

Call for the EERA Summer School 2026

"On Comparison in Education and Educational Research"

15 – 19 June 2026
Chemnitz, Germany

We warmly invite doctoral students to apply to our five-day Summer School 15 - 19 June 2026, which will be hosted by the University of Technology, Chemnitz.

The theme of the EERA Summer School 2026 is "On Comparison in Education and Educational Research".

This year's Summer School will be dedicated to the role of „comparison” in educational research, educational policy and educational practice. As emerging researchers, we are about to professionalize ourselves. This implies not only to be able to **do** but also to **be aware** of what we are doing – both in our roles as educators and as researchers.

“Comparison” occurs inescapably in nearly every context in education. Hence, we need to know what comparison is. It is self-understood that there are better students, that there are larger classes, that there are simpler and more difficult cases pedagogical consultation. However, comparison affects learners, this requires awareness and diplomacy. “Comparison” has important implications for educational policies – just think of giving marks to students. By digits or by letters we express the results of our comparison of their achievements. This shows the importance of comparison to education policy: In Germany, for instance, the “average mark” can decide, whether you are allowed to get enrolled in studies like medicine. Nonetheless, the fundamental mathematical requirements behind this are widely unknown. Hence, educators ought to be capable of making propositions on how to deal with such issues, as they are partly responsible of determining a student's life path and chances.

“Comparison” is most evidently the topic of comparative educational research. Among others, comparative educational research relies on a variety of approaches. This begins with idiographic description and does not end with world-wide international studies such as PISA. We could also say that any kind of measurement of two or more phenomena, persons, or, groups is based on the idea of comparison. Getting professionalized as a researcher means to have an idea of which principles or models a comparative approach is founded on.

The aims of the Summer School are ...

- ... to reflect on where comparison occurs in the field of education.
- ... to become aware where it is used for research purposes of our own.
- ... to enhance our understanding of international comparative studies.
- ... to discover how comparison is linked to measurement.
- ... to understand how this comparison and/ or measurement can be modelled
- ... to describe the processes of comparing we intend to integrate into our research.

We will not close this invitation without citing the one person who depicted the challenging role of comparison in education most elegantly: Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, champion of enlightenment and German poesy, wrote:

„Be it the finished connoisseur to make a comparison ..., for the idea is already on his mind, ... The amateur, however, ... fosters himself by looking at every single merit without comparing. This is the way to form, by and by, a sense and understanding of the more general ideas.“

Let's get on our way, by and by, and let's get together at EERSS in Chemnitz! We look forward to welcoming emerging researchers in June 2026!

Who can apply and what does it cost?

Applicants are doctoral students who primarily come from or study in member countries of EERA. Their thesis must relate to educational research. Preferably, the participant should be a Ph.D. student in the first or second year of his/her studies in order to benefit the most from this summer school.

The application process will include:

- Abstract of your research (objectives and research questions of your PhD project; conceptual framework; intended methodology, methods, instruments; conclusions, expected outcomes or findings; motivation; references)
- CV
- Letter of endorsement from a current or former supervisor or other senior staff member. You can find guidelines for the letter [here](#).

Applications can be made online at <https://www.conftool.net/eerss2026/>

Participation fees for the EERSS 2026 Summer School differ depending on if you currently reside in a Low or High GDP country. Participation fees will not include accommodation, but participants have the option to book a single en-suite room at 2 EERSS-partner hotels at a reduced price (subsidised by EERA).

Country of residence	Participant Fee	Hotel 5 nights* (including city tax)	Total
Low GDP	60 €	271 € - 277 €	331 € - 337 €
High GDP	150 €	271 € - 277 €	421 € - 427 €

The fee covers tuition, coffee breaks, lunches, and the social programme.

***Please note:** Booking your lodging at one of our partner hotels is optional. You are free to book somewhere else in Chemnitz if you wish.

- Participants must cover their travel costs themselves.
- Participants are expected to participate actively throughout the duration of the Summer School.

Important dates

Application period	10 November 2025 – 15 January 2026
Information on acceptance	1 March 2026
Registration/payment	2 March – 31 March 2026
Summer School	15 – 19 July 2026

For more information on the EERA Summer School 2026: <https://eera-ecer.de/seasonschools/eera-summer-school-2026>

To apply to the Summer School 2026: <https://www.conftool.net/eerss2026/>

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