

**2 DiplomandInnen Positions at the**  
***Institute for Information Processing and Microprocessor***  
***Technology (FIM Institute)***  
**at the Johannes Kepler University of Linz**

In the framework of the **FWF-funded project:**

**“Adaptive Support for Collaborative e-Learning” (ASCOLLA)**

The Institute for Information Processing and Microprocessor Technology (FIM Institute) has a long tradition in e-Learning research, with recent work focusing on the employment of adaptivity as a means towards personalized, learner-tailored approaches to distant and blended learning.

A novel research project entitled “Adaptive Support for Collaborative e-Learning” (ASCOLLA), funded by the Austrian Science Fund (Fonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung – FWF) is now starting at the FIM Institute. The goal of the project is to provide the technological means through which a lack (or limited amounts) of face-to-face contact between learners in e-Learning can be partially compensated for, towards the goal of supporting, enhancing and facilitating on-line collaborative learning.

To achieve this, the project will investigate the following topics: guiding adaptive collaboration support through (explicitly represented) group-oriented didactic approaches and group social contexts; fostering spontaneous, ad-hoc interactions between on-line learners, and providing opportunities for short-lived, structured collaboration in synchronous online courses; and facilitating the creation, maintenance and exchange of personal learning histories within group settings.

To test and validate its results, the project will develop supporting software components, which will be integrated into Sakai e-Learning platform. Using this platform two case studies will be carried out within the context of courses taught by members of the institute.

**DiplomandInnen positions** - In the framework of the above project, two DiplomandInnen positions (at the B.Sc. or M.Sc. levels) are currently announced with the aim of undertaking development work in the context of the ASCOLLA project.

Work in both cases will focus on the implementation (or enhancement) of e-Learning software components with adaptivity and collaboration / cooperation features. These

components will be modules of the Sakai e-Learning platform, and will be made freely available to the public through the project.

Both positions are for 10 hours a week, and are available for 2 years starting on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2008 (later starting dates are also possible). Reimbursement will be €440 per month (Brutto). Applicants will also be offered the opportunity to complete a B.Sc. or M.Sc. thesis on the basis of their work in the project. Furthermore, talented applicants will also be offered the opportunity to continue research work towards higher degrees in the context of the ASCOLLA or other research projects.

Applicants must have:

- A strong background in Java programming
- Good command of English

Demonstrable experience (through work or university courses) in the following areas will also be a plus:

- Web- and web service- programming
- Exposure to the concepts of:
  - Interactive Adaptive Systems
  - Computer-Supported Collaborative Work
  - Human-Computer Interaction

**Applications should include** a motivated letter of application, accompanied by a CV and a transcript of the applicant's undergraduate studies. Applications should be sent by post, email or fax to:

o. Univ. Prof. Dr. Jörg R. Mühlbacher  
Institute for Information Processing and Microprocessor Technology  
Johannes Kepler Universität  
Altenbergerstraße 69  
A-4040 Linz  
Austria

Fax: +43 732 24688599

Email: muehlbacher [AT] fim.uni-linz.ac.at