UNIVERSITÄT DUISBURG ESSEN

Offen im Denken

Information for applicants for the W1 Junior Professorship

„Social Computing“

in the Department „Computer Science and Applied Cognitive Science“ of the Faculty of Engineering

I. UNIVERSITY DUISBURG-ESSEN

The University of Duisburg-Essen is located in a region boasting the highest concentration of universities in Europe. Almost 42,000 students are enrolled here and, with a total 3,640 academic and non-academic staff members, the university clearly occupies an important position among the employers in the region. Established on 1 January 2003, the result of the merger between two previously independent institutions – the University of Duisburg and the University of Essen (both of which were first founded in 1972) – the University of Duisburg-Essen is the youngest university in North Rhine-Westphalia.

This new twin-campus university in the center of the Rhine-Ruhr region has made good use of opportunities given to strengthen and showcase its research and teaching potential, a potential recognized well beyond the borders of the region. Offering a broad range of subjects, the University of Duisburg-Essen has already notched up a good name for itself in fields as disparate as social sciences, economics, the humanities, design, engineering and natural sciences, including medicine. Students from 130 nations come here to pursue their studies.

Students can graduate on the basis of the traditional degree structure in education and medicine. Or they can obtain a new Bachelor's or Master's degree in a growing number of disciplines. A high priority is given to expanding these consecutive – often interdisciplinary – courses since they meet international standards and attract students from far and near. Furthermore, the University offers working professionals ("mature students") a number of attractive courses which, thanks to the modern integrated e-learning methods on offer, are geared to the learning speed of the individual student.

In many disciplines the University Duisburg-Essen belongs to the Top 10 of the most successful research universities is Germany. External funding was doubled within the last five years.

The University has five main research areas:

- nanosciences
- genetic medicine and medical biotechnology
- urban systems, logistics and transport, and
- empirical education research
- transformation of contemporary societies.

During its founding phase, the University's innovative management also attracted a large amount of attention mainly because of the broad-based project approach taken to quality development. All the faculties and central institutions of the University have their products, services and processes regularly reviewed by the University's own Center for University and Quality Development.

Further Information:

https://www.uni-due.de/imperia/md/content/dokumente/ppt/ppt_praesentation_ude_en.pdf

II. THE FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

The Faculty of Engineering Sciences of the University of Duisburg-Essen, offers - in addition to the classical fields of Mechanical, Electrical and Electronics, Information Technology and Applied Cognitive Sciences, Material Sciences, Technical Teaching, and Civil Engineering - a nationwide uniquely integrated spectrum of interdisciplinary engineering options that meet each and every demand of the modern and innovative education and research.

With approximately 8500 students, a third of whom are from the international scene, the faculty is a strong and respected partner for the industries in the region and beyond. Graduates from our programs enjoy a high reputation as a result of the broad technical know-how as well as the uniquely interdisciplinary and internationally oriented structure of the programs. Classical courses such as Mechanical, Electrical, Material Sciences, Civil, and Applied Information Technology, rub shoulders with modern disciplines like Nanotechnology, Applied Cognitive and Media Science, Media Technology and Economic Engineering. In addition, social competency is strongly developed due to team work and interaction with the international students. Of particular note is the integrated international Bachelor/Masters Programs offered under the name “International Studies in Engineering (ISE)”, where 50% of the courses are in English. These courses are, as a result of our global standards and versatility, are not only sought after by the international students but also by many Germans enrolling at the university.

In the area of research, the department has an established investment of 60 million EUR for equipment and infrastructure, to develop the latest technologies and to continue with fundamental research. With three DFG special research areas and a DFG graduate program in the areas of Nanotechnology and Materials, the University is a frontrunner in this field in Germany as well as internationally. But also the fields of

- Mechatronics and Automation,
- Biomechanics,
- Ship Technology
- Microsystems and Medical Technology,
- Information Technology and Media,
- Energy and Environmental Studies
- Production and Material Technology
- Automotive Engineering

are core areas of research. The department has achieved a high international reputation, which is evident from the numerous research projects currently being worked on.

Due to all the projects that have been completed with the industry and other research institutes, the department and the affiliated institutes have now earned a reputation as an excellent partner for complex technological solutions as well as an ideal recruiting ground for top graduates.

The DFG-funded Research Training Group "User-Centred Social Media" provides an outstanding interdisciplinary research and qualification environment for PhD candidates at the department that fully integrates researchers from computer science and psychology.

III. Department of Computer Science and Applied Cognitive Science

Given the importance of information and communication technologies for all areas of economy and society, an applied and holistic approach to computer science is essential. Right from the beginning, research has to consider the final product and has to take economic, psychological and social aspects into account. Due to the ubiquity and increasing complexity of information systems especially the efficiency of interaction of human and technology forms a crucial condition for acceptance and success of innovative systems.

