Saarland University is a campus university that is internationally recognized for its strong research programmes. Fostering young academic talent and creating ideal conditions for teaching and research are a core part of the university's mission. As part of the University of the Greater Region, Saarland University enables students and staff to share and exchange knowledge and ideas between disciplines, between universities and across borders. With over 17,000 national and international students, studying more than a hundred different academic disciplines, Saarland University is a diverse and dynamic learning environment. [Saarland University is officially recognized as one of Germany's family-friendly higher-education institutions and with a combined workforce of more than 4,000 it is one of the largest employers in the region.]

The Department of Language Science and Technology is inviting applications for the following position commencing 02 September 2024

Academic research assistant (m/f/x)

Reference number W2439, Salary in accordance with the rules for the EU-Marie-Curie scheme accounting gross salary flat, duration of employment: 3 years, volume of employment: 100 % of standard working time.

Workplace/Department:

CASCADE (Computational Analysis of Semantic Change Across Different Environments) is a HORIZON Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Doctoral Networks scheme which will bring together researchers from a variety of backgrounds, including literary studies, historical text analysis, semantics, corpus linguistics, machine learning and natural language processing. The project will emphasise the importance of computational linguistics and humanities scholarship as skills that bring value and competitive edge to organisations concerned with semantically aware information retrieval and text analytics. CASCADE is a partnership between University College Cork, the University of Sheffield, KU Leuven, the University of Helsinki, and Saarland University.

Saarland University is currently seeking applications for a PhD project entitled **Modeling context for the analysis of language variation and change,** which will be one of ten funded projects to emerge out of CASCADE's doctoral network. The successful candidate will be appointed as Marie Curie Early Career Researchers at Saarland University, enrolled in a fully-funded three-year PhD programme.

The successful candidate will be supervised by PD Dr. Stefania Degaetano-Ortlieb. The position will be located within the _Department of Language Science and Technology_. The successful applicant will have the opportunity to collaborate with researchers affiliated with the _DFG-funded Collaborative Research Center (CRC) 1102_ on _Information Density and Linguistic Encoding_ at Saarland University. CRC 1102 is a thriving research environment with over 30 PhD students and postdocs from many subfields of Linguistics, Computational Linguistics and Psycholinguistics. The _Department of Language Science and Technology_ consists of about 100 research staff in nine research groups in the fields of Computational Linguistics, Psycholinguistics, Speech Processing, and Corpus

Linguistics. It is part of Saarland Informatics Campus, which brings together computer science research at the university with world-class research institutions on campus.

The project *Modeling context for the analysis of language variation and change* will use computational approaches to mode linguistic and extra-linguistic context for the analysis of language variation and change. Context has a major impact on how we process language. However, the notion of context is very broad ranging from broadly conceived pragmatic conditions, i.e. the extra-linguistic context (e.g. socio-cultural factors, genres, time), to the relationship among linguistic elements that can substitute for each other in a given context, i.e. the paradigmatic context, up to the local linguistic context of linguistic elements, i.e. the syntagmatic context. While studies on language variation and change do encompass the notion of context, the coverage of contextual factors is often relatively limited. This project will apply and further develop computational modeling techniques to integrate contextual factors among the types of context described above to arrive at more comprehensive accounts of effects of contextual factors on language variation and change.

The vacancy is open to applicants of all nationalities who comply with the mobility requirement and the degree requirement:

- applicants must not have resided in the country of the CASCADE university that will host them (university of the main supervisor, Germany in this case) for more than 12 months in the 36 months preceding appointment

- applicants must not hold a doctoral degree in any other field or have failed a corresponding doctoral examination at another higher education institution.

CASCADE is committed to creating an environment in which all talents can develop to their maximum potential, regardless of gender, age, cultural origin, nationality or disability. We particularly encourage candidates from traditionally underrepresented groups to apply.

CASCADE is advertising positions for 10 candidates within its network, who will be housed across the five participating universities. While applications are welcome to apply for more than one project, applications for each position must be submitted separately. In the event an applicant does apply for more than one position and has a particular preference, this should be indicated by email to PD Dr. Stefania Degaetano-Ortlieb. Applicants are encouraged to only apply for projects for which they are ideally qualified and suitable. The recruitment process will be done centrally by the CASCADE selection committee.

Job requirements and responsibilities:

- Participation in the general training programme of the doctoral network (kick-off, monthly online research meetings, annual workshops and schools, and final conference)
- Collaboration with a multidisciplinary research group focused on the intersection of Computational Linguistics, Linguistics, and Digital Humanities.
- Creation of a computational approach to model contextual factors.
- Large-scale analysis of effects of contextual factors on modeling language variation and change.
- Participation in joint publications and engagement in academic service.
- The successful candidate will be expected to participate in a series of international conferences and workshops, as well as undertake secondments in Germany and abroad.

Your academic qualifications:
- Completed university studies in Digital Humanities, Computational Linguistics, Data Science, AI/NLP, Information Science, or related fields, held by time of appointment
- Language skills (according to GER): English – B2

The successful candidate will also be expected to:
- Demonstrated experience in applying computational methods to textual data (**essential**);
- Familiarity with eighteenth-century English data sources (**desirable**)
- Capability to bridge the gap between data science and the humanities (**essential**);
- Enthusiasm for inter- and multidisciplinary research and ability to work independently and collaboratively (**essential**);
- Strong research, analytical, and organizational skills (**essential**);
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills (**essential**);
- A good command of English is mandatory;

- Language skills (according to GER): English – B2

What we can offer you:
- A flexible work schedule allowing you to balance work and family
- Interdisciplinary supervision and structured PhD training
- An occupational health management model with numerous attractive options, such as our university sports program
- A broad range or further education and professional development programmes (e.g. language courses)

We look forward to receiving your **meaningful online application** (in a PDF file) by **15.04.2024** to s.degaetano@mx.uni-saarland.de . Please include the reference number **W2439** in the subject line of the e-mail.

If you have any **questions**, please contact us for assistance. Your contact:
Frau PD Dr. Stefania Degaetano-Ortlieb
Department of Language Science and Technology
Tel.: +49 681 302 70077

If you have obtained a foreign university degree, a proof of the equivalence of this degree with a German degree by the Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen (ZAB) is needed before hiring. If necessary, please apply for this in time. You can find more information at https://www.kmk.org/zeugnisbewertung.

Unfortunately, neither costs for attending an interview at Saarland University nor costs for any certificate evaluation by the ZAB can be reimbursed in principle.

We welcome applications regardless of gender, nationality, ethnic and social origin, religion/belief, disability, age, and sexual orientation and identity. In accordance with its policy of increasing the proportion of women, the University actively encourages applications from women. Applications from severely disabled persons are expressly welcome and will be given preferential consideration in the event of equal suitability.

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.