APPLY NOW

**#TRANSFORMINGTOMORROW: MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH US.**

IT:U is Austria's emerging public university dedicated to understanding, driving, and evaluating digital transformation for the benefit of our societies, our economy, and our environment.

The Johannes Kepler University Linz (JKU) is the largest educational and research Institution in Upper Austria. As a broad-based university pursuing an interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary and future-oriented approach, JKU is contributing significantly to transformation and building resilience in education, academia, science, research, and in society.

Shape the future with us in the

# IT:U & JKU Doctoral School for "Digital Transformation in Learning"

**up to 5 PhD positions, full-time, 4 years, on-site in Linz**

*The earliest start date for employment is October 1, 2024.*

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

In an increasingly data-driven world, artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies are changing when, what and how we learn. This development must not be one-sided, technology-driven, however, at our IT:U & JKU Doctoral School with a focus on **active learning in higher education and beyond**, we aim to shape intelligent learning technologies together with the participating students and professionals aiming to achieve long-lasting impact on higher education through active and project-based learning. We aspire to leverage artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies to empower students to take responsibility for their own learning in close collaboration and engage within an inclusive, transparent, and fair learning environment.

The Doctoral School for Digital Transformation in Learning combines IT:U's innovative interdisciplinary teaching approaches and digital competencies with the well-established and track record-proven concept of JKU's Linz School of Education to build a **lighthouse in higher education**. Our structured PhD program aims to empower students to investigate how emerging technologies could enhance and expand active learning in higher education. Such novel technology-enhanced approaches may transform how we teach and learn to support us in addressing societal and scientific challenges, for instance, to employ technologies to offer personalized learning support or generate novel learning resources.

In our Doctoral School, you will work with outstanding supervisors from our local and international eco-system who will offer their individual experiences and perspectives to support your academic progress. The PhD program aims to explore new ways of active learning from a wide range of perspectives such as individual learning psychology, social dynamics in collaborative and project-based learning, educational considerations in virtual learning scenarios, or the effects of AI on learning can all be potential project topics. This novel learning environment, combined with the wide range of topics, will demand interdisciplinary methods to effectively explore and create innovative solutions. The combination of subject-specific knowledge and interdisciplinary key competencies aims to prepare students for key roles in a future driven by digital transformation and provides a creative ecosystem to think beyond usual research approaches.

## RESPONSIBILITIES AND TASKS

You are up! We expect you to acquire new skills within our learning labs and to independently conduct interdisciplinary research. You will also gain valuable educational experience while having the opportunity to teach other students in your field of expertise. Over the course of four years, you will write and publish several research papers, culminating in writing and defending your PhD thesis. To achieve all of this, we expect you to work independently while also collaborating with your team and relevant stakeholders in the inspiring atmosphere of the JKU and IT:U university campuses in Linz, Austria.

## SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS

To qualify for the PhD program, you must have completed a degree equivalent to a Master's degree in a field related to your desired project. It doesn't matter what your study background is (from psychology over computer science to medicine), your interest in active learning counts! We are looking for curious minds with a keen interest in interdisciplinary research and fluent English communication and academic writing skills.

## WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT

We value your work! You will be employed at IT:U during your entire PhD. We offer a gross salary in line with the market from EUR 3.578,80 on a 40-hour full-time basis. Our employees also benefit from a free Austria Climate Ticket, which covers all modes of public transportation. And of course, your coffee and snacks are on us.

## PLEASE APPLY

- curriculum vitae
- Master's diploma (or equivalent)
- motivational letter in which you let us know what topic(s) you are interested in
- up to three contacts of professors/collaborators for recommendations

**To apply, please fill in the IT:U application form and upload your files at:**
**https://it-u.limesurvey.net/645891?lang=en**

**DEADLINE: September 20th, 2024**

***come as you are –** we value and promote diversity in our team. Everyone is encouraged to realize their full potential, realize ideas and seize opportunities. Regardless of age, skin colour, religion, gender, sexual orientation or origin, we welcome applications from all people equally.

## SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE

**Ass.Prof. Dr. Sebastian Dennerlein** is a cognitive psychologist with a focus on technology-enhanced learning, co-evolving learning innovations and practices in higher education and at the workplace. In challenge-based learning and professional innovation teams, for example, he aims at unfolding the interactive process of self- and socially regulated transformative learning to collaboratively design effective learning affordances in the doctoral school. Leveraging computational approaches is a cornerstone in his ambition to understand and support learning processes, as well as focusing on ethical reflection practices for the development of responsible AI.

**Prof. Dr. Markus Hohenwarter** is a technology and mathematics education expert, specializing in the development and application of dynamic mathematics software in education. He is the founder of GeoGebra, an interactive software application used worldwide for teaching and learning mathematics. His research focuses on the integration of digital tools in education, enhancing student engagement and understanding through innovative software solutions. Within the doctoral school, Markus will provide training and support in the use of educational technologies, digital curriculum development, and the design of interactive learning environments to foster deeper mathematical comprehension and creativity.

**Prof. Dr. Zsolt Lavicza** is a mathematician and education researcher specializing in educational innovations, design, creativity, sustainability, and the integration of technologies into education. Zsolt has extensive experience working on projects and supervising PhD students addressing educational issues from around the world. Within the doctoral school, Zsolt will offer educational research training and support on topics such as educational innovations, project-based learning, technology-enhanced teaching and learning, maker education, and designing creative and sustainable educational ecosystems.

**Prof. Dr. Lana Ivanjek** is a physics education researcher specialized in development and validation of research-based teaching materials for university level and for high school. She has experience in development and validation of concept tests for middle-school, high school and university level, as well as with the development of critical thinking skills test related to climate change. Within the doctoral school her focus will be on new teaching-learning environments in university settings, virtual reality for improving teaching and eye tracking in educational research.

**Prof. Dr. Lars-Peter Kamolz, M.Sc.** is a plastic surgeon and heads the University Clinic for Surgery at the LKH University Hospital Graz, Medical University of Graz; In this role he is not only a doctor, but also a researcher and teacher. He is also very active in the area of medical innovations. Within the doctoral school his focus will be to support the development and implementation of new teaching-learning techniques and environments in medical universities. Kamolz will also offer research training and support on topics within the medical and life science field.