

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 Chair of Language, Computation, and Cognition at Saarland University is inviting applications for up to three postdoc positions commencing **at the earliest possible date.**

Academic research assistant (m/f/x)

Reference number W2947, salary in accordance with the German TV-L salary scale[1], pay grade: E13; duration: between 2 and 4 years; volume of employment: 100% of standard working time.

Workplace/Department:

The Chair of Language, Computation, and Cognition (LaCoCo Lab), led by Prof. Michael Hahn, invites excellent applicants for up to three Postdoc positions in Theory and Interpretability of Large Language Models. The successful applicants will be part of the ERC-funded project REALM "Foundations for Reliable Language Model Reasoning via Inductive Biases", or closely collaborate with it.

Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- Theory for LLMs (e.g., Statistical Learning Theory, Computational Complexity, Feature Geometry).
- Mechanistic Interpretability for LLMs.
- Foundations of agentic LLM systems.
- Foundations of LLM reasoning.
- Foundations of AI safety.

Job requirements and responsibilities:

- Perform research in the field of Machine Learning, especially Large Language Models
- Contribute to activities of the research group in the areas of research, teaching, and mentoring

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

Your academic qualifications:

- PhD degree in Computer Science or in a related technical field
- Language skills (according to GER): English C1

The successful candidate will also be expected to:

- Prior experience with research in Machine Learning or a related field
- Strong publication record in a relevant field, qualifying you to mentor junior researchers
- Outstanding programming skills and algorithmic understanding
- Strong grades from a top degree program in a relevant field (e.g., Computer Science)
- Strong spoken and written communication skills in English
- Strong understanding of machine learning and language models
- Strong motivation for scientific research
- Strong interest in the research topics studied by the group

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' of the SaarVV)
- Job bike leasing (JobRad)

We look forward to receiving your **meaningful online application**. Please quote **reference number W2947** when applying. Applications must be received by no later than **31 December 2026** and **should be sent via email** to Prof. Michael Hahn at: **apply-mh@lst.uni-saarland.de .**

Applicants are requested to submit their application, including a cover letter that specifies what qualifies you for the position, an academic CV, a list of academic publications, a piece of scientific writing (e.g., a paper, or an MSc thesis), copies of academic degree certificates, and names of two or three potential references. Please also include a statement (up to 2 pages) in your application which outlines your motivation for applying to this position (please specifically refer to one or more recent publications from our group).

Prof. Michael Hahn
Saarland University
Chair of Language, Computation, and Cognition
Campus C7 4, room 3.19
66123 Saarbrücken

If you have any **questions**, please contact us for assistance. Your contact: Prof. Michael Hahn (**mhahn@lst.uni-saarland.de**).

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. Part-time employment is generally possible.

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 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.