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 Language Science and Technology / SFB 1102 / Project B2 is inviting applications for the following position commencing (starting date flexible from) 01 November 2020

**Academic research assistant (m/f/x)**

Reference number 1797, salary in accordance with the German TV-L salary scale\(^1\), pay grade: E13, starting date flexible (February 2021 or thereafter) until June 30, 2022 with the possibility of renewal (possible funding of the PhD position for a total of 4 years), employment: 75% of standard working time.

**Workplace/Department:**
Department of Language Science and Technology / DFG-funded project B2 “Cognitive Modelling of Information Density for discourse relations” embedded in the Collaborative Research Center Information Density and Linguistic Encoding (SFB 1102).

The position will be part of the research group on computer science and computational linguistics [https://www.uni-saarland.de/lehrstuhl/demberg.html](https://www.uni-saarland.de/lehrstuhl/demberg.html)

**Job requirements and responsibilities:**

We invite applications for one PhD student position in discourse relation processing. Topics to be investigated as part of the position include multitask learning for improving discourse relation classification, discourse relation classification across domains and the automatic choice of discourse connectives in generation tasks.

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\(^1\) TV-L = collective agreement on remuneration of public sector employees in the German Länder

The pay grade assigned to an employee depends on their professional qualifications and the number of years of service. Each pay grade is further subdivided into levels. Entry-level employees with no previous experience will initially be assigned a level 1 rating. After one year at level 1 of the E10 pay grade, an employee will move up to level 2. After a further two years, the employee will move to level 3, etc.
Your academic qualifications:
- Completed university studies in computational linguistics, computer science or a related discipline.

The successful candidate will also be expected to:
Experience with machine learning including deep learning is expected. The research will be conducted in English, therefore very good written and spoken English language skills are necessary. 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 or MA thesis, copies of academic degree certificates and 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’)
- An inspiring interdisciplinary research environment
- A collaborative work environment with a rich variety of researchers working on related topics in natural language processing and machine learning: Saarland University is a campus university with several related research institutes also located on campus (German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI), Max Planck Institute for Informatics (MPI-Inf), Max Planck Institute for Software Systems (MPI-SWS), CISPA Helmholtz Center for Information Security)
- Access to a wide range of specialized courses in computational linguistics and computer science
- Access to soft skill courses as part of the grad school program
- Access to German language courses if you wish to improve your German skills

We look forward to receiving your application. Please quote reference number 1797 when applying. Applications must be received by no later than 15 December 2020 and should be sent via email directly to Prof. Vera Demberg:
vera@coli.uni-saarland.de
Frau Prof. Dr. Vera Demberg
Chair of Computer Science and Computational Linguistics /Department of Language Science and Technology
Campus C7.2
66123 Saarbrücken

If you have any questions, please contact us for assistance. Your contact: vera@coli.uni-saarland.de

In accordance with the objectives of its equal opportunities plan, Saarland University seeks 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. The successful candidate has the option of choosing to work part-time in this position.

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.

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.