PhD Research Fellowship in Natural Language Processing

About the position

A position as PhD Research Fellow in Natural Language Processing is available in the Language Technology Group (LTG) of the Department of Informatics (IFI), University of Oslo, Norway. The fellowship period is 3 years.

Job description

The PhD position forms part of the CLEANUP project funded by the Research Council of Norway. CLEANUP is an exciting research project at the intersection of natural language processing and data privacy, and aims to develop a range of new machine learning methods to automatically anonymise (or at least strongly de-identify) text documents such as electronic patient records, court rulings or chat-based interactions with customers. The project brings together researchers from machine learning, natural language processing, computational privacy, statistical modelling, health informatics and IT law. In addition, partners from the Norwegian public and private sector (covering the fields of insurance, welfare, healthcare and legal publishing) will contribute to the project with their data and domain knowledge.

The position is located within the Language Technology Group (LTG) at Department of Informatics, UiO. LTG conducts research on a range of NLP topics like semantic parsing, distributional semantics, sentiment analysis, clinical NLP, and more. While the research profile of the group is heavily machine-learning oriented, our projects typically combines data-driven approaches with an interest for linguistic analysis and insight. The group has access to excellent HPC infrastructure.

Qualification requirements

The Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences has a strategic ambition of being a leading research faculty. Candidates for these fellowships will be selected in accordance with this, and expected to be in the upper segment of their class with respect to academic credentials.

Applicants must hold a Master’s degree (120 ECTS) or equivalent in Natural Language Processing, or in Computer Science with a specialization in NLP, with minimum grade B (ECTS grading scale) or equivalent. The Master’s degree must include a thesis of at least 30 ECTS

- the average grade point for courses included in the Master’s degree must be B or better in the Norwegian educational system
- the Master’s thesis must have the grade B or better in the Norwegian educational system
- the average grade point for courses included in the Bachelor’s degree must be C or better in the Norwegian educational system
- Previous experience with machine learning-based approaches to NLP is required
- Previous experience with neural approaches in particular will be an advantage
- The candidate must be able to demonstrate broad knowledge of core NLP tasks, like tagging, parsing, named entity recognition, etc.
- Implementation experience and programming skills will also be given weight
- Working knowledge of Norwegian is recommended, as the project will mainly work on Norwegian documents. Candidates that do not currently speak Norwegian can nevertheless apply if they are willing to learn Norwegian promptly upon arrival in Norway

Fluent oral and written communication skills in English are required. International applicants must document these skills prior to admission to the PhD programme by passing one of the following tests with these or better grades:

- TOEFL - Test of English as Foreign Language, internet based test (IBT). Minimum total score: 80
- IELTS - International English Language Testing Service. Minimum overall band score: 6.5
- Certificate in Advanced English (CAE) and Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE) from the University of Cambridge
- PTE Academic - Pearson Test of English Academic. Minimum overall score: 62

Please see here for exemptions to the English requirements.

The purpose of the fellowship is research training leading to the successful completion of a PhD degree.

The fellowship requires admission to the PhD programme at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences. The application to the PhD programme must be submitted to the department no later than two months after taking up the position. For more information see:

http://www.uio.no/english/research/phd/
http://www.mn.uio.no/english/research/phd/

We offer

- Salary NOK 479 600 - 523 200 per year depending on qualifications and seniority as PhD Research Fellow, (position code 1017)
- Career development programs
Attractive welfare benefits and a generous pension agreement, in addition to Oslo’s family-friendly environment with its rich opportunities for culture and outdoor activities.

How to apply

The application must include:

- Cover letter. Statement of motivation and research interests
- CV (summarizing education, positions and academic work - scientific publications)
- Copies of educational certificates, transcript of records and letters of recommendation
- List of publications and academic works that the applicant wishes to be considered by the evaluation committee
- Names and contact details of 2-3 references (name, relation to candidate, e-mail and telephone number)

The application with attachments must be delivered in our electronic recruiting system, please follow the link “apply for this job”. Foreign applicants are advised to attach an explanation of their University's grading system. Please note that all documents should be in English (or a Scandinavian language).

When evaluating the application, emphasis will be given to the eventual “project description” and the applicant’s academic and personal prerequisites to carry out the project. Applicants may be called in for an interview.

Formal regulations

Please see the guidelines and regulations for appointments to Research Fellowships at the University of Oslo.

No one can be appointed for more than one PhD Research Fellowship period at the University of Oslo.

According to the Norwegian Freedom of Information Act (Offentleglova) information about the applicant may be included in the public applicant list, also in cases where the applicant has requested non-disclosure.

The appointment may be shortened/given a more limited scope within the framework of the applicable guidelines on account of any previous employment in academic positions.

The University of Oslo has an agreement for all employees, aiming to secure rights to research results etc.

Contact information

Questions regarding this position, please contact Pierre Lison, e-mail: plison@ifi.uio.no or Lilja Øvrelid, e-mail: liljao@ifi.uio.no

For technical questions regarding the recruitment system, please contact HR Adviser Torunn Standal Gutormsen, e-mail: t.s.gutormsen@mn.uio.no

About the University of Oslo

The University of Oslo is Norway’s oldest and highest rated institution of research and education with 28,000 students and 7,000 employees. Its broad range of academic disciplines and internationally esteemed research communities make UiO an important contributor to society.

The Department of Informatics (IFI) is one of nine departments belonging to the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences. IFI is Norway’s largest university department for general education and research in Computer Science and related topics.

The Department has more than 1800 students on bachelor level, 600 master students, and over 240 PhDs and postdocs. The overall staff of the Department is close to 370 employees, about 280 of these in full time positions. The full time tenured academic staff is 75, mostly Full/Associate Professors.

Jobbnorge-ID: 189315, Søknadsfrist: 15. august 2020