

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

Researcher: PhD student or Postdoc (m/f/d)

LLM Post-Training, Mixture-of-Experts LLMs, Multilingual Language Modeling

CAIDAS Chairs for Natural Language Processing (Prof. Glavaš), in collaboration with the Chair for Data Science (Prof. Hotho), invite applications for a fully funded research position focusing on **post-training of sovereign mixture-of-experts LLMs**. PhD candidates as well as candidates with a PhD (i.e., postdocs) may apply.

Released	July 16, 2026
Position	Researcher, PhD student or postdoc (m/f/d)
Field	LLM Post-Training, Mixture-of-Experts LLMs
Extent	Full-time, 100 % TV-L E13
Duration	12 months (with the possibility of extension)
Location	Würzburg, Germany (partially remote possible)
Start	As soon as possible
Deadline	Until filled – early application encouraged

SUMMARY

The position is embedded in the [SOOFI \(Sovereign Open Source Foundation Models\) project](#), a large-scale collaboration between German research organizations (institutes and universities) focusing on developing competitive fully open-source foundation models. The successful candidate will work on post-training of already pre-trained models (e.g., [Soofi S 30B-A3B](#)), with the focus on multilinguality and post-hoc language expansion regimes.

We are looking for candidates with a strong background in deep learning and prior experience in various steps of LLM lifecycles (ideally, from pre-training and post-training to inference-time interventions). An ideal candidate would also have experience developing and adapting massively multilingual LLMs. Knowledge of (and practical experience with) preference optimization techniques and reinforcement learning algorithms (DPO, PPO, GRPO, etc.) is 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 incorporate visual and audio (speech) input. The CAIDAS Chair for Data Science, led by Prof. Andreas

Hotho, develops modern methods and applications across diverse domains – from state-of-the-art language models and climate modeling to security research and knowledge integration into LLMs.

■ WHAT WE OFFER

- Full-time research position (100 % TV-L E13)
- World-class research supervision (with the goal of publishing at top-tier ML/NLP conferences)
- Dedicated GPU / compute allocation for the project
- Access to leading German compute infrastructure (e.g. NHR@FAU projects)
- University clusters (julia2) and the Chairs' own compute resources cluster
- 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, well-equipped 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
- Prior experience in large-scale distributed (i.e., multi-node) training of vision and/or language models and familiarity with corresponding frameworks (e.g., Megatron, DeepSpeed, FSDP2)
- Prior experience in LLM post-training, preference optimization, and/or reinforcement learning
- 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.