



POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY

Project Title: Designing Leadership Progression Pathways for Future-Oriented School Leaders: A Comparative Study of Instructional Design Approaches in European and Southeast Asian Educational Contexts

Short Project Description:

Applications are invited for a funded MA by Research examining how Instructional Design approaches can support the development and progression of future-oriented school leaders across selected European and Southeast Asian educational contexts. As school leadership becomes increasingly complex, principals and other school leaders are required to respond to changing expectations relating to digital transformation, inclusive education, workforce sustainability, policy reform, artificial intelligence and organisational change. This research will investigate how leadership learning can be structured and supported across different stages of professional progression, from teaching and middle leadership through to formal school leadership roles. The study will adopt a qualitative, comparative and design-informed approach. It will combine a structured literature review, contextual and programme mapping, and semi-structured interviews with school leaders across selected European and Southeast Asian contexts. Particular attention will be given to leadership progression pathways, professional learning, mentoring and authentic leadership practice, alongside the influence of policy, governance, professional standards and cultural context. The research will also examine the role of digital, blended and future-oriented professional learning in developing school leadership capability. The intended research output is a conceptual Instructional Design framework for context-sensitive and future-oriented school leadership progression.

The successful candidate will undertake this research alongside engagement with the Living Smart Schools project, contributing to relevant project research and development activities. This will provide the candidate with an opportunity to work within a collaborative European research environment and to contribute to a wider project concerned with school leadership, professional development and future-oriented education. The candidate's contribution to Living Smart Schools will complement the focus of the MA research, particularly in areas relating to school leadership development, leadership competencies, professional learning and the design of educational and training approaches.

Type of Degree Offered: Master of Arts (MA) by Research

Duration of Project: 24 Months

Funding Agency: Erasmus

The funded research opportunity includes : Full fee waiver for two years, €22,000 annual stipend, €1,500 per annum towards research materials/expenses

**Minimum Qualifications/Experience Necessary/Any Other Requirements:**

Candidates must hold a primary degree in a relevant discipline, which may include education, educational leadership, instructional or learning design, teaching, social sciences, organisational learning, professional development, or a cognate area.

Applicants should demonstrate an interest in school leadership, educational research and professional learning. Experience or knowledge of one or more of the following would be advantageous: educational leadership, Instructional Design, teacher professional development, qualitative research, comparative education, digital learning or European education projects.

The successful candidate should have strong written and verbal communication skills and the capacity to work both independently as a postgraduate researcher and collaboratively as part of the wider Living Smart Schools project team.

Minimum classification of *2.1 honours or equivalent*.

IELTS [International English Testing System] Applicants must have a minimum of 6.5 with no component score less than 6.0.

Project Lead Supervisor: Dr Stefano Odorico

For further information, please contact:

Closing date for receipt of completed application form is 28/09/2026 . Interviews will take place within subsequent weeks.

Download TUS Scholarship application form below, put project title in the subject line and email pro@tus.ie:

<https://tus.ie/rdi/research/office/funded-research/>



Living Smart Schools

