Saarland University is a campus university with a strong international focus and a distinctive research profile characterized by its four core research hubs 'Computer Science and Informatics', 'BioMed', 'Europe' and 'Sustainability'. With numerous internationally respected research institutes situated in the vicinity of the university and dedicated support for start-up companies, Saarland University is an ideal environment for research, teaching and innovation. The proportion of international students studying at Saarland University is well above the national average and is testimony to the university's strong international focus. Saarland University has been officially certified as a family-friendly university since 2004.

The Faculty of Humanities - particularly the Department of Language Science and Technology - has a long-standing tradition of excellence in natural language processing and language science, built on numerous large-scale collaborative research initiatives and internationally recognized degree programmes. The faculty is actively expanding its teaching and research infrastructure to support its two recently established focus areas 'Language and Cognition' and 'Digital Humanities'.

The German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI) is Germany's leading application-driven research institute with a core technology transfer mission. DFKI is currently the world's largest research centre for artificial intelligence that is operated as a public-private partnership. DFKI maintains close collaborative ties with national and international companies and is firmly rooted in the worldwide scientific AI 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 starting at the earliest possible opportunity:

W2 Professorship (W3 tenure track position) in Language Technology

(m/f/x; Reference: W2698)

This professorial position is a fixed-term public sector appointment ('Beamtenverhältnis auf Zeit') for a maximum period of six years. If the tenure evaluation procedure (teaching appraisal and external assessment of research work) is positive, the appointee will be promoted to a permanent professorship (lifetime tenure) at the German academic salary scale W3.

We are seeking an internationally recognized researcher in the field of language technology with extensive expertise in natural language processing and machine learning methodologies. Particular interest will be given to candidates with experience in training, analysing, developing and improving large-scale neural architectures. In addition to holding 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 with access to an extensive global network of industry and other partners. This dual role offers a unique platform for high-impact research and meaningful societal engagement at a scale rarely achievable elsewhere. DFKI is an application-driven research organization that is largely financed through external project funding. Experience in collaborating with non-academic partners and in attracting national and international research funding is therefore desirable.

The Department of Language Science and Technology is internationally recognized for its collaborative and interdisciplinary research. The successful candidate will be expected to conduct world-class research and actively contribute to relevant joint research initiatives. Language technologies are a core component of our B.Sc./B.A. and M.Sc./M.A. programmes, and the appointee will be involved in teaching within these programmes and supervising PhD students. Due to the dual appointment with DFKI, this position enjoys a reduced teaching load.

What we can offer you:
The position offers excellent conditions for research and collaboration in a lively and international scientific community. Saarland University is one of the leading centres of natural-language processing, language science and AI in Europe, and provides a dynamic and stimulating research environment. The Department of Language Science and Technology employs about 100 research staff across nine research groups in the fields of computational linguistics, natural language processing, psycholinguistics, speech science, language modelling and corpus linguistics (https://www.uni-saarland.de/en/department/lst.html). the department serves as the focal point of the Collaborative Research Centre 1102 'Information Density and Linguistic Encoding' (http://www.sfb1102.uni-saarland.de) and the Research Training Group 'Neuroexplicit Models of Language, Vision, and Action' (https://www.neuroexplicit.org/), both of which collaborate closely with DFKI (https://dfki.de/en/web).

The LST department and DFKI are both part of the Saarland Informatics Campus (SIC, https://saarland-informatics-campus.de/en), which brings together 1,000 researchers and over 2,800 students from 81 countries. The SIC is a collaboration between Saarland University and several world-class research institutions located on campus, including, in addition to DFKI, the Max Planck Institute for Informatics and the Max Planck Institute for Software Systems. The local AI ecosystem is further strengthened through close collaboration with the Helmholtz Center for Information Security (https://cispa.de/en).

Qualifications:
The appointment will be made in accordance with the general provisions of German public sector employment law (see legal recruitment requirements in § 41 Saarländisches Hochschulgesetz, current version available at https://recht.saarland.de/bssl/document/jlr-HSchulGSLrahmen).
Candidates must have an aptitude for academic teaching. The successful candidate will be expected to actively contribute to departmental research and teaching. The language of instruction is English (in the M.Sc. and M.A. programmes) and German (in the B.Sc. and B.A. programmes). We expect the successful candidate either to have sufficient proficiency to teach in both languages or be willing to acquire this level of proficiency within an appropriate period.

Saarland University views internationalization as a process spanning all aspects of university life. We therefore expect members of our professorial staff to promote and foster further internationalization. Special support will be provided for projects that expand collaboration within existing international cooperative networks, e.g. projects with partners in the European University Alliance Transform4Europe (www.transform4europe.eu) or the University of the Greater Region (www.uni-gr.eu).

In accordance with the objectives of its gender equality plan, Saarland University is actively seeking to increase the proportion of women in this field. Qualified women candidates are therefore strongly encouraged to apply. Preferential consideration will be given to applications from disabled candidates of equal eligibility. We welcome applications from all qualified candidates irrespective of gender, nationality, ethnic heritage or social background, religious beliefs, personal beliefs or values, disability, age, sexual orientation or identity.

Your application:
Please complete the application form in Saarland University's online application portal at www.uni-saarland.de/berufungen and submit it with your application documents by no later than September 12, 2025. Application documents must be uploaded as a single PDF file (max. size 10 MB) and should include the following documents in the order specified:

• a cover letter and curriculum vitae (including phone number and email address)
• a full list of publications
• a full list of external funding (indicate own share if not sole recipient)
• your proposed research plan (2-5 pages)
• a teaching statement (1 page)
• copies of your degree certificates
• complete copies of your five most important publications
• the names and email addresses of three academic references, at least one of whom should not be your PhD advisor or postdoctoral mentor.
• Proof of disability if you declared a disability in your application
• If you hold a university degree from a non-German university, please provide proof of equivalence from Germany's Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB) if available. If you have not yet requested proof of equivalence from ZAB, you must submit proof at a later date if so requested.

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 General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (www.uni-saarland.de/en/privacy). By submitting your application, you confirm that you have taken note of the information in the Saarland University privacy notice.