

Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg (JMU), Germany, has the following open positions:

11 Doctoral Researchers in the Research Training Group “The Experience of Stories in the Digital Age (TESDA)” (100% TV-L salary)

The positions will begin on **April 1, 2026**, and end on **September 30, 2029**. Each position is full-time. Remuneration will be based on the collective agreement for the public service of the German federal states (*Tarifvertrag für den öffentlichen Dienst der Länder, TV-L*).

Disciplines Involved: Communication Science, Psychology, Computer Science

The Research Training Group (RTG)

Humans spend a large part of life engaging with stories. Research from recent decades shows that stories have a strong influence on recipients, and scholars have identified experiential states that are characteristic of story engagement (e.g., narrative transportation, presence). Digital technologies and new media landscapes (e.g., artificial intelligence, virtual reality, social media, social robots) have introduced new challenges and opportunities to the field.

The aim of the RTG is to provide an interdisciplinary, collaborative research environment that enables doctoral researchers to conduct both disciplinary and interdisciplinary studies on stories in the digital realm. The challenges and opportunities of experiencing stories in the digital age will be explored across three main project areas:

1. Immersive virtual reality
2. New (para-)social encounters
3. Epistemic challenges

These three areas comprise a total of seven research projects. Two of the research projects focus on children. Detailed information on the project areas and individual projects is available at <https://www.uni-wuerzburg.de/grk3087/>.

Your responsibilities

- Complete a doctoral thesis in your discipline within 3.5 years
- Actively participate in the joint activities of the RTG
- Contribute to the self-administration and self-organization of the RTG

Your qualifications

- Strong interest in pursuing an academic career
- An above-average master's degree or equivalent in one of the relevant disciplines (exceptional candidates with a bachelor's degree may be considered)
- Excellent command of English (all RTG activities will be conducted in English)
- Experience in empirical social science research; specific technical computer science/HCI skills for some positions

Application procedure

Your application should include:

- a) A cover letter outlining your motivation to apply
- b) A CV
- c) A brief statement (maximum 2 pages) specifying which of the seven projects you are applying for and explaining your choice
- d) Your BSc/MSc thesis and/or other scientific work

You may apply for one or more projects. Applicants with severe disabilities will be given preferential consideration when equally qualified. Please send your application and supporting documents, preferably by email, to jmu-rtg.tesda@uni-wuerzburg.de. Review of applications begins on **October 20, 2025**, and will continue until the positions are filled.