



NEWSLETTER PSE #10

Autumn 2025

Professional
School of Education



The tenth edition of the PSE newsletter provides information on selected current activities of the PSE relating to teacher education. This time, the focus is on the 2025 Autumn Conference with the presentation of the TaC Awards, the TaC podcast, the research and teaching activities of the staff at the Competence Centre for Digital Teaching and Learning, the initiation, lecture and networking trips to Indonesia, Namibia and Sweden, and a takeover of an outgoing via GoTed+.

In addition, there are insights into the launch of the Lehr:werkstatt 2025/2026 and short reports on PSE's participation in the Erasmus Days and the Study Information Day.

Last but not least, you can get to know our colleague Tina Heurich a little better in an interview.

We wish everyone a successful winter semester 2025/2026.

Yours, Thomas Trefzger, Matthias Erhardt
and Angelika Fütting-Lippert

In this issue

Autumn Conference 2025

TaC-Award 2025

TaC-Podcast

digiLLabs@JMU

Internationalisation

Take Over Outgoing

Lehr:werkstatt 25/26

Erasmus Days & Study
Information Day

Interview

Dates & Announcements

Autumn Conference 2025 I: Future skills Dealing with social challenges at school

Sabena Donath provides impetus against anti-Semitism and for democracy education in schools

How can schools empower young people to actively tackle the challenges of our time? This key question was the focus of the closing conference of the elite MINT-Lehramt PLUS teacher education programme, which also served as the autumn conference of the Professional School of Education (PSE) and the Lower Franconian School Development Day. Under the title *'Future skills – dealing with social challenges at school'*, around 350 participants gathered for an intensive exchange of ideas.



Photos (Ch. Weiß): Autumn Conference Auditorium (above) and keynote speaker Sabena Donath (below)



Sabena Donath, Director of Education at the Central Council of Jews in Germany, provided powerful insights. In her lecture *'Between Independence and Interdependence: Anti-Semitism, Racism and the Jewish Experience'*, she made a precise distinction between different forms of group-focused enmity – and made it clear that anti-Semitism must be viewed in particular light due to its historical depth and objective: it aims at destruction.

Autumn Conference 2025 II: Future Skills Dealing with social challenges at school

Prof. Siller, representing Prof. Ulm and Prof. Trefzger, who are responsible for the degree programme summarised what has been achieved through the MINT-Lehramt-PLUS degree programme since 2016. A resilient society needs committed teachers who empower young people to develop scientific and technical solutions to global challenges. The degree programme, which is funded by the Bavarian Elite Network and offered by the Universities of Würzburg and Bayreuth, has made an important contribution to this since 2016. It was aimed at particularly high-achieving students in the subjects of biology, chemistry, computer science, mathematics and physics, offering them the opportunity to develop their technical, didactic and personal skills in a targeted manner and to bring these additional skills back to school as teachers.



Photo (Ch. Weiß): Prof. Siller introduces the autumn conference

In the afternoon, participants explored key topics in over 20 workshops, ranging from climate protection and artificial intelligence to STEM teaching methods, democracy education and education of values.

Five international guests from the **GOTED Plus project** also contributed global perspectives to the discussion.



Photo (Ch. Weiß): Donath, Breitsameter, Eisenmann, Benneckenstein, Jungbauer

In the subsequent panel discussion – moderated by **Andreas Jungbauer (Main-Post)** – **Donath** advocated for a nuanced approach to anti-Semitism that also highlights Jewish perspectives. **Prof. Dr. Maria Eisenmann**, Chair of Didactics - Modern Foreign Languages at the University of Würzburg, advocated a fully immersive approach to dealing with racism, using virtual reality technology to allow students to slip into the role of people with different skin colours or backgrounds. **Felix Benneckenstein** from **Aussteigerhilfe Bayern** (Bavarian Dropout Assistance) added a personal perspective to the discussion: he described his path out of the right-wing extremist scene, and **Ines Breitsameter** from the association **10drei e.V.** presented low-threshold offerings for schools – from digital learning formats to workshops for teachers. Particularly in demand: materials for the ‘*Constitutional Quarter Hour*,’ a project for democracy education in everyday school life.



