

Hier  
entsteht  
Zukunft!



UNIVERSITÄT  
DES  
SAARLANDES

Foto: Uwe Beilhäuser

Saarland University is a campus university that is internationally recognized for its strong research programmes. Fostering young academic talent and creating ideal conditions for teaching and research are a core part of the university's mission. As part of the University of the Greater Region, Saarland University enables students and staff to share and exchange knowledge and ideas between disciplines, between universities and across borders. With over 17,000 national and international students, studying more than a hundred different academic disciplines, Saarland University is a diverse and dynamic learning environment. [Saarland University is officially recognized as one of Germany's family-friendly higher-education institutions and with a combined workforce of more than 4,000 it is one of the largest employers in the region.]

The SFB 1102, Project C6, is inviting applications for the following position commencing at the earliest opportunity.

### **Academic research assistant (m/f/x)**

**Reference number W2548** salary in accordance with the German TV-L salary scale<sup>1</sup>, pay grade: E13 TV- L, duration of employment: June 30, 2026, volume of employment: 100 % of standard working time.

#### **Workplace/Department:**

SFB 1102, Information Density and Linguistic Encoding, Project C6

#### **Job requirements and responsibilities:**

We are inviting applications for a postdoctoral researcher position in our project: "[Information Management as a Factor for Syntactic Variation in the History of German](#)" (Principal investigators: Augustin Speyer, UdS, and Stefanie Dipper, RUB). The project is part of Saarland University's Collaborative Research Center 1102 "Information Density and Linguistic Encoding", which examines the extent to which Information Theory can contribute to a unifying model of language use, variation and change. This is a fixed-term position with a duration until June 30, 2026.

The goal of our project is to investigate what role do information-theoretic concepts play for the explanation of syntactic variation in German, both historic and contemporary. To investigate the impact of these factors, C6 uses corpus-linguistic methods, especially syntactic and information-structural annotation, and surprisal

---

<sup>1</sup> TV-L = collective agreement on remuneration of public sector employees in the German *Länder*

The pay grade assigned to an employee depends on their professional qualifications and the number of years of service. Each pay grade is further subdivided into levels. Entry-level employees with no previous experience will initially be assigned a level 1 rating. After one year at level 1 of the E10 pay grade, an employee will move up to level 2. After a further two years, the employee will move to level 3, etc.

measurements such as DORM. Details regarding the project can be found here: <https://sfb1102.uni-saarland.de/projects/information-management-as-a-factor-for-syntactic-variation/>.

The tasks of the researcher include:

- the analysis of word order variation in German (e.g. serialization of objects relative to each other and relative to adjuncts) in historical and modern texts, especially taking information structure and surprisal into account,
- the production and analysis of information density profiles in order to investigate syntactic changes,
- the production and analysis of a corpus of variants, consisting of systematic changes of linguistic parameters to natural texts, in order to test information structural and information theoretical hypotheses,
- cooperation with other projects in the CRC using experimental methods,
- supervision and guidance of student research assistants and coordination of project related tasks within the research team.

Saarland University offers a lively academic environment that is famous for its interdisciplinary research in language, translation, computation and cognition. In CRC 1102, we entertain active collaborative links with the Department of Computer Science, the Max Planck Institute for Informatics, the Max Planck Institute for Software Systems and the German Institute for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI).

#### **Your academic qualifications:**

- Employment requirement is a relevant PhD (in Linguistics, German Language or a related subject). Note that we are happy to receive applications by people who have not yet finished their PhD by the time of application. A doctorate is required for employment.
- Language skills (according to GER): English C2, German C2

#### **The successful candidate will also be expected to have:**

- Profound knowledge of German syntax, especially with respect to information structure and constituent order
- Experience with corpus-linguistic methods and corpus data, especially historical German corpus data
- Acquaintance with information theoretic concepts such as Surprisal, UID is advantageous
- Programming skills (e.g. Python, R) for data analysis are also advantageous

#### **What we can offer you:**

- A flexible work schedule allowing you to balance work and family, among other things the possibility of teleworking
- Secure and future-oriented employment with attractive conditions
- A broad range of further education and professional development programmes (for example language courses)
- An occupational health management model with numerous attractive options, such as our university sports programme
- Supplementary pension scheme (RZVK)
- Discounted tickets on local public transport services ('Job-Ticket' of the saarVV)

We look forward to receiving your **online application** (in a PDF file) by **10 November 2024** to [a.speyer@mx.uni-saarland.de](mailto:a.speyer@mx.uni-saarland.de). Please quote the **reference number W2548** when applying, and use the phrase 'application for Postdoc' in the subject line of your e-mail. Applicants are requested to submit their application, together with an academic CV, a list of academic publications, copies of academic degree certificates and the contact details of two potential references.

If you have any **questions**, please contact us for assistance. Your contact:

Universität des Saarlandes  
Herr Prof. Dr. Augustin Speyer  
German Studies  
Building A2.2  
66123 Saarbrücken  
Email: [a.speyer@mx.uni-saarland.de](mailto:a.speyer@mx.uni-saarland.de)  
Tel.: 0681 3023342

Pay grade classification is based on the particular details of the position held and the extent to which the applicant meets the requirements of the pay grade within the TV-L salary scale. Part-time employment is generally possible.

If you have obtained a foreign university degree, a proof of the equivalence of this degree with a German degree by the Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen (ZAB) is needed before hiring. If necessary, please apply for this in time. You can find more information at <https://www.kmk.org/zeugnisbewertung>.

Unfortunately, neither costs for attending an interview at Saarland University nor costs for any certificate evaluation by the ZAB can be reimbursed in principle.

We welcome applications regardless of gender, nationality, ethnic and social origin, religion/belief, disability, age, and sexual orientation and identity. In accordance with its policy of increasing the proportion of women, the University actively encourages applications from women. Applications from severely disabled persons will be given preferential consideration in the event of equal suitability.

When you submit a job application to Saarland University you will be transmitting personal data. [Please refer to our privacy notice for information on how we collect and process personal data in accordance with Art. 13 of the Datenschutz-Grundverordnung](#). By submitting your application you confirm that you have taken note of the information in the Saarland University privacy notice.