



The University of Agder has more than 1300 employees and 13 000 students. This makes us one of the largest workplaces in Southern Norway. Our staff research, teach and disseminate knowledge from a variety of academic fields. Co-creation of knowledge is our common vision. We offer a broad range of study programmes in many fields. We are situated at two modern campuses in Kristiansand and Grimstad respectively.

We are an open and inclusive university marked by a culture of cooperation. The aim of the university is to further develop education and research at a high international level.

PhD Research Fellow in ICT

The University of Agder invites applications for a full-time fixed-term position for a period of three years as PhD Research Fellow. The position is linked to the Department of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), and is located in Grimstad, Norway. The starting date is as soon as possible or by agreement.

[The Department of ICT](#) hosts three research groups including nine Professors, 20 Associate Professors/Assistant professors and about 20 Research Fellows, pursuing a variety of research areas such as artificial intelligence (AI), wireless communications, network administration, and embedded systems.

This open position is associated with [Centre for Artificial Intelligence Research](#) (CAIR) and targets development of a Chatbot based Personal Motivator (coach). A successful chatbot based motivator will engage in student dialogue, captivate students, and keep the students motivated. The goal is to enhance student performance by identifying the state-of-mind of each student and then increase motivation through targeted personal encouragements and study advice, all based on natural conversation. The overarching purpose is to strengthen education through automation.

The ideal candidate will have expertise in one or more of the following areas:

- Deep Reinforcement Learning
- Probabilistic Reasoning
- Recurrent Neural Networks
- Deep Neural Networks
- Natural Language Processing.

Admission requirements

The candidate must be enrolled in the [PhD program in technology](#) at the Faculty of Engineering and Science, specialization in ICT within three months of appointment. The applicant must qualify for admission to this PhD Programme.

Applications from applicants who already hold a PhD will normally not be considered.

The candidate must hold a master's degree in ICT, Computer Science or a similar/ related field and document competence in areas relevant to the position.

Furthermore, the applicant must have:

- Strong academic credentials, written and spoken English proficiency, communication and teamwork skills
- Background in several of the following topics: bandit algorithms, game theory, stochastic search, reinforcement learning, and learning automata

Personal suitability, good teamwork skills, inventiveness, and a proactive approach, will be emphasized in the evaluation as well as relevant practical experience. The PhD Research Fellow will be expected to contribute to an active research community that promotes the personal and professional growth of the doctoral candidate. The position places great demands on the applicant's capacity for independent goal-oriented work, ability to concentrate and attention to detail. In return, we offer the opportunity to contribute to the strategic capabilities of a world-class research organization, along with intensive PhD supervision. You will collaborate with top scientists in your field and have excellent prospects for personal development in an innovative working environment for aspiring researchers.

Applicants will be assessed on the basis of academic background and results, attainment, and any previous research and development work.

The following admission requirements apply to the PhD programme:

- The average grade for courses included in the bachelor's degree (or equivalent) should be C (or equivalent) or higher
- The average grade for courses included in the master's degree (or equivalent) should be B (or equivalent) or higher
- The master's thesis (or equivalent) should have a grade B (or equivalent) or higher when the candidate is admitted to the PhD program.

Further provisions relating to the position as PhD Research Fellow can be found in the [Regulations Concerning Terms and Conditions of Employment for the Post of Post-doctoral Research Fellow, Research Fellow, Research Assistant and Resident](#).

Applicants from some countries must document their English proficiency through one of the following tests with the stated results or better:

- TOEFL - Test of English as a Foreign Language with a minimum score of 550 on the Paper-based Test (PBT), or 80 on the Internet based Test (iBT)
- IELTS - International English Language Testing System, with a result of at least 6.0.

Please check the [following list](#) to see if an English test is required. Please note that the English test requirement applies to applicants from most countries according to the list mentioned above. No other English tests will be approved, and certifications/statements cannot replace an English test.

Short-listed applicants will be invited for interviews. With the applicant's permission, UiA will also conduct a reference check before appointment.

Remuneration

The position is remunerated according to the State salary scale, salary plan 17.515, code 1017, salary NOK 442 400. A 2 % compulsory pension contribution to the Norwegian Public Service Pension Fund is deducted from the pay according to current statutory provisions.

The Norwegian public service is committed to reflecting the diversity of society, and the personnel policy of the University of Agder aims to achieve a balanced workforce. All qualified persons are therefore encouraged to apply for the position, irrespective of cultural background, gender, age or disability.

Women are especially encouraged to apply.

Appointment is made by the University of Agder's Appointments Committee for Teaching and Research Positions. The successful applicant will have rights and obligations in accordance with the current regulations for the public service.

Application

Submit your application and CV online. Please click on the link "**Apply for this job**". The following documentation should be submitted as attachments to the online application:

- Certificates and/or grades for all post-secondary education, up to and including the bachelor's level
- Master's degree/higher degree certificate, with a summary of the courses/subjects included in the degree
- Applicants with a foreign higher education must attach an official description of the grading system used at the issuing institution
- Summary (approximately 1-2 pages) of the master's thesis
- Applicants who are required to document their English proficiency must submit their TOEFL or IELTS test results (these may be forwarded after the closing date)
- Summary or links to the applicant's scientific publications (if any)
- A description of the candidate's research interests and background for the project applied for

The applicant is fully responsible for submitting complete documentation. Without complete documentation we cannot, unfortunately, include you in the assessment process.

Closing date: 01.08.18

For further information please contact Professor Ole-Christoffer Granmo, tel. +47 37 23 33 57, email: ole.granmo@uia.no, Associate Professor Morten Goodwin, tel. +47 37 23 31 05, email: morten.goodwin@uia.no or Head of Department Folke Haugland, tel. +47 37 23 32 20, email: folke.haugland@uia.no.

[More about on working at UiA.](#)

In accordance with §25(2) of the Freedom of Information Act, applicants may request that they are not identified in the open list of applicants. The University, however, reserves the right to publish the name of applicants. Applicants will be advised of the University's intention to exercise this right

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