CONCLUSION of the autumn conference:

„Attitude, reflection & responsibility“

The conference made it clear that future skills encompass much more than digital or technical abilities. Above all, attitude, reflective thinking and social responsibility are in demand – both locally and globally. It is precisely these skills that need to be strengthened in schools.

Teachers as Changemakers (TaC)

TaC-Award 2025

Award-winning community service at Gymnasium in the region

Four outstanding school projects, which were implemented as P-Seminars during the last school year, demonstrate how schools can address social challenges. All four projects were honoured with the TaC Award, a prize for public welfare-oriented commitment and social entrepreneurship at Gymnasium in the region of Lower Franconian, at this year's PSE autumn conference on 30 September 2025.



Photo (Ch. Weiß): Four winning teams of the TaC Awards 2025 with Dr. Robert Christoph und Dr. Matthias Erhardt

The **TaC Awards 2025** were presented to four P-Seminars for their commitment to the common good:

1. Prize: *'Encounters between people with and without disabilities'*, Jack-Steinberger-Gymn., Bad Kissingen
2. Prize: *'Simply reading – an inclusive reading project'*, Matthias-Grünwald-Gymnasium, Würzburg
3. Prize: *'Generations in dialogue'*, Siebold-Gymnasium, Würzburg
3. Prize: *'Climate dinner'*, Friedrich-List-Gymnasium, Gemünden

The awards were presented by **Dr Robert Christoph**, Ministerial Commissioner for Gymnasium in Lower Franconia, and **Dr Matthias Erhardt**, Managing Director of PSE, representing Prof. Dr Thomas Trefzger.



The TaC Award is part of the project

'Teachers as Changemakers', a joint project of the University of Würzburg (PSE & SFT) and the University of Bamberg, which trains preservice teachers to become multipliers for social entrepreneurship education.



Photos (Ch. Weiß): The winning teams of the TaC-Awards

Teachers as Changemakers (TaC)

the podcast for everything related to education and the future

How can teaching and learning succeed in a changing world? What role does school play when artificial intelligence, sustainability and future skills are becoming increasingly important? This is precisely what the podcast 'Teachers as Changemakers', created by Dr Moiken Jessen (JMU) and Michael Hunger (Office Ministerial Commissioner for Gymnasium in Lower Franconia), is all about.



Photo (P. Rohmann): TaC-Podcast-Team

The content focuses on education, school and future skills. The podcast aims to appeal to people who are interested in teaching and learning in times of change – from teachers and students to anyone concerned with issues relating to the future of education. It is not about theoretical debates, but rather concrete experiences and ideas on how education can succeed in a complex world.

The **first episode** focuses on the OECD Learning Compass, which serves as a framework for future educational processes: How can teachers and schools support young people in finding their own way in a complex world?

The **second episode** focuses on YouTube and digital learning cultures. The hosts discuss how teachers can make effective use of YouTube or help pupils to use this platform critically and productively. The topics covered include media literacy, creative learning methods and how to build on the platforms where young people are already learning.

The **third episode** will be particularly exciting, as it will focus on the topic of artificial intelligence. Without giving too much away, it will cover opportunities and challenges in the classroom, ethical issues, and practical applications.

In addition to the two hosts, various episodes also feature teachers and experts who demonstrate how innovation and everyday life can come together in the classroom. For example, Heike Flemming, who uses AI tools in foreign language teaching, or Jens Damköhler, a physics teacher who emphasises the importance of reflection when dealing with AI. Their contributions make it clear how diverse school can be today – and that future education is not a distant concept, but a daily reality.

The podcast sounds so professional thanks in no small part to the technical support provided by DigiLLabs@jmu. With high-quality equipment and the support of dedicated student assistant Paul Rohmann, who produces the episodes and also recorded the jingle, the conversations are given the perfect acoustic backdrop.

The podcast is available on Spotify and other platforms.

