

*The University of Stavanger (UiS) has about 10,100 students and 1,400 employees. The University is located in the third largest urban region in Norway, with a dynamic labor market and exciting cultural and leisure activities. We are the only Norwegian member of the European Consortium of Innovative Universities. The university has high ambitions. We will be a driving force in the development of knowledge in the region, and an international research university with an emphasis on innovation. Together with our staff and students, we will challenge the well-known and explore the unknown.*

*Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science is part of the Faculty of Science and Technology. The department carries out research within data, electricity and electronics, and offers bachelor programs in electrical- and computer engineering, master programs in computer science and cybernetics/signal processing, and a PhD program in information technology. The master program in computer science is an international program and is taught in english. There are currently 40 employees, including research fellows and postdocs, and 520 students at the department.*

## **Research fellow in information technology, st-id. 30061712, 713**

**03.08.2015**

The University of Stavanger invites applications for two doctorate scholarship in information technology at Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. The positions will be in context of the FAETE (From Answering Engines to Task-completion Engines) project starting in September 2015.

This is a trainee position that will mainly give promising researchers an opportunity for professional development leading to a doctoral degree.

The research fellow will be appointed for three years with a possibility of extension to four years with 25% compulsory duties. The position is vacant from 01.09.15. The appointee can accede when he/she is admitted to the PhD program in information technology with an agreement to complete the doctorate within the duration of the scholarship.

One PhD position will be focusing on user aspects: understanding and modeling user behavior and information needs in a task-based context, studying user interactions, and developing effective interfaces.

The other PhD position is focused on system aspects: understanding and representing information requests, and satisfying them by retrieving, extracting, and integrating information from various sources.

Applicants must have (or expect to have by Autumn 2015) a strong academic background with a five-year master degree within computer science, library and information science, human-computer interaction or a related discipline, preferably recently, or possess corresponding qualifications which could provide a basis for successfully completing a doctorate. Both the grade for the master's thesis and the weight average grade of the master's degree must individually be equivalent to or better than a B grade.

By rating it will be placed on the applicant's potential for research in the field, as well as that person's individual prerequisites for research education.

The appointee must be able to work independently and as a member of a team, be creative and innovative. The research fellow must have a good command of both oral and written English.

This fellowship position is important for obtaining a scientific position at a University.

The doctorate will mainly be carried out at the University of Stavanger, apart from a period of study abroad at a recognized and relevant center of research.

The research fellow is salaried according to the State Salary Code, l.pl 17.515, code 1017, LR 20, ltr 50, of NOK 430 500 per annum.

The position provides for automatic membership in the Norwegian Public Service Pension Fund, which guarantees favorable retirement benefits. Members may also apply for home investment loans at favorable interest rates.

Project description and further information about the position can be obtained from Krisztian Balog, telephone 51 83 17 88, email: [krisztian.balog@uis.no](mailto:krisztian.balog@uis.no).

Information about the appointment procedures can be obtained from Norbert Puttkamer, telephone 51 83 21 88, email [norbert.puttkamer@uis.no](mailto:norbert.puttkamer@uis.no).

The University is committed to a policy of equal opportunity in its employment practices. The University currently employs few female research fellows within this academic field and women are therefore particularly encouraged to apply.

Motivation letter, containing the description of research interest and past experience with regards to the project, certificates/diplomas, two letter of reference, list of publications (if any) and other documentation that you consider relevant, should be submitted as attachments to the application. Please upload all attachments as separate files. If the attachments exceed 15 MB altogether, they will have to be compressed before uploading.

### **Project description**

Web search engines over the past decade have evolved into being the primary gateways to accessing the ever-growing amount of data available online. Major web search engines (Google, Bing, and Yahoo!) have become extremely effective in responding to a range of requests directly and appropriately (e.g., by showing results on a map or displaying “info-boxes” for entities, such as people or organizations). Search, however, is rarely performed for its own sake, but is usually associated with a specific target or goal. In many cases, this goal is the completion of a larger task, which is often complex (involving a nontrivial sequence of steps) and knowledgeintensive (requiring access to and manipulation of large quantities of information). Planning a family vacation or setting up a task force are just two of a plethora of examples. Such tasks call for a potentially large number of search queries to be issued in order to collect all the information needed. And, it often takes additional data processing steps (filtering, sorting, aggregating) before an actionable decision can be reached. Contemporary search environments are tailored to support a small set of basic search tasks and provide limited help in this tedious process. Resolving complex tasks with current search technology often requires us to use multiple search sessions and multiple search strategies, and then manually synthesize and integrate information across sessions (i.e., opening multiple windows or tabs and cutting-and-pasting information between them). To solve these problems, one needs a paradigm shift from answering engines to taskcompletion engines.

The aim of this project is to develop, implement, and test a task-completion engine that supports humans in solving complex, knowledgeintensive tasks, by providing an integrated environment that caters for all task-related activities (which, to date, are performed using a combination of various tools, applications, and services). Our system will provide assistance for formulating information needs by engaging in a dialog with the user, will offer rich interaction with results, and will be able to learn from past user interactions.

More information about the project can be found on this page: <http://krisztianbalog.com/projects/faete/>

Jobbnorge ID: 115069, Deadline: 03.08.2015, Internal ID: 15/04047

Jobbnorge ID: 115069, Deadline: Closed