

JOB OFFER

Researcher/PhD student (TV-L E13, 80%)

Duration: January 1, 2022 – November 30, 2024

The Ruhr University Bochum (RUB) is one of the leading research universities in Germany. As a reform-oriented campus university, it unites the entire spectrum of the major scientific areas in one place. The dynamic coexistence of subjects and subject cultures offers researchers and students alike special opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration.

The project *„noFake: AI supported assistance system for crowdsourced detection of digital information“* plans to combine the competencies of humans and machines in order to enable lay crowd workers with minimal training to perform the essential steps of fact checking. We will develop a machine learning system that will view large data sets, presort text and image data, and annotate and contextualize it for the human fact checkers. The project will be carried out in collaboration between teams from Ruhr-University Bochum, CORRECTIV, and TU Dortmund.

Subject to the funding decision by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), the noFake project has a vacancy for a Researcher/PhD student (Wissenschaftliche*r Mitarbeiter*in/Doktorand*in) in the group of Jun.-Prof. Dr. Tatjana Scheffler. Prof. Scheffler's research group Digital Forensic Linguistics consists of a fast growing team of linguists, computational linguists, and computer scientists, whose research focuses primarily on the analysis of conversations in social media.

Duties:

- extraction of linguistic features supporting the fact checks
- development of computational linguistic methods for detecting and visualizing claims and of linguistic indicators of disinformation
- integration of the computational linguistic methods and analyses in the AI based system
- collaboration in the interdisciplinary team
- general project work (e.g., publications, presentations at conferences, organization of events)

Requirements:

- completed graduate degree (M.Sc. or M.A.) in computational linguistics or a related subject (with at least “good” results; ideally, the degree is finished before the start date)
- knowledge of language processing (NLP), incl. machine learning (statistical methods, deep learning)
- programming skills (e.g., Python)
- ability to work in German and English
- interest in (computational) linguistic research
- willingness to participate in an interdisciplinary team

The position will allow for the candidate's own scientific further qualification (PhD). If funding at the time of hiring is provided exclusively by external third-party funding sources, there is no teaching obligation for the employee.

The position is available from January 01, 2022 or as soon as possible thereafter. The project ends November 30, 2024.

Are you interested? Please submit your meaningful application including the following documents: (1) cover letter including motivation for the position, (2) curriculum vitae including publications and presentations if applicable, (3) transcript of academic records, (4) copy of the master's thesis, (5) name and email addresses of two referees. Please send your application via email (as a single pdf file) to Jun.-Prof. Dr. Tatjana Scheffler (tatjana.scheffler@rub.de) by November 22, 2021. If you have any questions about the project or the position, please feel free to contact Tatjana Scheffler directly in advance.

Interviews will probably take place in November via video conference (Zoom). Travel expenses, accommodation costs and loss of earnings for interviews will not be reimbursed.

At the Ruhr-Universität Bochum, we particularly want to promote the careers of women in areas in which they are underrepresented and are therefore very pleased to receive applications from female applicants. We also welcome applications from suitable severely disabled applicants and applicants with equal status.