From now on, a new episode will be released once a month – featuring bright minds, practical topics and a good dose of humour.

Listen now, subscribe and be inspired!

Competence Centre of Digital Teaching and Learning (DigiLLabs@JMU)

RESEARCH RESULTS

DigiLLabs@JMU represented at EARCOME9 in South Korea

In July, Dr Norbert Noster presented current research from DigiLLabs at EARCOME9 in South Korea, focusing on how teacher training students assess their skills in using AI in mathematics lessons. The presentation sparked an exciting exchange with international colleagues. Particularly inspiring were the insights into digital developments in East Asia. The findings are being directly incorporated into the further development of innovative teaching concepts using AI.

DigiLLabs@JMU represented at SITE 2025 in Orlando

In March 2025, Tina Heurich presented her research findings on promoting media education skills in teacher training at the international SITE conference. The study focused on prospective teachers' perspectives on the use of AI-supported tools in the creation of explanatory videos about AI. <https://go.uniwiue.de/digillabssite>



Photos (privat): Norbert Noster at EARCOME9 / Tina Heurich mit Norbert Noster at the study's day JMU / Tina Heurich at SITE

Designing digital learning spaces: DigiLLabs@JMU at DiKuLe-Symposium 2025

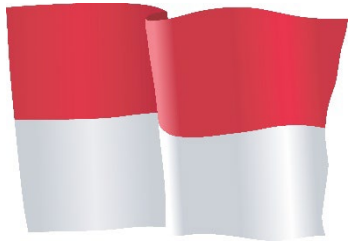
On 3 April 2025, approaches from six DigiLLab projects were presented in Bamberg together with five other Bavarian universities. The DigiLLabs@JMU contribution focused on the seminars 'Intelligent chatbots in mathematics teaching' and 'Designing explanatory videos with AI', in which students use AI technologies and critically reflect on their use. <https://go.uniwiue.de/digillabsdikule>

AI in teacher education: DigiLLabs@JMU at the Bavarian Day for Good Teaching 2025

At the University of Würzburg's Day for Good Teaching 2025 on 31 March 2025, Tina Heurich and Dr Norbert Noster from the Competence Centre for Digital Teaching and Learning presented exciting perspectives on the role of generative AI in the context of the professionalisation of teachers. <https://go.uniwiue.de/digillabstagderlehre>

TEACHING / TEACHING CONCEPTS

Global Teacher Education plus (GoTEd+) New cooperation with Indonesia and ...



Prof. Siller, Professor of Mathematics Education, and Dr. Erhardt, Managing Director of PSE and Programme Manager for GoTEd+, travelled to Indonesia at the end of July. On the island of Java, they laid the foundations for a new, long-term partnership with Universitas Negeri Semarang (UNNES). Siller has been cooperating with UNNES's mathematics education department for some time; Prof. Siller and Prof. Cahyono are working together on research projects on digitisation and mathematical modelling.

A promising start

The Würzburg delegation gained many positive impressions during its visit to UNNES. Right at the start of the meetings, they were welcomed by Vice-Rector Heri Yanto, who expressly welcomed the planned exchange. To confirm this, he initiated the signing of a *Memorandum of Understanding* (MoU) between Universitas Negeri Semarang and the University of Würzburg, which has since been officially signed by both parties. This was followed by meetings with representatives from the university, faculties and the Indonesian Ministry of Science, as well as visits to local partner schools.



Photos (PSE): M. Erhardt & H.-S. Siller with representatives of the University of Semarang, Adi Cahyono and Vice-Rector Heri Yanto



Scientific dialogue on equal terms

Dr Girindra Putri Dewa Saraswati, who works both in the International Office and in the Department of English Studies at UNNES, showed great commitment to the cooperation. In future, she will facilitate access to school placements in Indonesia for preservice teachers from Würzburg – an important building block for international teacher education. In mathematics education, there was an intensive exchange with Prof. Adi Cahyono, who has been working with Professor Siller for many years. Joint research projects are to be further intensified in the future. Another highlight was the meeting organised by Prof. Adi Cahyono with Berry Juliandi, Director at the Indonesian Ministry of Science in Jakarta. In a constructive discussion, possibilities for supporting Indonesian students at JMU were explored – for example, through special scholarships or future double degree programmes.

