Research Centre

ADAPT Centre

Post Title

Postdoctoral Researcher Conversational Information Retrieval

Level on Framework

Level 1.

Post Duration

Fixed-Term Contract up to 12 Months

Overview

Dublin City University [www.DCU.ie](http://www.DCU.ie) is a young, ambitious and vibrant University, with a mission ‘to transform lives and societies through education, research, innovation and engagement’. Known as Ireland’s ‘University of Enterprise and Transformation’, it is committed to the development of talent, and the discovery and translation of knowledge that advances society and the economy. DCU is the Sunday Times Irish University of the Year 2021.

The University is based on three academic campuses in the Glasnevin-Drumcondra region of north Dublin. It currently has more than 18,000 students enrolled across five faculties – Science and Health, DCU Business School, Computing and Engineering, Humanities and Social Sciences and DCU Institute of Education. DCU is committed to excellence across all its activities. This is demonstrated by its world-class research initiatives, its cutting-edge approach to teaching and learning, its focus on creating a transformative student experience, and its positive social and economic impact. This exceptional commitment on the part of its staff and students has led to DCU’s ranking among the top 2% of universities globally. It also consistently features in the world’s Top 100 Young Universities (currently in QS Top 70 Under 50, Times Higher Top 150 Under 100).

DCU is placed 84th in the world, in the Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings – measuring higher education institutions’ contributions towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Over the past decade, DCU has also been the leading Irish university in the area of technology transfer, as reflected by licensing of intellectual property.

As part of this role the researcher will be required to participate in the DCU Research Career Framework. This framework is designed to provide significant professional development opportunities to Researchers and offer the best opportunities in terms of a wider career path. The role may include teaching duties to assist with module delivery.
Background

The ADAPT Centre, a world-leading SFI Centre, is Ireland’s global centre of excellence for digital content technology funded through Science Foundation Ireland’s Centres programme. ADAPT combines the expertise of over 300 researchers across eight Higher Education Institutes (Trinity College Dublin, Dublin City University, University College Dublin, Technological University Dublin, Munster Technological University, Athlone Institute of Technology, Maynooth University, and National University of Ireland, Galway) with that of its industry partners to produce ground-breaking digital content innovations.

The ADAPT Centre executive function is co-hosted between Trinity College Dublin and Dublin City University. ADAPT brings together more than 300 researchers who collectively have won more than €100m in funding and have a strong track record of transferring world-leading research and innovations to more than 140 companies. ADAPT partners are successfully advancing the frontiers of Artificial Intelligence (AI), content analysis, machine translation, personalisation, e-learning and education, media technologies, virtual and augmented reality, and spoken interaction, as well as driving global standards in content technologies.

Role Profile

The ADAPT Centre at Dublin City University (DCU) wishes to recruit a Postdoctoral Researcher on a fixed term contract to work on Conversational Information Retrieval within the core research programme of the multi-partner ADAPT Centre. The focus of this work will be on the consolidation of our existing work on conversational search to reduce the workload of the searcher, while improving search efficiency and effectiveness via the use of proactive search agents.

Duties and Responsibilities

Duties and Responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Report directly to the project PI at DCU.
- Carry out fundamental research in the development of conversational search focusing on study of user and algorithms.
- Conduct practical exploration of the research through the development and evaluation of prototype systems through experimentation using laboratory datasets and user studies.
- Support the work of PhD students in ADAPT carrying out research in conversational and proactive search and related topics.
- Other work relevant to successful achieving the objectives of the research programme of the ADAPT Centre.
- Carry out administrative work associated with the programme of research as necessary
- Participate in project meetings and represent the PI and members of their team when required

Qualifications and Experience
Minimum criteria
The successful individual will have a PhD in conversational information retrieval or a closely related topic with significant experience of the design, conduct and reporting of experimental studies.

In addition to the above it is desirable that the candidate possess a subset of the following skills.

- Excellent communication skills, written and oral proficiency in English
- In depth knowledge of information retrieval algorithms and their evaluation
- Demonstrated ability to propose and examine novel methods relevant to conversational information retrieval.
- Experience of the development of interactive agents.
- Experience of user interface development and evaluation

Essential Training
The post holder will be required to undertake the following mandatory compliance training: Orientation, Health and Safety and Intellectual Property and Data Protection training. Other training may need to be undertaken when required.

Candidates will be assessed on the following competencies:

Discipline knowledge and Research skills – Demonstrates knowledge of a research discipline and the ability to conduct a specific programme of research within that discipline.

Understanding the Research Environment – Demonstrates an awareness of the research environment (for example funding bodies) and the ability to contribute to grant applications.

Communicating Research – Demonstrates the ability to convey their research with their peers and the wider research community (for example presenting at conferences and publishing research in relevant journals) and the potential to teach and tutor students.

Managing & Leadership skills - Demonstrates the potential to manage a research project including the supervision of undergraduate students.