Saarland University is a campus university with an international focus and a strong research profile. With numerous internationally renowned research institutes on campus and dedicated support for collaborative projects, Saarland University is an ideal environment for innovations and technology transfer. The German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI) is an independent research organization with a core technology transfer division (DST) currently operating a large research center for artificial intelligence operated in a public-private partnership with Saarland University. DFKI maintains close collaborative ties with national and international companies and is firmly rooted in the worldwide scientific landscape.

To further strengthen this excellence in research and teaching, the Department of Language Science and Technology (LST) in collaboration with the German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI) is inviting applications for the following position:

**Professorship (W3) in Language Technology**

**(m/f/x; Reference: W2464)**

The position is a permanent public sector appointment (equivalent to a full tenured professor) starting at the earliest possible appointment. We are looking for an experienced researcher in the field of language technology who has extensive knowledge of natural language processing and machine learning methodologies. Experience with dialogue systems and reinforcement learning, the development of foundations models and/or trustworthy Artificial Intelligence is also desirable. In addition to heading a professorship at the university, the successful candidate will also be appointed as a scientific director at the German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI) where they will head a research department (DST). The successful candidate will be expected to contribute to research and teaching, to actively contribute to departmental research and teaching. The language of instruction is English (in the context of the DST). The successful candidate will be expected to have a PhD or doctorate in an appropriate subject and will have demonstrated a particular capacity for independent academic research, typically by having obtained an advanced, post-doctoral research degree (Habilitation) or by having published an equivalent volume of peer-reviewed research or by having been actively involved in excellence-oriented research at a high international level. The position offers excellent working conditions in a lively and international scientific community. Saarland University is one of the leading centres for language science and computational linguistics in Europe and offers a dynamic and stimulating research environment. The Department of Language Science and Technology (DST) employs about 150 research staff across three research groups in the fields of computational linguistics, natural language processing, psycholinguistics, phonetics and speech science, speech processing, and interplay (https://www.voc.businessplants.de). The department serves as the focal point of the Collaborative Research Centre ‘Neuroexplicit Models of Language, Voice, and Action’ (https://www.neuroexplicit.org), both of which foster close collaboration with DFKI. The LST department and the DST are part of the Saarland Informatics Campus (SIC), which is internationally recognized for its collaborative and interdisciplinary research, and the successful candidate will be expected to contribute to research and teaching. Language technologists are core elements of our study programmes at the BSc, MSc, and PhD level and the program will teach courses within these programmes.

What we can offer you:

The successful candidate will conduct multi-disciplinary research, lead their own research group at the university and partner teaching and supervision duties of the undergraduate and graduate levels. At DFKI, the person appointed will lead a research department in an international environment and supervise research. Building research and expert is at a scale that is otherwise difficult to achieve. The position offers excellent working conditions in a lively and international scientific community. Saarland University is one of the leading centres for language science and computational linguistics in Europe and offers a dynamic and stimulating research environment. The Department of Language Science and Technology (DST) employs about 150 research staff across three research groups in the fields of computational linguistics, natural language processing, psycholinguistics, phonetics and speech science, speech processing, and interplay (https://www.voc.businessplants.de). The department serves as the focal point of the Collaborative Research Centre ‘Neuroexplicit Models of Language, Voice, and Action’ (https://www.neuroexplicit.org), both of which foster close collaboration with DFKI. The LST department and the DST are part of the Saarland Informatics Campus (SIC), which is internationally recognized for its collaborative and interdisciplinary research, and the successful candidate will be expected to contribute to research and teaching. Language technologists are core elements of our study programmes at the BSc, MSc, and PhD level and the program will teach courses within these programmes.

Qualifications:

The position will be made available in accordance with the general provisions of German public sector employment law. Candidates must have experience in and an aptitude for academic teaching. They will have a PhD or doctorate in an appropriate subject and will have demonstrated a particular capacity for independent academic research, typically by having obtained an advanced, post-doctoral research degree (Habilitation) or by having published an equivalent volume of peer-reviewed research or by having been actively involved in excellence-oriented research at a high international level. The position offers excellent working conditions in a lively and international scientific community. Saarland University is one of the leading centres for language science and computational linguistics in Europe and offers a dynamic and stimulating research environment. The Department of Language Science and Technology (DST) employs about 150 research staff across three research groups in the fields of computational linguistics, natural language processing, psycholinguistics, phonetics and speech science, speech processing, and interplay (https://www.voc.businessplants.de). The department serves as the focal point of the Collaborative Research Centre ‘Neuroexplicit Models of Language, Voice, and Action’ (https://www.neuroexplicit.org), both of which foster close collaboration with DFKI. The LST department and the DST are part of the Saarland Informatics Campus (SIC), which is internationally recognized for its collaborative and interdisciplinary research, and the successful candidate will be expected to contribute to research and teaching. Language technologists are core elements of our study programmes at the BSc, MSc, and PhD level and the program will teach courses within these programmes.

How to apply:

Applications should be submitted online at www.uni-saarland.de/berufungen. The additional paper copy is required. The application contains:

- a letter of application and CV (maximum five pages)
- a complete list of your academic publications
- a complete list of external funding (including due dates if you were not the sole beneficiary)
- your proposed research concept (5-10 pages)
- copies of your degree certificates
- complete copies of your five most significant publications
- the names of three academic references (including email addresses), at least one of whom is not one of your previous academic supervisors
- if you publish a high degree of freedom from a foreign university, please provide proof of equivalence from Germany’s Central Office for Foreign Higher Education (Studienkollegen) where available. The position requires excellent working conditions at the highest level of international recognition. Special support will be provided for projects that harness collaborative research within existing international cooperation networks, e.g. projects with partners in the European Union’s Horizon 2020 Framework Programme (Horizon 2020) or the University of the Greater Region (http://www.uni-saarland.de/berufungen).

Application deadline: 09 June 2024

Please include the job reference number W2464 when you apply. Selected candidates will be interviewed. If you have any questions, please contact crocker@lst.uni-saarland.de

At Saarland University, we are committed to promoting all aspects of equality. We therefore expect members of our professorial staff to engage in activities that promote and further internationalization. Special support will be provided for projects that harness collaborative research within existing international cooperation networks, e.g. projects with partners in the European Union’s Horizon 2020 Framework Programme (Horizon 2020) or the University of the Greater Region. Saarland University is an equal opportunity employer in accordance with its affirmative action policy. Saarland University is actively seeking to increase the proportion of women in this field. Qualified women candidates are therefore strongly encouraged to apply. Preference consideration will be given to applications from female candidates of equal capability. We welcome applications regardless of nationality, gender, sexual orientation, age, marital status, and disability. 

When preparing your application to Saarland University you will be transmitting personal data. Please refer to our privacy policy (https://www.uni-saarland.de/sicheurbedienste/verantwortungsvoll-schutz-von-personendaten) for information on how we collect and process personal data in accordance with Art. 13 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). By submitting your application, you confirm that you have been made aware of the information in the Saarland University privacy notice.