PROFESSOR POSITION IN COMPUTER SCIENCE
WITH SPECIALIZATION IN MACHINE LEARNING (100%)

The Faculty of Science and Medicine of the University of Fribourg, Switzerland, announces the opening of a position of Professor in Computer Science with specialization in a field of Machine Learning.

GENERAL CONDITIONS
The successful candidate should be a specialist in Machine Learning and have a broad experience in research and teaching at a university level.

The professorship consists of 100% academic activity at the University.

Qualified applicants must have an outstanding track record of independent research in a field of Machine Learning with strong potential for applications, such as (but not limited to): reinforcement learning, explainable AI, open AI, sustainable AI, hybrid AI, Natural Language Processing.

The applicant should have a habilitation or equivalent, in addition to a strong track record of independent research in the field of Machine Learning. The candidate is expected to develop an internationally recognized competitive research programme sustained by external funding.

The research will be developed, based on the academic expertise of the candidate. Given the different interests between the research groups in Fribourg, synergies within the Faculty of Science and Medicine will be encouraged. The future professor will also supervise Master theses, Doctorates (PhD), and participate in the promotion of upcoming scientists and academics.

The future professor will take part in the current educational programme at Bachelor and Master levels. The appointed candidate is expected to play an active role in the teaching of a full curriculum of Master of Computer Sciences (with an emphasis on Machine Learning). The future professor should have a strong record in teaching. The ideal candidate is expected to speak French or German, or otherwise is willing to acquire the necessary language skills within a reasonable period.

Good organizational and communication skills are also expected, as well as a track record of effective team working and collaborative efforts, including local and international networks.

Seeking to promote an equitable representation of women and men, the university strongly encourage applications from women.

Having signed the DORA declaration, the University of Fribourg emphasizes qualitative assessment of academic achievement.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES
Please apply exclusively via the official Faculty of Science and Medicine - University of Fribourg recruiting tool, by clicking on the following link: https://scimed-recruiting.unifr.ch

Application deadline: 30 October 2023.

The following documents should be uploaded via the following weblink above:

1. a covering letter mentioning the position for which the candidate is applying (Professor of Informatics) addressed to the Dean, Prof. Ulrich Ultes-Nitsche, President of the selection committee.
2. a complete curriculum vitae, including a copy of the diploma of the highest degree
3. a complete list of publications (highlighting specifically the 5 most important contributions)
4. An electronic version of the 5 most relevant publications ("name-papers.pdf")
5. a detailed record of teaching experience
6. a record of past and present funding
7. a 5-6-page description of the research that the candidate intends to conduct in Fribourg
8. the names and addresses (postal and e-mail) of three persons who could be contacted as referees.

ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT

The Department of Informatics is an academic institution at the University of Fribourg active in teaching, research and continuing education in Computer Science and Business Informatics. We are the only Swiss university department offering degrees in both Computer Science and Business Informatics.

Being an interfaculty department affiliated with the Faculty of Science and Medicine and the Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences, we develop an “integrative view” of informatics. Being tri-lingual is another specificity of our department. We use English, French, and German in our teaching as well as daily communication. This linguistic and cultural diversity leads to an enriching working atmosphere that we are particularly proud of and that benefits research interaction between collaborators and students alike.

Sections and Departments

The Faculty of Science and Medicine is organized into two sections, each of which contains multiple departments and institutes, which are sometimes interdisciplinary. In addition, the Faculty fosters connections with some interfaculty institutes and centers. The affiliations of the departments, institutes and centers can be seen on our organisation chart.

The Science Section is composed of six departments, four institutes and two centers. The Medicine Section is composed of five departments and one institute.

The Science Section of the Faculty of Science and Medicine hosts currently 62 professors, organised in the departments: Biology, Chemistry, Geography, Informatics, Mathematics, Physics as well as theses Institutes: AMI, ESH, IIEDH, HumanIst and centers: FriMat and NCCR (see https://www.unifr.ch/scimed/en/sci).

A president who is elected for 2 years amongst its professors leads the Science Section. Major decisions are taken by the Section Council, which includes the teaching staff and student representatives.

Study programmes

The Department of Informatics offers a Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Computer Science by the Faculty of Science and Medicine as well as a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Information Systems, which is jointly offered by the Faculty of Science and Medicine and the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences. In addition, two types of Master’s degree are offered: a Master of Science (MSc) in Computer Science and a Master of Science (MSc) in Business Informatics. The MSc in Computer Science is offered as part of the Swiss Joint Master of Science in Computer Science program.

PhD student’s of the Department of Informatics are enrolled in either the PhD programme in Computer Science (Faculty of Science and Medicine) or the PhD programme in Information Management (Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences)

Research

Research in the Department of Informatics is carried out by a number of different groups, each with its own focus. The groups are involved in numerous national and international projects supported by various funding bodies, and publish regularly in internationally recognized conferences, journals and edited books. Brief descriptions of each group as well as a link to the group's web page can be found by following the links below.

Research Groups | Department of Informatics | University of Fribourg (unifr.ch)
Languages
The University of Fribourg is bilingual. Teaching to students at the Bachelor level is in French or in German. Students are expected to understand both languages but can take their exams in either language. Master of Science and PhD programmes are taught mainly in English. Candidates are expected to have a working knowledge of one the three languages and should be willing to acquire such knowledge within a few years.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND FUNDING

Department and location
The Department of Informatics is located in one dedicated part of a building on the Pérolles campus of the University of Fribourg and is within short walking distance to the other buildings of the Faculty of Science and Medicine. The Pérolles campus also hosts the School of Engineering and Architecture and the Adolphe Merkle Institute, which focuses on research in the domain of soft nanomaterials. The future appointee will have access to the infrastructure of the Department of Informatics and of the Faculty of Science and Medicine.

Computers
The University’s computer service supplies all Departmental members with state-of-the-art PCs or Macs and the necessary software. Specific research software may also be provided for research purposes.

Financial support
The successful candidate has access to the department’s pool of state-funded PhD positions as well as to the department’s secretary. The appointee is expected to actively seek external funding to support his/her research and research group.

The salary is established according to the salary grid of the Canton of Fribourg. Details will be negotiated when the position is offered.

For more information about working at the University of Fribourg please consult www.unifr.ch/attractive-employer/working-at-the-uni.

CONTACT

Contact for further information
Prof. Denis Lalanne (denis.lalanne@unifr.ch)
Department of Informatics / University of Fribourg
Phone +41 26 300 8472