The Center of Excellence - Cognitive Interaction Technology CITEC offers a full-time Research position starting on January 1st, 2018

(E13 TV-L, non-permanent position)

Main responsibilities

CITEC is a central scientific institute of Bielefeld University, established within the Excellence Initiative of the German Research Foundation [2]. CITEC brings together computer scientists, biologists, physicists, sport scientists, linguists and psychologists with the aim to understand the processes and functional constituents of cognitive interaction. The position is part of a project funded by the European Commission: “Second Language Tutoring using Social Robots” (L2TOR). L2TOR (pronounced 'el tutor') aims to design a child-friendly tutor robot that can be used to support teaching preschool children a second language (L2) by interacting with children in their social and referential world. In particular, the project will focus on teaching English as L2 to native speakers of Dutch, German and Turkish, and teaching Dutch and German as L2 to immigrant children speaking Turkish as a native language. L2TOR is an international collaboration between five universities (Bielefeld University, Plymouth University, Tilburg University, Utrecht University, and Koç University) and two industrial partners (Aldebaran Robotics and QBMT). CITEC will hire one researcher to do empirical studies on child-robot interaction within the L2TOR framework.

Specifically, the position is expected to:

- design, carry out and analyze empirical studies run either in the lab environment at CITEC or at local Kindergartens
- this includes expert interviews with Kindergarteners

The experiments will concern evaluating adaptive tutoring robots that employ different behavioral strategies in interactions with preschool children.

Applicant’s Profile

We expect:

- a degree (M.Sc. or Ph.D.) in Computer Science/ Linguistics
- a background in Child-Robot Interaction, especially evaluation studies
- experience in conducting empirical work with children between the age of 4 and 7

Preferable qualifications:

- experience in multilingual human-machine interaction, communicating with schools/pre-schools/Kindergartens, and child-robot interaction design
- storing command of the English language
- to be willing to communicate with international partners in the EU project consortium.

Remuneration

Salary will be paid according to Remuneration level 13 of the Wages Agreement for Public Service in the Federal States (TV-L). As stipulated in § 2 of the WiesZeitvG (fixed-term employment), the contract will end on June 30, 2018. In accordance with the provisions of the WiesZeitvG and the Agreement on Satisfactory Conditions of Employment, the length of contract may differ in individual cases. The employment is designed to encourage further academic qualification. The position is advertised as full-time jobs. In individual cases, this percentage may be reduced on request, as long as this does not conflict with official needs.

The position is non-permanent (E13 TV-L). As stipulated in § 2 of the WiesZeitvG (fixed-term employment), the contract will end on June 30, 2018. In accordance with the provisions of the WiesZeitvG and the Agreement on Satisfactory Conditions of Employment, the length of contract may differ in individual cases. The employment is designed to encourage further academic qualification. The position is advertised as full-time jobs. In individual cases, this percentage may be reduced on request, as long as this does not conflict with official needs.

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Application

For full consideration, your application should be received via either post or email (a single PDF document) sent to skopp@techfak.uni-bielefeld.de by 9th of November, 2017. Please mark your application with the identification code wiss17292. Please do not use application portfolios and send only photocopies of original documents because all application materials will be destroyed at the end of the selection procedure. Further information about Bielefeld University can be found on our homepage at www.uni-bielefeld.de.

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Bielefeld University has received a number of awards for its achievements in the provision of equal opportunity and has been recognized as a family friendly university. The University welcomes applications from women. This is particularly true with regard both to academic and technical posts as well as positions in Information Technology and Trades and Craft. Applications are handled according to the provisions of the state equal opportunity statutes. Applications from suitably qualified handicapped and severely handicapped persons are explicitly encouraged.

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