3-year PhD position at the Institute of Psychology, Faculty 1: Educational Sciences, University of Koblenz-Landau

The group of Prof. Dr. Claudia Quaiser-Pohl at the Institute of Psychology, Faculty 1: Educational Sciences of the University of Koblenz-Landau, Germany and the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Network (MSCA-ITN) project SellSTEM offers an Early Stage Researcher (ESR and PhD Student) position.

About SellSTEM
Spatially Enhanced Learning Linked to STEM (SellSTEM) is an international research and training network funded by MSCA-ITN under H2020. It aims to find new ways to raise the spatial ability levels of boys and especially girls across Europe so they are better prepared for the cognitive demands of STEM education. SellSTEM has 15 ESR positions spread across three work packages. The SellSTEM network consists of 10 universities and 8 non-academic partners in Europe. SellSTEM will implement best practice in doctoral training through a carefully developed and comprehensive training programme and secondment of ESRs to different SellSTEM partners. For more details visit sellstem.eu.

Thesis project:
Spatial ability development in the primary school years and its relation to affective and academic measures in STEM learning in girls and boys

Background and objectives of the thesis project:
It is the main goal to determine the relation of spatial ability to performance and self-efficacy in STEM learning among primary-school children. Furthermore, new knowledge on how stereotype threat effects gender differences in spatial ability development should be generated. Primary school teachers should be provided with appropriate tests to measure spatial ability development to indicate potential difficulties in STEM learning for early diagnosis and correction and with knowledge about how to motivate and foster girls in STEM learning.

Essential criteria
Applicants should be highly motivated individuals holding a Master’s degree in Psychology or Educational Sciences with a strong background within the fields of Developmental Psychology and Cognitive Psychology in the context of gender development. Candidates should have the ability to work independently and in collaboration with others, and have excellent oral and written communication skills in English. In line with the MSCA mobility rule, applicants must have resided Germany for less than 12 months in the 3 years immediately before the recruitment date (01 September 2021) and have not carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in Germany – unless as part of a procedure for obtaining refugee status under the Geneva Convention. Candidates must also be in the early stage of their research career, defined as having spent less than 4 years (full time equivalent) in a research position since graduating from a degree required for entry to doctoral education, and have not been awarded a PhD. The successful candidate must be available to start on September 1, 2021 and be prepared to spend several months on secondment to another country in Europe.
Desirable criteria
Fluency in German (C1 level) as well as experience in cognitive development and gender development research is very desirable for this position. Furthermore, we look for a person with systematic and clear thinking and has the ability to work as part of a team and on own initiative. Programming skills are desirable. The recruitment process will follow the European Charta & Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers.

How to apply
The online application form and instructions on how to apply are available on sellstem.eu. The deadline for applications is 00:00 CET, March 14, 2021. The code for this position is ESR 2.

Salary
The successful candidate will be recruited by the university for 36 months. The salary is about €3100 (brutto) per month including living and mobility allowance, gf. plus a family allowance. The exact salary will be confirmed on appointment. Other costs arising from research and training can be covered by a separate budgetary allowance. Arrangements in this regard will be made personally.

Contact
For further details on this position email Claudia Quaiser-Pohl (quaiser@uni-koblenz.de).