, methods, instruments; conclusions, expected outcomes or findings; motivation; references)
- CV
- Letter of endorsement from a current or former supervisor or other senior staff member

Applications can be made online at <https://www.conftool.net/eerss2025/>

Participation fees for the EERSS 2025 Summer School differ depending on if you currently reside in a Low or High GDP country. Participation fees will not include accommodation, but participants have the option to book a single en-suite room at 2 EERSS-partner hotels at a reduced price.

Country of residence	Participation Fee	Hotel 5 nights*	Total (incl. hotel)
Low GDP	60 €	240 € - 260 €	300 € - 320 €
High GDP	150 €	240 € - 260 €	390 € - 410 €

The fee covers tuition, coffee breaks, lunch, and the social programme.

***Please note:** Booking your lodging at one of our partner hotels is optional. You are free to book somewhere else in Chemnitz if you wish.

Participants must cover their travel costs themselves.

Participants are expected to participate actively throughout the duration of the Summer School.

Important Dates

Application period: 15 November 2024 - 15 January 2025

Information on acceptance: 1 March 2025

Registration/payment: 2 March - 31 March 2025

Summer School: 2 - 6 June 2025

Information and Contact

For more information on the Summer School:

<https://eera-ecer.de/seasonschools/eera-summer-school-2025>

To apply to the Summer School:

<https://www.conftool.net/eerss2025/>

EERA Office contact: dow@eera.eu