DEEP Consortium
Open call for associate membership

DEEP (Digital Education for Equity in Primary schools, https://deep-consortium.ch/) is a *research* consortium that aims to clarify the foundations, challenges, and consequences of the digital transformation for Swiss primary schools. The aim is to contribute to an equitable and sustainable digitalization in the early years of school education.

In 2024, DEEP was founded by seven partner universities - PHZH, EPFL, PHSZ, PHSG, PH FHNW, UZH and UniGE - and is supported by the Jacobs Foundation. Over 50 researchers from the founding partner universities are working actively on DEEP projects and form the current DEEP research community. The consortium is planned to operate for a maximum of two phases (2024-2027 and 2028-2031).

The particularity of DEEP is that it goes beyond the research activity as it creates and operates a functional framework for the results of research to be made useful to inform all stakeholders of the Swiss primary school field. These *translational* activities are addressed to practitioners (teachers, principals, PICTS/personnes ressources etc) as well as education administrators and policy-makers. In this translational perspective, DEEP is part of Jacobs Foundation's initiative Education in Digitality, together with the project Chance Digitality operated by staatslabor and ProEdu.

The DEEP consortium opens its research community to contributions by new associate partners through an open call for associate projects (requesting funding from DEEP) within the scope of equity and digital education in Swiss primary schools in 2025 and an open call for associate membership (without funding, inviting scholars to join the community based on their existing projects and resources). This document describes the open call for membership. Please refer to the parallel open call for projects for details on applying for funded projects: https://deep-consortium.ch/open-calls

Call for associate membership

This call invites scholars located in Switzerland to join the DEEP research community with their work on the thematic focus areas of DEEP.

Thematic orientation

The general goal of this call is to broaden the thematic coverage of DEEP such that we address the variety and complexity of questions related to digital education and equity. Please refer to the document "DEEP flagship challenges" for the definition of our priority research areas, one or several of which your work should relate to, as well as to the DEEP

consortium website (https://deep-consortium.ch/) for the overview on existing DEEP projects.

Contribution of new associate members

Researchers joining the DEEP research community are expected to contribute to the output of the consortium based on their current or past research work within the thematic scope of DEEP. The applicant is willing to share their results of research, engage in joint academic activities as well as contribute to translational output (such as training material, recommendations, workshops, dedicated non-scientific publications etc.) both with the DEEP community and with the translational stakeholders of DEEP (practice, administration, policy). The applicant is free to suggest additional common action to be implemented together with partners in DEEP (without dedicated funding).

DEEP research community membership

Successful applicants will be included as associate members in the DEEP research community. Belonging to the DEEP research community includes:
- cross-institutional networking opportunities with over 50 researchers (plus those selected through the open call for associate projects and associate membership)
- participation in DEEP events e.g. thematic workshops
- visibility of your work and expertise on the DEEP website and communication channels and during DEEP events
- Integration of your results into the overall DEEP work and its uptake by the DEEP coordination office
- increased impact of your research work through integration in the DEEP translational framework addressing stakeholders of the education system

Conditions

- Eligibility:
  Membership requests can be submitted by researchers affiliated to a higher education institution (including the seven founding universities) and engaged in projects on an equitable and sustainable digitalization in the early years of primary school relevant for the Swiss school education.
- Duration of the associate membership: The membership lasts until the end of 2027.

Evaluation criteria

Membership requests will be evaluated focusing on the following criteria:

- relevance of the work and expertise to the DEEP priority research areas and focus topics defined in the call
- scientific quality of the work to be integrated
- contribution to the (institutional, disciplinary, methodological, regional, and contextual) diversity of the DEEP community

- potential for impact and contribution to DEEP translational framework
- complementarity and/or synergy with existing DEEP projects

Submission

Requests for membership must use the template provided. They can be submitted *anytime* to info@deep-consortium.ch. The Coordination Office will reply on requests starting in May 2025 within 2 months from the submission date.

For any questions please contact: info@deep-consortium.ch

Related documents

The following documents can be found here: https://deep-consortium.ch/open-calls
DEEP flagship challenges
Parallel open call for associate projects
Submission template