

Subject: [SIGSEM] PhD position available in computational semantics,  
University of Groningen

See following link:

<http://www.rug.nl/gradschoolHumanities/admissions/phdPositions/PhDPositionComputationalSemantics2011>

#### Organisation

Since its foundation in 1614, the University of Groningen has enjoyed an international reputation as a dynamic and innovative centre of higher education offering high-quality teaching and research. Balanced study and career paths in a wide variety of disciplines encourage what are currently 27,000 students and researchers to develop their own individual talents. Belonging to the best research universities in Europe and joining forces with prestigious partner universities and networks, the University of Groningen is truly an international place of knowledge.

The university is an equal opportunities employer. Because women are still underrepresented in a number of fields, they are particularly encouraged to apply.

#### Job description

The aim of the PhD project "Robust Presupposition Projection" is to develop automatic methods for the interpretation of presuppositional expressions in open-domain texts, by combining techniques of machine learning with knowledge-based inference approaches. It assumes the "presupposition as anaphora" theory, in which presuppositions either behave anaphorically (bind to an previously introduced discourse entity) or else accommodate to a suitable (global or local) level of discourse. This project is part of the Meaning Annotation Project, which is concerned with the development of a large-scale deep semantic annotation of text and its application of machine learning methods. The PhD candidate will be supervised by Prof. J. Bos.

#### Qualifications

- \* Master's degree in computational linguistics (or related field)
- \* excellent record of undergraduate and Master's level study
- \* experience in one or more of the following areas:  
formal/lexical/computational semantics, machine learning
- \* programming experience
- \* ability to work in a research team
- \* strong motivation to complete a PhD dissertation in four years
- \* good command of English (TOEFL 620, IELTS 7,5, Cambridge Advanced CAE).

#### Conditions of employment

The University of Groningen offers a salary of 2,042 gross per month in

the first year to 2,612 gross per month in the fourth year (figures based on full employment). The full-time appointment is temporary for a specified period of four years.

#### Affiliation

The PhD candidate will be affiliated with the computational linguistics group of the Center for Language and Cognition Groningen (CLCG) at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Groningen. This institute embraces all the Linguistics research in the faculty. The PhD candidate will be enrolled in the research training program of the Graduate School for the Humanities.

The position requires residence in Groningen, 38 hours/week research and research training, and must result in a PhD dissertation. After the first year there will be an assessment of the candidate's results and the progress of the project to decide whether the employment will be continued.

How to apply:

You can apply for this vacancy until the closing date of 15 March 2011.

Please include in your application:

- \* a letter of motivation in English
- \* a curriculum vitae
- \* a copy of diplomas and a list of grades; a passport copy
- \* the names and contact details of two academic referees.

Send us your entire application in just 1 pdf-file please using the link to the application form below. Do NOT send your application to the e-mail addresses mentioned in this text. Incomplete dossiers will not be taken into consideration. Interviews with a selection of the best candidates will presumably take place in weeks 15 and 16.

Starting date of the PhD project: 1 September 2011.