Future-Proof Higher Education: Virtual Collaboration, AI & Digital Transformation

Join our 18th International PhD Summer School at EPOKA University Tirana, Albania!

Dates	
	• **Abstract submission deadline:** March 31, 2025
	• **Notification of acceptance:** April 15, 2025
	• **Online Phase:** June 16 - 27, 2025 (Host: UFRJ Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)
	• **Onsite Phase:** June 30 - July 4, 2025 (Host: EPOKA University Tirana, Albania)
	• **Online Reflection Phase:** July 7 - July 11, 2025 (Host: tbd)
Organizers	• EPOKA University Tirana, **Albania**
	• DHBW Karlsruhe, **Germany**
	• PHDL Linz, **Austria**
	• TU Dresden, **Germany**
	• UFRJ Rio de Janeiro, **Brazil**
	• University of Bergen, **Norway**
	• Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta (UNY), **Indonesia**
	• University of Strasbourg, **France**

About the Summer School 2025

In an era of rapid digital transformation, higher education faces unprecedented challenges and opportunities. The **PhD Summer School 2025** brings together emerging scholars and experts to explore the future of **Virtual Collaborative Learning (VCL), Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL), and Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Higher Education**.

Through interdisciplinary discussions, hands-on workshops, and collaborative projects, participants will engage in critical dialogue on how digitalization and internationalization can reshape higher education and contribute to sustainable and inclusive learning ecosystems. The program will provide a **unique networking opportunity** for PhD students working on themes related to **AI, digitalization, internationalization, and Future Skills** in education.

The 18th Summer School of the Education and Technology Doctoral Network is funded by ressources from all pertering institutions, the Erasmus Programm and the French German University UFA, among others.

Call for Papers

We invite **PhD candidates and early-career researchers** to submit abstracts related to the following themes:

1. Virtual Collaborative Learning (VCL) and Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL)

- New models for **digital collaboration in education**
- The role of **digital tools and AI** in shaping international learning experiences
- **Blended mobility and hybrid education**: integrating physical and digital learning spaces
- Digital pedagogy for **inclusion and accessibility** in international education

2. Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Education

- AI-driven **competency development and assessment**
- AI-powered **pedagogical agents and learning analytics**
- Ethical considerations of AI in higher education
- AI-enhanced **Open Educational Resources (OER) and digital learning environments**

3. Digital Transformation & Future-Proof Higher Education

- Developing **digital competencies for educators and students**
- **Future skills and employability** in the age of AI
- **Data-driven decision-making** in educational systems
- The role of digitalization in fostering **resilience and sustainability** in education

4. Ethics, Inclusion, and Sustainability in Digital Education

- **Ethical dilemmas and bias in AI-driven learning**
- **Universal Design for Learning (UDL)** and accessibility in digital education
- The impact of **digital transformation on educational equity**
- Sustainable education models in **emerging and developing economies**

Formats and Sessions

Participants will have the opportunity to present their work in a **variety of interactive formats**, including:

- **Paper presentations** (15-20 min + Q&A)
- **Hands-on workshops** (for teachers and/or students)
- **Panel discussions** with academic and industry leaders
- **Case study sessions** on digitalization, AI, and global collaboration
- **Poster presentations and mentorship sessions**

The Summer School will also include **keynote lectures by leading experts**, networking events, and **AI-driven collaboration activities** facilitated through our AI Hub, an **innovation platform connecting academia and industry**.

Submission Guidelines

Your submission should apply to the following criteria:

- **Abstracts** (300-500 words) should clearly outline the research question, methodology, and relevance to the Summer School themes.
- Include **author details** (name, affiliation, email) and a **short bio** (max. 150 words).
- Submissions should be in **English** and formatted as a PDF.
- **Deadline for abstract submission:** March 31, 2025
- **Notification of acceptance:** April 15, 2025
- **Final paper submission (optional):** June 1, 2025

All submissions must be sent to: **codip@tu-dresden.de** with the subject line **"PhD Summer School 2025 Submission"**.

Funding and Scholarships

The Summer School is supported by **Erasmus+ and the French-German University (FGU/DFH)**. Limited travel and participation grants are available for selected Ph.D. students, particularly those from low-resource institutions. Applicants will be informed about funding opportunities upon acceptance.

Contact and Further Information

For inquiries, please contact the organizing committee at **ademaj@epoka.edu.al**.

Join us in shaping the **future of international digital education and AI-enhanced learning**! 🚀