

Postdoc position in learning technologies (50 % - 80 %)

University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland

The Information Management Institute of the Faculty of Economics and Business and the Computer Science Institute of the Faculty of Science at the University of Neuchâtel solicits applications for a Postdoc position in learning technologies starting **1st Novembre 2021 or upon agreement**.

Position details

- The position is linked to a 4 year (2021-2024) Swissuniversities project on Transversal Computational Thinking (see project description below) in partnership with EPFL and ETH
- Research - lead and contribute to research linked to the project
- Organisation - workshop organisation linked to the project
- Teaching - contribution to a data visualisation course and possibilities to teach additional classes
- Supervisors:
 - Adrian Holzer – Professor of information systems at the Faculty of Economics and Business
 - Pascal Felber – Professor of computer science at the Science Faculty

Project description

Computation is becoming the tool of choice for knowledge workers to solve problems in all disciplines. In order to strengthen the computational skills of all students, it is crucial to bridge computational skills with the skills from the different domains of studies – it requires a “transversal” approach, cutting across established disciplines and domains. To that end, computational thinking (CT) skills should be addressed embedded within the study of other disciplines; it should allow students of any domain to assess if problems in their domain can be solved computationally and to develop competencies to solve those problems with the help of computation and data analysis. **This computationally-supported problem solving within domains needs a strong understanding of typical research questions and application scenarios within the domain, as well as typical methods and their limits.** Thus, the development of teaching and learning activities on transversal CT needs to be a joint effort of domain experts and CT experts, i.e., in an interdisciplinary collaboration between computer science and subject-matter experts (mathematicians, physicists, chemists, biologists, engineers, economists, social scientists). Using CT in the process of solving domain-specific problems puts data and thus digital information systems into an increasingly important role across domains. Beyond the mere manipulation of the data workflow (collection, cleaning, analyzing, storing, visualizing, etc.), it is of utmost importance that students develop the skills and attitudes to responsibly work with data, especially considering the potential social and environmental impact of any decision and action in their process of data treatment; this includes responsible communication of data-driven conclusions and decisions to peers and the public.

Requirements

- PhD degree in learning technologies, information systems or related disciplines
- An interest in several of the following topics: learning technologies, computational thinking, blended learning, learning analytics
- Passion for research
- Demonstrated independence and initiative and good track record of publications
- Ability to work in a multicultural environment and interdisciplinary teams
- Excellent command of English (oral and written)
- Good command of French and local context knowledge is a plus

We offer excellent conditions

- Salary (salary [scale](#) – in French): 2021 gross annual salary, 1st year of employment at 100%: CHF 89'220.95.
- Excellent working environment (university, infrastructure, city, sports offering)
- Vibrant ecosystem with private sector and non-profits

University background

The University of Neuchâtel is a university on a human scale, with about 4500 students. Its small size enables it to provide high-level training and to foster relationships between students and professors. It is one of the most international universities in Switzerland, with about 100 nationalities present and more than a fifth of the student body coming from abroad. Ideally located midway between Geneva and Zurich, in the heart of Europe, it is a perfect place to study or undertake high-level research in an idyllic setting between lake and mountains.

Application procedure and deadline

The application files, containing detailed curriculum vitae and a statement of interest should be sent by email to Adrian.Holzer@unine.ch.

Further information can be obtained from Professor Adrian Holzer (Adrian.Holzer@unine.ch) or by visiting the website of the Institute www.unine.ch/imi

The position remains open until it is filled.

The University of Neuchâtel is actively engaged in the implementation of its responsibility and provides non-discriminatory working conditions.