Conclusion: A successful start with great prospects

‘The trip was a success in every respect – professionally, organisationally and interculturally,’ Hans-Stefan Siller and Matthias Erhardt agree. The new partnership with UNNES opens up another international window for the GoTEd+ project. ‘JMU is thus sending a strong signal for future-oriented teacher training and international cooperation,’ they say.

Global Teacher Education plus (GoTEd+) ... Namibia



As part of JMU, PSE has been formally linked to the University of Namibia (UNAM) since November 2022 via a Memorandum of Understanding. In 2023, three lecturers from UNAM were guests at the summer schools of PSE's GoTEd project. Students from JMU and a student from Namibia experienced teacher training and teaching in each other's countries during an exchange lasting several months. The current follow-up project, GoTEd+, now includes short guest lectureships at the various partner universities. This gives lecturers from Würzburg and from a partner university in the project the opportunity to spend some time at the other university to teach and advance joint research projects.

Extensive Exchange

To implement this collaboration, Dr. Erhardt, programme manager at the PSE, and Katja Weirauch, professor of Chemistry Education, visited their Namibian partners at UNAM. As part of his guest lectureship, Dr. Erhardt gave preservice teachers and lecturers an overview of the school structure and teacher education in Bavaria, as well as topics such as reading strategies and reading socialisation, examinations in the age of AI, and core practices as an example of 21st century skills, together with Prof. Weirauch. In order to enable as many students and lecturers as possible from the campus, which is spread over a large area, to participate, the lectures took place in courses and mostly in hybrid form. UNAM offers teacher training courses for primary, secondary and vocational schools at six of twelve locations in the country.



Photos (PSE): M. Erhardt at the University of Namibia, UNAM

Agreement on research cooperation

The visit to the Windhoek Waldorf School inspired all lecturers to engage in further joint reflection on pedagogical and didactic principles. The mutual understanding of each other's university, school and resulting research-related situations proved to be a very enriching experience for all involved. Dr. Faustina Kashinauua Neshila, Head of the Department of Intermediate and Vocational Education at UNAM, and Katja Weirauch, Professor of Chemistry Education at JMU, agreed on this basis to collaborate on research into Context-Based Science Education (CBSE).

Conclusion: As the example of Namibia shows, GoTEd+ provides strong impetus and opens up extensive new perspectives for international exchange in the field of teacher education. These exchange formats are only made possible by the support of the DAAD.

Internationalisation

Cycling abroad for a semester

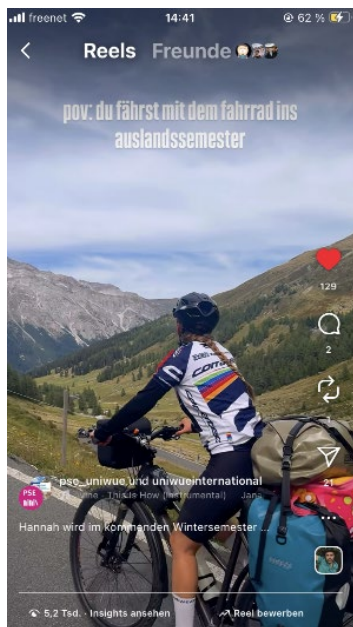
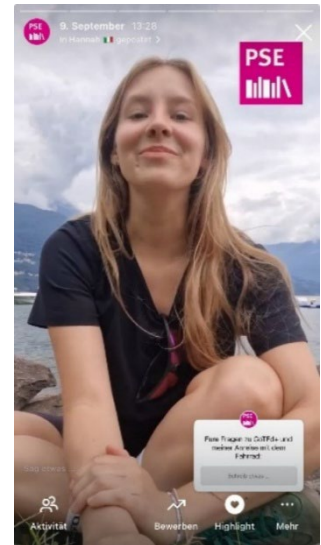
Instagram takeover by a GoTEd+ scholarship student



Travelling abroad for a semester is always a particularly exciting journey. Unlike going on holiday or visiting distant relatives, packing for this trip raises a number of challenging questions: 'How am I going to carry all this stuff?' 'Will I have to check in an extra piece of luggage at the airport?' Or: 'Does the TGV even have enough luggage space for all this stuff?'

