



PhD Program between the Freie Universität Berlin (FUB) and the China Scholarship Council (CSC)

**Open PhD Position at Freie Universität Berlin,
offered only to Chinese CSC scholarship candidates 2025**

Department/Institute: Department of Education and Psychology, Professorship
of Primary Education |

Subject area: Education science, primary education, psychology |

Name of Supervisor: Professor Dr. Marianne Schüpbach |

Number of open PhD positions: 2 Full-time |

Type of the PhD Study: Full-time |

Project title: Development and Evaluation of an Educational Robotics
Intervention in All-Day Primary Schools in Extended Education |

PhD Project description:

The aim of the PhD projects is to co-develop, implement, and evaluate an educational robotics program – an afterschool program – to enhance digital competencies among primary school students within the context of extended education/all-day school in Germany. The background is the lack of evidence-based extracurricular STEM activities in Germany, particularly in the digital education domain. The program will offer children aged 8-9 the opportunity to program robots using LEGO Education (Koch & Giest, 2020). As part of the project, a program manual will be created, and university students are to be trained to implement the manual-based program in a weekly after-school club at several primary schools in Berlin. Evaluation will be conducted using a pre-, post- and follow-up design. The focus will be on the one hand on the children's competence growth in ICT, computational thinking etc. and on the other hand the children's social competence both of whom are assessed by standardized tests. Furthermore, the program's process quality will be assessed. The project is scheduled to begin at Freie Universität Berlin in October 2025, with implementation in schools planned from October 2026 to July 2027. The total project duration is four years.

Language requirements:

- IELTS: 6,5 oder TOEFL: 95 ibt
or/and
- Test Daf 16 bzw. DSH 2

Academic requirements:

- Education science or Psychology MA's degree
- Affinity towards STEM topics
- Very good skills in empirical quantitative research methods
- Interest in research with children of primary school age
- Interest in research in afterschool programs in primary all-day schools

Information of the professor or research group leader (website, awards etc.):

The three research group leaders:

- **Dr. Marianne Schüpbach is a professor in Primary Education**

https://www.ewi-psy.fu-berlin.de/en/grundschulpaedagogik/arbeitsbereiche/allg_grundschulpaed/mitarb/leitung/schuepbach_m/index.html

Her research projects: https://www.ewi-psy.fu-berlin.de/en/grundschulpaedagogik/arbeitsbereiche/allg_grundschulpaed/forschung/index.html

She is the chair of the worldwide WERA research network TASK FORCE *Global Research in Extended Education*: <https://www.ewi-psy.fu-berlin.de/en/v/wera-irn-extended-education/index.html>

- **Dr. Nanine Lilla is postdoctoral researcher in education**

https://www.ewi-psy.fu-berlin.de/en/grundschulpaedagogik/arbeitsbereiche/allg_grundschulpaed/mitarb/mitarbeitende/lilla_n/index.html

Her main areas of work include all-day school research and socially disadvantaged (primary) school students. She has been involved in several research projects on these topics as project leader. In 2022, she received the Career Development Award from the Berlin University Alliance (BUA).

- **Dr. Helvi Koch is a Researcher in Primary Education**

https://www.ewi-psy.fu-berlin.de/en/grundschulpaedagogik/arbeitsbereiche/allg_grundschulpaed/mitarb/mitarbeitende/koch_h/index.html

Her research interests: implementation and evaluation of pedagogical-psychological interventions to foster primary school childrens' competencies, e.g. according to educational robotics

Please note:

In a first step, the complete application should be uploaded to the online portal (<https://fuberlin.moveon4.de/form/60acfece5d328710e40bdbd5/eng>) for evaluation by January 15th, 2025.

Falls Sie Fragen haben, können Sie diese jederzeit direkt an mich richten.

Mit den besten Grüßen

*CSC Coordinator Berlin
International Office*