Job Announcement

Young, modern, and research oriented... the University of Potsdam has firmly established itself within the scientific landscape since its founding in 1991. Nationally and internationally renowned scientists teach and perform research here at Brandenburg’s largest university. The University of Potsdam is successful in acquiring third-party funds, delivers outstanding performance in technology and knowledge transfer, and has a very service-oriented administration. With about 21,000 students studying at three campuses – Am Neuen Palais, Griebnitzsee and Golm – the University of Potsdam is a prominent economic factor and engine of development for the region. The University of Potsdam has a total of over 3,000 faculty and staff members and is located in one of Germany’s most scenic areas.

The University of Potsdam, invites applications for the following position subject to funding commitment:

Junior Research Group Leader
“Machine Learning in the Cognitive Sciences”
Requisition No.: 272/2019

The position is starting on 1 January 2020 (or earlier / later). The salary is determined by the collective bargaining agreement for public employees in Germany (TV-L 13 Ost). The position is for 40 hours per week (100 % full-time contract). This is a temporary position limited to a term of 3 years in accordance with Section 2 subsection 1 of the Academic Fixed-Term Contract Law (WissZeitVG), with the possibility of a one year extension (subject to the availability of funds).

Responsibilities & Qualifications

The successful candidate will lead a new independent research group on machine learning with an application to the cognitive sciences. We take the cognitive sciences to include, for example, computational linguistics, computer vision, cognitive modeling, human movement sciences, etc. The candidate must have a proven track record of high-quality research and international publications, ideally both in the field of machine learning and in at least one field of the cognitive sciences, and is expected to participate in related interdisciplinary research activities at the University of Potsdam. Some post-doctoral experience is desirable (~ 2 years), but in exceptional cases, we may consider candidates who have just completed their PhDs.

The junior research group is funded by the university’s Research Focus in Cognitive Sciences. The Research Focus in Cognitive Sciences is one of four interdisciplinary focus areas of the University of Potsdam. It brings together researchers from the fields of computational linguistics, computer science, linguistics, mathematics, psychology, and sports.
science who do empirical and theoretical research on the structure, the dynamics, and the
development of complex cognitive abilities, such as language, vision, attention, action
planning, and motor skills. More details can be found on the website: https://www.uni-potsdam.de/en/cognitive-sciences/index.html.

The Research Focus Cognitive Sciences is also tightly integrated into ongoing research
activities within the greater Berlin-Potsdam metropolitan region.

The position includes funding for a PhD student that the Junior Research Group Leader
will select and supervise, and an annual budget for travel and other expenses. While this
is primarily a research position, the group leader is encouraged to contribute to advanced-
level teaching activities, e.g. in the English-language MSc programs in Cognitive Systems
(computational linguistics, machine learning, knowledge representation and reasoning)
and in Cognitive Science (embodied cognition).

Any questions can be directed to Prof. David Schlangen, david.schlangen@uni-
potsdam.de.

Under the laws of the federal state of Brandenburg, employees under this contract are
permitted to dedicate at least 33% of their contract time for their scientific qualification.

The University of Potsdam strives to maintain gender balance among its staff. Severely
disabled applicants shall receive preference in case of equal qualifications. We expressly
invite applications from people with migration backgrounds.

Applications should include a CV, a publication list, a brief research statement out-
lining the candidate's research plans for the next four years, and the names and
email addresses of at least three references. Possible points of connection to the
existing collaborative research centers in Potsdam (SFB 1287 - “The Limits of Vari-
ability in Language”, https://www.uni-potsdam.de/sfb1287/index.html ; SFB 1294 -
“Data Assimilation”, https://www.uni-potsdam.de/de/sfb1294.html ) would be ap-
preciated.

Please send your application materials to Ms Ines Mauer (assistant to Prof.
Schlangen) to the University of Potsdam, Research Focus Cognitive Sciences,
Haus 14 Raum 4.35, Karl-Liebknecht-Straße 24-25, 14476 Potsdam, Germany - pref-
erably electronically as one single PDF file by August, 27 at the latest to mau-
er@uni-potsdam.de with the subject line, “Junior Research Group Leader –
272/2019.”

In order to return your application documents, we request that you include a self-
addressed stamped envelope.

Potsdam, 31.07.2019