And now imagine that all your belongings, in fact almost your entire shared flat, have to be strapped onto a single luggage rack, and that the journey does not consist of 12 hours of more or less comfortable reclining in an express train, or even more comfortably, 3 hours of flying time, but of several weeks of physical exertion, outdoors under the open sky – regardless of whether it's summer heat or rain showers.

This is more or less how Hannah's journey to her semester abroad unfolded – one of our four GoTEd+ scholarship students for the 2025/26 winter semester. Now that she has arrived in Bari, the capital of the southern Italian region of Apulia, Hannah set off south by bicycle in August – from Würzburg across the Alps to the heel of Italy. And she took us with her on Instagram.



Hannah took over the PSE Instagram account (@pse_uniwue) for two days and reported live from her trip. At that time, she was already at Lake Como. Viewers were able to contact Hannah directly and ask her questions about her journey, the GoTEd+ scholarship or other concerns relating to studying abroad during her teacher education. Further Instagram takeovers with students are already being planned and will be announced on our channels.

The objectives of the takeovers are manifold. On the one hand, they are intended to serve as inspiration for preservice teachers interested in spending time abroad. Our scholarship students and outgoing students freely share their experiences and can thus help to alleviate any fears. This also provides an opportunity to ask questions directly to our outgoing students. Furthermore, the Instagram takeovers are intended to introduce PSE's partner universities and the various destination countries. Overall, the aim is to continuously promote the internationalisation of teacher education and emphasise the need for intercultural skills within the teaching profession, in particular by conveying the diverse impressions of our outgoing students, for example from school placements as part of the combined study visits within the GoTEd+ scholarship.

Photos (PSE): Screenshots of PSE-Instagram-Accounts – Take Over from Hannah

Hannah's takeover is summarised in a story highlight on our Instagram profile (@pse_uniwue), where you can relive it. In future, you will also find further takeovers by our outgoing students and scholarship students there. We are already very excited!

Internationalisation

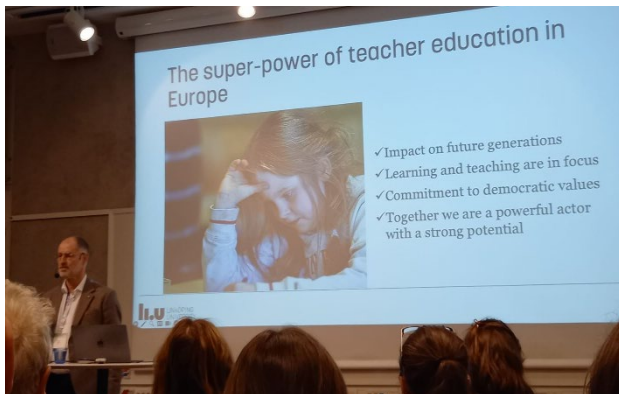
First steps towards cooperation in Scandinavia



From 7 to 9 October, the TCA 'Internationalisation and international mobility within teacher training programmes in higher education' took place in Stockholm. TCA stands for Transnational Teaching and Cooperation Activity, organised by the Swedish Council for Higher Education in cooperation with the National Agency for EU Higher Education Cooperation in the Erasmus+ programme. Maike Madera, Erasmus+ and GoTEd+ Coordinator at the PSE, was successful in her application to participate and attended the conference together with approximately 70 other participants from 18 European countries, all of whom are responsible for internationalisation in teacher education at their universities.

