



Doctoral Student Position in Adaptive Decision Making and Cognition

The Modeling Adaptive Cognition Research Group at the Faculty of Business and Economics at the University of Lausanne seeks applicants for a doctoral student position, funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation. The position (100%) is to begin February 1st, 2013, or on a later starting date to be mutually agreed upon. The position has a funding duration of 3 years. The work location is the University of Lausanne, Lausanne Dorigny, Switzerland. The gross salary ranges from about 56,400 to about 62,400 Swiss Francs per year. The doctoral student will be mentored by Professor Julian Marewski.

Job Description

We seek applicants to work on an interdisciplinary research program on modeling adaptive decision making processes and cognition in real-world domains. Current and past researchers working on this program have had backgrounds in psychology, cognitive science, economics, mathematics, biology, physics, and computer science to name but a few.

We provide excellent resources, including a fully-equipped laboratory for conducting human subject experiments and computer simulations, an excellent international research network, and most importantly, the time to think.

The position is heavily-research oriented, preparing for a career in academia. We expect Ph.D. candidates to publish in top-tier journals. We are an international research group. Our working language is English.

Research on Adaptive Decision Making Processes and Cognition

Research on adaptive decision making processes and cognition addresses a key question: How do humans make decisions under uncertainty, that is, when time and information are limited and the future is unknown? In experiments, computer simulations, and mathematical analyses, we study both (i) how people make such decisions, and (ii) how they ought to make these decisions in order to behave adaptively. In doing so, we build detailed computational models of how decision processes are adapted to the structure of the environment, as well as how the decision processes interplay with other cognitive processes, such as memory or time perception. Areas of research for the current position include modeling how people select from a repertoire of decision strategies, how people make inductive inferences, how memory is nestled into to the structure of the environment, how to predict memory retrieval using internet search engines such as Google.

Requirements

Applicants should be interested in modeling decision and/or other cognitive processes. A university degree in psychology, business, economics, mathematics, computer sciences, physics, biology, or in a related discipline as well as good English skills are required. Already existing modeling or programming skills (e.g., MATLAB, R, LISP, ACT-R) are helpful but not required.

Application Materials and Deadline

The application deadline is December 1st, 2012, but applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Application materials include a cover letter describing research interests, a curriculum vitae, university transcripts, an extract of prior scientific work (if available), and two letters of recommendation. Please submit your materials via email to julian.marewski@unil.ch.

Working at the University of Lausanne

The Modeling Adaptive Cognition Research Group is located at the Department of Organizational Behavior of the Faculty for Business and Economics at the University of Lausanne. The department provides a stimulating interdisciplinary research environment. We publish in top-tier journals in different disciplines, including Science, Psychological Review, and the American Economic Review.

Located at Lake Geneva and surrounded by the Jura Mountains and the French Alps, Lausanne is a beautiful and cosmopolitan spot to live and work. The Lake Geneva region enjoys a Mediterranean microclimate.

More information about the position can be inquired via email (julian.marewski@unil.ch). Information about the Modeling Adaptive Cognition Research Group is available at <http://www.modeling-adaptive-cognition.org/>. Information about the Department of Organizational Behavior can be found at <http://www.hec.unil.ch/ob/home>.

Disclaimer: This is not an official job ad of the University of Lausanne.