

Hier
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Zukunft!



Saarland University is a campus university with an international reputation for research excellence, particularly in computer science and in the life sciences and nanosciences. The university is also distinguished by its close ties to France and its strong European focus. Around 17,000 students, studying over one hundred different academic disciplines, are currently enrolled at Saarland University. Saarland University is officially recognized as one of Germany's family-friendly higher-education institutions and with a combined workforce of more than 4000 it is one of the largest employers in the region.

The Department of Computer Science at Saarland University is inviting applications for the following position commencing **in autumn 2022**:

Academic research assistant (m/f/x)

Reference number W2079, salary in accordance with the German TV-L salary scale¹, pay grade: E13 (see also <https://oeffentlicher-dienst.info/c/t/rechner/tv-l/west?id=tv-l-2020&matrix=12>); for 3,5 years, employment: 75 % of standard working time.

Workplace/Department:

The Chair of Computer Science and Computational Linguistics invites applications for one PhD student position in natural language generation or summarization.

The position, to be established in the group "[Computer Science and Computational Linguistics](#)" (Prof. Vera Demberg), is part of the newly funded ERC Starting Grant project "[Individualized Interaction in Discourse](#)" (IDDISC). Project IDDISC aims at more adaptive language interaction at the discourse level, including personalized summaries or instructions. There will also be the opportunity to closely collaborate with researchers working on the DFG-funded [Collaborative Research Center on Information Density and Linguistic Encoding \(SFB 1102\)](#).

Job requirements and responsibilities:

- The goal of this position is to develop a system for text generation that is tailored at the discourse level to the user (in terms of e.g., verbosity of what is explained, vocabulary usage, explicitness of coherence relations). To this end, the generation system will model language understanding in the human user, and tailor its production accordingly.
- The research will be conducted in English.

¹ TV-L = collective agreement on remuneration of public sector employees in the German *Länder*

Your academic qualifications:

- Completed university studies in : A master's degree in computational linguistics, computer science or a related discipline. Experience with machine learning including deep learning is expected.

The successful candidate will also be expected to:

- The job does not come with any teaching obligation. You can however choose to participate in teaching activities (tutoring or co-teaching).
- Applicants are requested to submit their application, including a cover letter that specifies why you would like to work on this topic and what qualifies you for it, an academic CV, a list of academic publications, your MSc thesis (or a current draft), copies of academic degree certificates and names of two potential references. Please also include a 2-page research proposal in your application which outlines how you would approach the topic (choose one topic among multitask learning, domain adaptation or connective generation for discourse coherence).

What we can offer you:

- A flexible work schedule allowing you to balance work and family
- A broad range of further education and professional development programmes
- An occupational health management model with numerous attractive options, such as our university sports programme
- Supplementary pension scheme (RZVK)
- Discounted tickets on local public transport services ('Jobticket')

We look forward to receiving your **application**. Please quote **reference number W2079** when applying. Applications must be received by no later than **30. April 2022** and **should be sent via email** directly to Prof. Vera Demberg:

[vera\(at\)coli.uni-saarland.de](mailto:vera(at)coli.uni-saarland.de)

Prof. Dr. Vera Demberg
Saarland University
Chair of Computer Science and Computational Linguistics
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66123 Saarbrücken

If you have any **questions**, please contact us for assistance. Your contact: Prof. Vera Demberg (**[vera\(at\)coli.uni-saarland.de](mailto:vera(at)coli.uni-saarland.de)**)

Saarland University is one of the leading centres for computational linguistics and computer science in Europe and offers a dynamic and stimulating research environment. It is famous for its interdisciplinary research in language, translation, computation and cognition. [The group](#) is affiliated with both the [Department of Computer Science](#) and with the [Department of Language Science and Technology](#).

The Department of Language Science and Technology organizes about 100 research staff in ten research groups in the fields of computational linguistics, psycholinguistics, speech processing, and corpus linguistics.

Both departments are part of the [Saarland Informatics Campus](#), which brings together 800 researchers and 2000 students from 81 countries. We collaborate closely with the university's Department of Computer Science, the [Max Planck Institute for Informatics](#), the [Max Planck Institute for Software Systems](#), and the [German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence \(DFKI\)](#).

Our researchers and students come from all over the world, and our primary working language is English.

The Saarland University is an equal opportunities employer. In accordance with its policy of increasing the proportion of women in this type of employment, the University actively encourages applications from women. Women are given preference in cases of equal suitability, ability and professional performance.

Applications from severely disabled persons will be given preferential consideration in the event of equal suitability. Part-time employment is generally possible.

We welcome applications regardless of gender, nationality, ethnic and social origin, religion/belief, disability, age, and sexual orientation and identity.

Pay grade classification is based on the particular details of the position held and the extent to which the applicant meets the requirements of the pay grade within the TV-L salary scale.

Unfortunately, costs for attending an interview at Saarland University cannot be reimbursed in principle.

When you submit a job application to Saarland University you will be transmitting personal data. [Please refer to our privacy notice for information on how we collect and process personal data in accordance with Art. 13 of the Datenschutz-Grundverordnung.](#) By submitting your application you confirm that you have taken note of the information in the Saarland University privacy notice.