Varied programme

Both the keynote speech by Håkan Löfgren/Linköping University on 'The importance of internationalisation and mobility in teacher education. Shaping the future of teacher education. Challenges and European partnerships for common solutions' and the numerous workshops, discussions and short presentations were enriching. Particularly impressive was the contribution by Prof. Heiko Haas-Vogl from the University of Education Styria/Austria on 'Inclusion – increasing participation, creating supportive structures and motivating teacher students for international mobility'. He succeeded in sending a teacher training student with hearing impairment to Norway for a semester abroad.



Photos (PSE): Participants at the TCA conference in Stockholm

Challenges

Despite all the national differences, a number of cross-border challenges emerged with regard to internationalisation in teacher education. In addition to factors such as lack of time and staff, questions often arise about the (difficult) recognition of credits earned abroad, which often makes a stay abroad more challenging for students. Suggested solutions included greater flexibility in terms of both the recognition of academic achievements and any overlapping semester periods at the home and host universities. In addition, mobility windows, as already introduced in the curricula of some universities, would be a major step towards greater internationalisation, as would a wider range of courses taught in English.

Conclusion: First step successfully completed

However, the most important information for preservice teachers in Würzburg is that we have established several contacts with potential new partner universities and are now examining whether it is possible to conclude new Erasmus agreements for study visits to new partner universities, for example in Scandinavia.

PSE provides information at Erasmus Days 2025 and Study Information Day



On 14 and 16 October, the PSE was on the road with a pink information stand – on Tuesday in the Faculty of Philosophy (Philo) and on Thursday in the Z6 building.

Many teacher training students from all types of schools, from special needs schools to primary schools to Gymnasium, stopped by to find out about various opportunities for a stay abroad. Among other things, they asked questions such as:

- How do I plan a semester or internship abroad?
- Can I write my thesis abroad?
- Which partner countries and universities does the PSE work with?
- When and how do I best apply?
- What language skills do I need?
- And: Is it possible to spend time abroad after graduation?

The stand had loads of info brochures from the PSE, the DAAD, and the 'Schulwärts!' programme, and of course there was time for lots of nice chats.

Anyone who wanted to find out more was invited to the study abroad information evening on 12 November from 6 to 8 p.m. in Z6, where former outgoing students and current incoming students will report on their experiences.

The PSE is looking forward to seeing many interested parties again at the study abroad information evening on 12 November in Z6!



Photos (PSE): Erasmus Days at the JMU

The PSE was once again represented with its own stand at this year's Study Information Day, offering a wide range of information about teacher education and study abroad programmes. Interested visitors were able to seek advice in personal consultations and learn more about their options and prospects in teacher education.

A special highlight at the PSE stand was the wheel of fortune! But it wasn't just a matter of spinning the wheel – anyone who wanted to take part first had to master a fun challenge, similar to those that teachers encounter in their everyday work.

Whether tricky decision-making situations, spontaneous improvisation or creative problem solving – the tasks were fun and encouraged participants to think about their future careers.

Great gifts awaited as rewards: from bookmarks and pens to USB sticks – there was something for everyone.



Photos (PSE): Study Information Day JMU

Lehr:werkstatt launches new round

With the start of the new school year, **19 tandems** – each consisting of a teacher and a preservice teacher – have embarked on a new year of the Lehr:werkstatt programme. Nine Gymnasium and one Realschule in Lower Franconia are participating.

For one school year, the students accompany ‘their’ teacher directly at the school while continuing their studies. This gives them intensive insights into everyday school life and allows them to gain practical teaching experience. They observe and teach lessons, try out team teaching and have the opportunity to experiment with a variety of teaching methods. They reflect on their experiences in the **accompanying university seminar**, which is led by Dr Ripka from the Chair of School Pedagogy. There are also **regular competence workshops** for the tandems for joint development, which address various topics, from social entrepreneurship education to disruptions in the classroom.

On 9 October 2025, the first workshop at the university **marked the start of the 2025/26 project year**. Together with Gabriele Ripka (Chair of School Pedagogy, responsible for the accompanying event), Ute Springer (Internship Office at the Ministerial Commissioner Office for Gymnasium in Lower Franconia), and Lore Koerber-Becker (Lehr:werkstatt Coordination, PSE), the focus was initially on getting to know each other and providing basic information about the teaching workshop year.

