Saarland University is a campus university with an international reputation for research excellence, particularly in computer science and in the life sciences and nanosciences. The university is also distinguished by its close ties to France and its strong European focus. Around 17,000 students, studying over one hundred different academic disciplines, are currently enrolled at Saarland University. Saarland University is officially recognized as one of Germany's family-friendly higher-education institutions and with a combined workforce of more than 4000 it is one of the largest employers in the region.

The Department of Computer Science is inviting applications for the following position commencing at the earliest opportunity.

Academic research assistant (m/f/x)

Reference number W2576, salary in accordance with the German TV-L salary scale[1], pay grade: E13 TV- L, duration of employment: 3 years, volume of employment: 75-100 % of standard working time.

Workplace/Department:

In his newly-established group focusing on interdisciplinary research in the area of learning sciences and technology, Prof. Tomohiro Nagashima is looking for a motivated PhD student. This position involves conducting research projects in one of more of the areas below with Prof. Nagashima and his research team (https://tomonag.org/lab/

- Designing for, and supporting, student learning of 21st-century skills and adaptive expertise (e.g., self-regulated learning) using AI-based learning technology
- Using participatory design approaches to deeply understand stakeholder views on AI-based technology in classrooms
- Applying learning analytics and advanced modeling techniques to investigate cognitive, metacognitive, and other aspects of human learning
- Co-designing innovative learning activities, instructional principles, and technologies (with AI) with students in schools, school teachers, and parents

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[1] 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.

The focus and details of research proejcts will be discussed after the employment based on the candidate's qualifications and interests. It is possible (and encouraged) to pursue original research ideas and there is a lot of flexibility in research topics. For more information about Prof. Nagashima's work, please visit: https://tomonag.org/ All activites will be conducted in English. Knowledge of German language would be helpful, but not at all required.

The desired start date is April 1st, 2025, but we are flexible and understand that this may not work well for everyone; we are happy to discuss when would be the best for you (i.e.., you could start earlier or later).

Job requirements and responsibilities:
- Design and develop learning technologies and learning activities using participatory design approaches with stakeholders (i.e., school teachers, students, and parents)
- Plan and conduct user studies with students, teachers, and parents
- Plan and conduct classroom-based experiments with teachers and students
- Analyze qualitative and quantitative data on student learning, perception, and engagement
- Conduct data mining and learning analytics research to understand human learning
- Write scientific papers for conferences and journals and present findings to a wider range of audience
- Participate in a co-taught small class on AI in education as a teaching assistant
- Mentor bachelor's and master's student assistants in the lab and teach a small seminar course

Your academic qualifications:
- Completed university studies in Computer Science, Learning Sciences, Human-Computer Interaction, Psychology, Educational Technology, Education Science, Design, Cognitive Science, or a related field.

The successful candidate will also be expected to:
- Advanced software development (HTML, CSS, Javascript)
- HCI design and research skills and experiences (e.g., user research, knowledge of UX methods)
- Knowledge of experimental design
- Skills in learning/instructional design
- Teaching experience or experience working with school-aged children
- Data analysis skills and experiences (using R, SPSS, or Python)
- Participatory design research experience with education stakeholders and/or community members
- Prior conference or journal publications/presentations
- Strong verbal and written communication skills in English
- Language skills (according to GER): German knowledge (optional) *(e.g.: German -C2)*

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 Plus' of the saarVV)

To apply, please submit 1) your CV (with a list of any publications and contact information of two references, no page limit), 2) a cover letter (2 pages max) that describes your research interests and relevant experiences, 3) the most recent transcript for your master´s degree (and bachelor´s as well, if possible), and 4) your master´s thesis or its draft (only if you have written or are writing one).

Please quote the reference number **W2576** when applying. **The review of applications will start immediately and continue until December 13th, 2024.** Please send your application directly to Prof. Tomohiro Nagashima via email, with the reference number in the subject line: **nagashima@cs.uni-saarland.de**. Further inquiries should also be sent to Prof. Nagashima (with the reference number in the subject line).

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.