

Research Internships at SEDL

About the lab

The Social and Emotional Development Lab (SEDL) at the Institute of Psychology, Czech Academy of Sciences, in Brno hosts a small number of research interns each year. The lab studies peer relationships, classroom dynamics and bullying in schools, including research connected to the KiVa anti-bullying programme in the Czech Republic.

This document describes what an internship with us looks like, so you can decide whether it fits your goals before applying. Internships are coordinated by early-career researchers (doctoral students) in the lab, not by the lab head.

Format of the internship

Our internships are hybrid, self-directed research stays built around one defined project. They suit students who can work independently and want hands-on experience with real research data and a co-authored output.

Aspect	What to expect
Length	1–6 months (typically 2–3)
Workload	Individual, usually 10–40 hours per week
Mode	Mostly remote; in-person in Brno is possible for part of the stay
Supervision	One named contact person from the lab
Regular contact	One online meeting per week, shared chat channel for questions
In-person meetings	Scheduled when your contact person is in Brno
Start dates	Flexible, agreed at least 2 months in advance

The lab's researchers split their time between Brno, Prague and stays abroad. If you come to Brno in person, expect to work independently on most days.

Possible tasks

Each intern works on one project agreed at the start, matched to their skills and to the lab's current work. Typical projects:

Project type	Example tasks	Good fit for	Possible output
Literature review	Systematic or scoping review on peer roles, classroom climate or bullying interventions	Bachelor's and master's students	Review manuscript, conference poster
Secondary data analysis	Analyzing an anonymized subset of school survey data	Students with R, Mplus or similar skills	Co-authored article or conference paper
Data preparation	Cleaning, documenting and coding datasets; building codebooks	Students learning research workflows	Credited contribution to a dataset or paper
Qualitative coding	Coding open-ended responses or interview transcripts	Students with qualitative training	Co-authored analysis
Measurement and translation	Adapting or validating questionnaires across languages	Native speakers of other languages	Methods note or validation paper
Own project	A question proposed by the intern that fits the lab's data and topics	Advanced master's and PhD students	Agreed individually

Authorship follows standard contribution criteria and is agreed in writing at the start of the project.

What we offer and what we don't

We offer:

- A defined research project and access to the data and materials it needs
- A named contact person and regular weekly feedback
- Experience with the full research process, from question to output
- Co-authorship or formal acknowledgement, depending on your contribution
- A confirmation letter or certificate of the internship on request
- Contact with the lab's international research network

Please note before applying:

- **No funding.** We cannot pay interns or cover travel, accommodation or living costs. Interns usually bring their own funding (see Formalities).
- **No intensive daily supervision.** Your contact person is available weekly, not every day. The internship works best for people who can plan their own work.
- **No teaching programme.** We do not run courses, seminars or a structured curriculum for interns.
- **Limited in-person presence.** Lab members are not in Brno every week. A fully in-person stay may mean working alone on many days.
- **Limited workspace.** A desk in Brno is offered only when available and agreed in advance.
- **Limited places.** We host 1–2 interns per year and may decline applications even from strong candidates.
- **No guaranteed publication.** Outputs depend on the progress of the project and the review process.

What we expect from interns

- Working independently between weekly meetings and asking for help when stuck
- Agreeing on a short work plan with milestones in the first two weeks
- Attending the weekly meeting and sending a brief progress update before it
- Working in English (Czech is not required)
- Following the lab's data protection, confidentiality and research ethics rules
- Not sharing data or materials outside the project without permission
- Leaving work documented so the lab can continue it after the internship ends

Formalities

- **Funding.** Interns usually fund their stay through Erasmus+ traineeships, mobility grants from their home university or other scholarships. We are happy to provide a letter of acceptance for such applications.
- **Agreements.** Documents such as an Erasmus+ Learning Agreement or a host confirmation are signed by the Institute. Please allow at least 4 weeks for signatures.
- **Home institution requirements.** If your university requires a set number of hours, a supervisor's evaluation or a specific form, tell us before the internship is agreed.
- **Data protection.** Our data come from schools and include minors. Interns work with anonymized data only, sign a confidentiality agreement and store data only as instructed.
- **Ethics.** Any new data collection requires ethics approval and is not usually possible within a short internship.
- **Insurance and residence.** Interns arrange their own health and liability insurance and, where needed, a visa or residence permit for the Czech Republic.
- **Recognition.** We confirm the length, content and outputs of the internship in writing. Credit recognition is handled by your home institution.