

JOB DESCRIPTION

Vacancy reference:	SRF30537
Post Title:	Postdoctoral Researcher for NLP/Recommender Systems
Grade:	6
School/Department:	Department of Computer Science and English Language and Applied Linguistics
Reports to:	Project Principal Investigator
Responsible for:	n/a

Purpose

The Departments of Computer Science and English Language and Applied Linguistics of the University of Reading are pleased to announce an exciting opportunity in Natural Language Processing, Recommender Systems, Data Mining, and Machine Learning. The post will support research and outreach activities associated with the second year research of an EIT Food/Horizon2020 project entitled Developing a Digital Toolkit to Enhance the Communication of Scientific Health Claims. The project brings together researchers in computer science, applied linguistics/discourse analysis, behavioral economics, food and nutrition sciences, and information design to study how consumers respond to different kinds of linguistic, semiotic and marketing cues related to regulated health claims on food packages. The project involves partners in the UK and Europe as well as industry collaborators. Please check <https://www.healthclaimsunpacked.co.uk/> for more detailed information about this project.

Main duties and responsibilities

- The post holder will be involved in conducting data collection, processing, and empirical analysis of health claim statements on food packages, designing novel algorithms based on cutting-edge data mining and machine learning techniques, and cooperating with software development team of industry partner to develop a software tool kit for consumers and manufactures.
- The post holder will also be involved in planning and carrying out a number of public events and outreach activities associated with the project, supporting dissemination of project related information via social media, and preparing articles for publication in scholarly journals and for presentation at academic conferences.

Technical & Development

- Conduct research in NLP and develop novel approaches to help manufacturers to translate and adapt claims so that they are within the constraints of the EU guidelines.
- Conduct research in personalization and recommender systems, design personalization features to the tool kit.
- Cooperate with industry partners to develop data analysis components, personalization features, manufacture software components for the tool kit.
- Working with the investigators to understand needs and meet requirements ensuring that applications are robust, secure and responsive. Write publications, present at conferences,

identify and follow through on new grant opportunities, and other aspects of academic scholarship

Responsibility & Leadership

- Effectively manage your own workload to meet deadlines.
- Provide technical advice in the development of future strategy.
- Ensure regular liaison and communication with colleagues in other departments or schools and help build good working relationships with representatives of other bodies and organisations.
- Ensure quality service standards are met and maintained.

General

- Attend relevant conferences, seminars, webinars as required
- Keep up to date with current industry good practice and trends in IT web service provision
- Maintain an awareness of opportunities provided by new technology to address challenges or enable new ways of working.
- Plan and prioritise own work activities for the weeks and months ahead, adjusting priorities as appropriate to manage nonstandard work requests.
- Monitor and maintain records and documents to meet both internal and external (e.g. legislative) requirements.

Supervision received

The main supervisor is the Principal Investigator and Co. Requirements may also be made by the co-investigators and project partners as appropriate.

Supervision given

n/a

Contact

The post-holder will work directly with the Principal Investigator (Professor Rodney Jones) and co-investigators (Dr Huizhi Liang, Dr Sylvia Jaworska, Dr Giuseppe Nocella, and Dr Jeanne-Louise Moys) to undertake the research necessary towards meeting the aims of the grant.

Terms and conditions

This is a full time fixed term post. There are no specified hours of work, but you will be required to work such hours as are necessary to carry out the duties associated with the post.

This document outlines the duties required for the time being of the post to indicate the level of responsibility. It is not a comprehensive or exhaustive list and the line manager may vary duties from time to time which do not change the general character of the job or the level of responsibility entailed.

Date assessed:

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Job Title	School/Department
Postdoctoral Researcher for NLP/Recommender Systems	Department of Computer Science and English Language and Applied Linguistics

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Skills Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good programming skills with Python. • Good communication skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience with software development. • Understanding of GDPR
Attainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PhD in Computer Science or equivalent experiences. Specialisation in one or more of the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Natural Language Processing ○ Recommender systems ○ Data mining ○ Machine learning 	
Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of data mining, NLP, machine learning, information retrieval, recommender systems, personalization. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solid background of producing high quality software that is extensible, scalable, secure, and maintainable. • Solid understanding of Software Engineering Principles
Relevant Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience in both research in text processing and prototype software development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of working in interdisciplinary teams.
Disposition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to work in a team • Ability to show initiative and work independently • Flexibility • Good interpersonal skills, especially the ability to 	

	<p>engage with academic and non-academic audiences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to manage workload and time efficiently. 	
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Willingness to undertake staff development and training as required 	

<p>Completed by: Prof Rodney Jones, Dr Liang Huizhi</p>	<p>Date: 17/9/2019</p>
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