Philipp Schleicher (teacher at Bad Königshofen Gymnasium) then introduced the topic of **relationship didactics** – a central element of professional teaching – **in a three-hour workshop**. Theoretical input, practical exercises and tandem exchanges made it possible to experience relationship building as an essential component of successful teaching. A successful start to an exciting and instructive year at the Lehr:werkstatt.



Photo (PSE): Ph. Schleicher during Workshop



Photo (PSE): Lehr:werkstatt-Tandems 2025/26

Partner schools for the 2025/26 school and teaching workshop year are:

- Alexander-von-Humboldt-Gymnasium Schweinfurt
- Armin-Knab-Gymnasium Kitzingen
- Balthasar-Neumann-Gymnasium Marktheidenfeld
- Deutschhaus-Gymnasium Würzburg
- Gymnasium Veitshöchheim
- Matthias-Grünwald-Gymnasium
- Röntgen Gymnasium Würzburg
- Walther-Rathenau-Gymnasium Schweinfurt
- Friedrich-Koenig-Gymnasium Würzburg
- Leopold-Sonnemann-Realschule Höchberg

Interview with Tina Heurich

Photo (Ch. Weiß): Tina Heurich



What special date do you associate with the PSE?

1 November 2019 – that was my first day at PSE.

What experiences have you had at the PSE so far, with teachers and in relation to education and educational research?

I find it super exciting to talk to other teachers about digitalisation, media literacy and teaching in general. It makes you realise that you're not alone with your problems, and at the same time it's a great starting point for launching joint projects. I'm glad to have already met so many highly motivated teachers who are also passionate about education and who inspire me in my own teaching.

What are your responsibilities at PSE?

I coordinate the Competence Centre of Digital Teaching and Learning. The aim is to promote media education skills among preservice teachers. This is also the focus of my research, to which I devote most of my time. I investigate how seminar concepts need to be designed in order to promote media education skills among preservice teachers, with a focus on AI and explanatory videos. In addition, my responsibilities are varied: I give seminars, give workshops on various topics such as e-portfolios and explanatory videos, organise events and ensure that everything runs smoothly in the DigiLLabs.

What was your funniest experience at university?

During the coronavirus pandemic, I equipped the DigiLLabs. Delivery services often had difficulty navigating the campus, parcels ended up in all sorts of places, and despite the stress, it was often quite amusing. When some of the furniture didn't fit through the doors, improvisation was required. You never stop learning through experiences like this.

What are your interests and hobbies? What do you like to do when you're not at the PSE?

When I feel like staying in, you'll find me on the sofa with a good book, playing video games or cooking and baking. But I also enjoy being outdoors, doing sports, cycling or going on photography tours.

OUTLOOK

Professional
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Dates & Announcements

Workshop for the orientation internship

28 October 2025, 4 p.m., for students before, during or after their orientation internship (all types of schools)

AI skills in schools – an international perspective

28 October 2025, 2:15–3:15 p.m. **‘Potential for Research and Practice for Data-ing and AI Literacy in School Mathematics’** Lecture by Dr Oi-Lam Ng (Chinese University of Hong Kong)

KI meets Qualitative Research (online)

03 & 10 November 2025, Use of MAXQDA AI Assist for analysis and methodological practice

Go abroad as a preservice teacher

12 November 2025, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Room 0.002 in Z6

TaC - Impact Werkstatt "Mathematics meet creative work"

4 December 2025, 12 noon to 2 p.m., Room 1.007 in Z6

- **Start of the international lecture series „Global Challenges in Teacher Education“ (online)**
- **Start of the lecture series Teaching for Impact - With Social Entrepreneurship Education (online)**

GoTEd plus-Week "Teachers Together for Change: Focusing on the socio-ecological challenges in an international perspective"

23-27 February 2026, Graduate School Universität Würzburg