



University of Würzburg, Center for AI and Data Science (CAIDAS)
Chair for Natural Language Processing

Doctoral researcher (m/f/d)

Modular & Sample-Efficient LLM Adaptation, Low-Resource Language Learning

CAIDAS Chair for Natural Language Processing (Prof. Glavaš) invites applications for a fully funded research position focusing on sample-efficient and modular adaptation of language models in low-resource domains.

Released	July 16, 2026
Position	Researcher, PhD student (m/f/d)
Topic	Sample-efficient adaptation of modular language models
Extent	Full-time, 100 % TV-L E13
Duration	(up to) 4 years
Location	Würzburg, Germany (partially remote possible)
Start	As soon as possible
Deadline	Until filled – early application encouraged

SUMMARY

The position is tied to the project *Effective Language Model Adaptation for Text-Scarce Domains* (ELMA), a part of the DFG Research Unit (Forschungsgruppe) **SILD: Semantic Shifts in Low-Resource Domains**, which focuses on the detection and analysis of semantic shifts in low-resource domains in computational humanities (CH). The successful candidate will work on modular language model architectures to enable highly sample-efficient adaptation of language models to low-resource CH domains. The candidate will work closely with researchers from other Research Unit projects towards a reliable methodology for detecting and characterizing relevant semantic shifts in various humanities domains and for different natural languages.

We are looking for candidates with (i) a strong background in deep learning and prior experience in training, adapting, fine-tuning, and evaluating language models and (b) a genuine interest in computational humanities and computational literary studies. Prior work on semantic shift/detection of semantic changes is not required (but a plus).

ABOUT US

The Center for AI and Data Science (CAIDAS) is an interdisciplinary AI research center of the University of Würzburg. CAIDAS is among the leading AI institutes in Germany, with exceptionally strong results in the areas of Computer Vision and Natural Language Processing. The CAIDAS Chair for Natural Language Processing, which ranks among the top 5 NLP groups in Germany, develops state-of-the-art massively multilingual language models, including multi-modal models that incor-

porate visual and audio (speech) input.

■ WHAT WE OFFER

- Full-time research position (100 % TV-L E13)
- World-class research supervision (with the goal of publishing at top-tier NLP conferences)
- Dedicated GPU / compute allocation for the project
- Access to leading German compute infrastructure (e.g. NHR projects) as well as the JMU's GPU cluster (julia2)
- Freedom to develop and pursue your own research ideas (within the scope of the project).
- A cooperative, eager-to-learn and experienced team
- A brand-new building and modern workplace
- The possibility of partial work from home

■ YOUR PROFILE

- A Master's degree in Computer Science, Artificial Intelligence, Mathematics, Statistics, or a related discipline (with a strong grade average)
- Expert knowledge of Python and PyTorch
- Strong experience with neural language models, their training, adaptation, and evaluation
- Knowledge of/prior experience with multilingual LLMs (e.g., language expansion, tokenization)
- Experience with modular LLM architectures (e.g., mixture-of-experts, low-rank adaptation, adapters, hypernetworks, representation tuning)
- Familiarity with inference-time interventions (e.g., activation steering), knowledge distillation, and/or mechanistic interpretability is a plus
- Motivation for independent, innovative research; team spirit and analytical thinking
- Proficiency in (scientific) English

HOW TO APPLY

A complete application should include: a curriculum vitae, a position-tailored motivation letter, relevant transcripts/certificates, and publications or thesis (if applicable).

Please combine all documents into **one single PDF** and send it by email to:

`caidas-nlp@uni-wuerzburg.de`

Prof. Dr. Goran Glavaš,
University of Würzburg, Center for AI and Data Science (CAIDAS)

The University of Würzburg is committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive working environment. We warmly welcome applications from people of all backgrounds, and we particularly encourage qualified women to apply. Applicants with disabilities are highly valued and will be given priority in the case of equal qualifications.