The department of Computer Science and Applied Cognitive Science of the University Duisburg-Essen meets these challenges by conducting consequently modern and applied research and teaching. In line with this, the department is organized interdisciplinary rendering it unique in Germany: The department includes 12 professorships for computer science and four professorships for psychology. The interdisciplinary research priority of the department lies with interactive systems and interactive media.

As also the teaching is applied and interdisciplinary, the students benefit from a broad offer of courses and lectures. Three popular programs of study are offered: The Bachelor/Master program Applied Computer Science provides a sound theoretical and methodological education in computer science. In the Bachelor program a focus can be laid on engineering computer science or media computer science. The master program permits to specialize e.g. on intelligent systems, interactive and cooperative systems or information engineering. The program Applied Cognitive and Media Science (KOMEDIA) is interdisciplinary and provides knowledge of computer science, psychology and economics. Also, the program conveys competences with regard to the design, development and usage of digital media, especially the internet. It furthermore focusses on the topic of human-computer-interaction. The third program of studies is Computer Engineering (Bachelor/Master) within the program International Studies in Engineering (ISE). ISE Computer Engineering is focused on technological contents and is also popular outside of Germany.

Additional information can be obtained from: http://www.uni-due.de/iw/inko/de/

IV. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE POSITION “SOCIAL COMPUTING”

1. Research

The person who fills the position will be responsible for research and teaching in the field of Social Computing. Applicants should have a background in computer science or related disciplines and should have achieved excellent research contributions, for example, in one or more of the following fields:

- analysis and modelling of social media
- data mining and visual analytics
- user modeling and personlization
- privacy
- architectures and systems
- social media in application contexts

Preferably, the candidate’s previous research activities should have addressed interdisciplinary research questions, in particular, by combining computer science, information systems and psychological methods.

Research performance should be demonstrated through publications in peer-reviewed, highly ranked conferences or journals as well as through experience in funded research projects commensurate with the candidate’s career.

2. Teaching

Teaching activities of this position will mainly take place in advanced phases of the study programs offered by the Department of Computer Science and Applied Cognitive Science and may comprise lectures, seminars, or student projects. We also expect a willingness to take over courses in the basic program if the need arises as well as a willingness to present courses in English.

Information concerning the study programs of the Department can be found at http://bmai.inf.uni-due.de/, http://www.uni-due.de/komedia/, http://www.uni-due.de/ise/.

Excellent teaching skills, competence in didactics, use of new media within lectures and courses as well as willingness to teach in English or German are expected.

3. Further requirements

The junior professorship is associated with the Research Training Group “User-Centred Social Media” funded by DFG which has started in autumn of 2015. The Research Training Group follows a strongly interdisciplinary approach involving the fields Computer Science and Psychology. Applicants should have an interest in interdisciplinary research and should be willing to combine computer science methods with psychological and empirical approaches in their own research. Furthermore, the professorship is expected to participate in the various qualification measures of the Graduate School such as workshops or the international summer school.

4. **Relevance of the Professional Activities and Time Involved**
   The teaching load is 4 hours per semester week.

V. STAFFING AND FACILITIES

The junior professorship is remunerated according to the salary grade W1. The position is temporary in accordance with the regulations for junior professorships (s. Chapt. VI).

1. Staffing

One full time research assistant will be associated with the junior professorship for 3 years. Moreover, the junior professorship will have access to team assistance and technical staff,

2. Amenities/rooms

Details have to be negotiated.

3. Funding

Funding for research and teaching are allocated by the department based on specific performance parameters.

4. Infrastructure

Details have to be negotiated.

VI. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

With the passing of the Higher Education in North-Westphalia Act (German abbreviation: HG) dated 31.10.2006, the university system was radically restructured as of 1 January 2007.

Operating under German law, the universities are defined legally as public corporations supported by the State of North Rhine-Westphalia. State finance is based on the tasks of the universities, agreed goals and performances delivered. The have a global budget and are not subject to the instructions of the North Rhine-Westphalian Ministry of Innovation, Science, Research and Technology.

Legal status of the academic staff

Assuming legal prerequisites are met, professors in Germany are usually employed on a civil-servant basis (= full tenure). However, employment on the basis of a contract under private law is also possible.

Junior professors are appointed with temporary civil service status for a period of three years. This appointment may be extended for a further period of three years if he or she has proved effective as a teacher in higher education. Otherwise, the position can only be extended by at most one year. During the sixth year, the position can be extended by one more year if he or she has proved effective as a teacher in higher education.

For further information (laws, directives etc.), please visit

https://www.uni-due.de/verwaltung/organisation/peo_professoren.php (in German)

VII. SALARY

The W salary scale (where W in German stands for *Wissenschaft* or "science") provides a system of basic salaries (W2, W3) plus "performance bonuses". Special arrangements apply to junior professors assigned to the W1 salary scale.

The currently effective salaries can be found at http://www.lbv.nrw.de/beztab/beso.php

More information, both general and legal, about the W salary scale can be found in the Internet at:

https://www.uni-due.de/verwaltung/organisation/peo_links.php (in German)

http://www.hochschulverband.de/cms1/w-besoldung.html (in German)