

Fully Funded Research Training Position (PhD Fellowships)

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Innovative Training Network: Deictic Communication (DComm)

<http://dcomm.eu>

The Network is seeking visionary and energetic researchers to undertake 12 positions as Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) as part of DComm, a Marie Curie Training Network. One of these positions (ESR11) is offered at Qualisys AB in Gothenburg, Sweden.

Deictic communication is fundamental to understanding communication in both typical and atypical populations, and forms the key connection between language and objects/locations in the world. It is therefore critical to understanding human-human interaction, and human-system interaction in a range of technology applications – from mobile phones to intelligent robots – and to the enhancement of clinical and educational interventions with typical and atypical populations. This ITN will train the next generation of scientists in the full range of multidisciplinary and cross-sectorial methods necessary to make significant progress in understanding deictic communication, with direct synergies between basic research and application.

The research programme is organised into two substantial themes: Work Package 1 – Understanding Deictic Communication; and Work Package 2 Deictic Communication in Application. Each has a cluster of individual ESR projects and, in addition, there are three integrated projects (to be led collaboratively by the ESRs) which will involve all the fellows working together to integrate various components and findings from their own research into three key areas: gender differences, cross-cultural differences and novel hybrid applications. The offered fellowships cover a broad range of disciplines, including psychology, psycholinguistics, neurosciences, linguistics, cognitive science, and technological platforms. The position offered at Qualisys is the following one:

ESR11 Project Title: Improved motion capture methodology and tools in Linguistic research (WP2)

Host Institution: Qualisys AB, Sweden

PI: Mr Fredrik Müller. Key collaborators: Dr Olga Capirci/Dr Cristina Caselli, CNR; Dr Stephanie Rossit/Professor Kenny Coventry, UEA; Professor Mila Vulchanova, NTNU.

Project Description – The goal of this project will be to focus on motion tracking technology development and integration with respect to communication. Many of the other projects tap how language and gesture are coordinated in deictic communication across populations. This project will develop motion-tracking integration for communication settings. This will involve the optimization of marker sets for motion tracking, the coordination of these sets with speech streams, and the associated algorithmic improvements in the motion capture tool chain required. The ESR will work closely across other projects, developing the technology needed for novel data collection and analyses methods. There will be a strong training component also, with the ESR learning how to train others, adapting training to the specific needs of researchers coming from different disciplines and approaches.

Essential criteria for applications:

- MSc-level degree in computer science or a related discipline
- fluency in spoken and written English commensurate with PhD study
- thorough programming experience in some programming language preferably C# or C++

Desirable criteria for applications:

- experience in human-computer interaction
- experience/interest in Virtual reality/Augmented reality
- experience in working in an interdisciplinary team

Informal enquiries may be addressed to: fredrik.muller@qualisys.se

Application information: www.qualisys.se/applications/dcomm

Application Deadline: 31 March 2016

The appointments are offered in the context of a Marie Curie Initial Training Network and transnational mobility is a key element of eligibility. Candidates' eligibility for each post is determined by Marie Curie terms and conditions (see also <http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index.cfm/rights/index> for additional information).

IMPORTANT – Each applicant must satisfy the following criteria:

Mobility Criteria: At the time of recruitment by the host organisation (Qualisys AB), researchers must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc) in the country (Sweden) of their host organisation for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the reference date. Please note that candidates may indeed be nationals of the host country as long as the mobility rule is observed. Short stays such as holidays and/or compulsory national service are not taken into account.

'Early Stage Researcher' criteria: The Early Stage Researchers, at the time of recruitment by the host organisation, must not yet have been awarded a doctorate degree and must be in the first 4 years (full-time equivalent) of their research careers. This is measured from the date when a researcher obtained the degree which would formally entitle him/her to embark on a doctorate, either in the country in which the degree was obtained or in the country in which the research training is provided.

Selection process

The selection of candidates for interview will be made by a specifically designed committee including the project PIs. Initial long-listing interviews may be carried out via Skype. Short-listed applicants may be invited for an interview at the relevant organisation. The closing date for most applications is in March 2016 although please note some are much earlier/later. The candidates must start in September 2016.

Salaries

Each ESR will be paid a basic salary of 3110 euros per month (before local taxes etc. are applied), subject to a country correction coefficient. In addition, ESRs will be paid a mobility allowance of 600 euros per month to cover living and relocation costs, and a possible family allowance of 500 euros for eligible applicants.

Working environment

Qualisys is a privately held small/medium sized enterprise (SME). English and Swedish are the main language spoken within the organisation. Qualisys is a high tech company with a modern workplace. More information about the company can be found on its homepage (<http://www.qualisys.se>)

Qualisys is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to increasing the proportion of female employees. Consequently, we actively encourage applications by women. Female candidates with equivalent qualifications and academic achievements will be preferentially considered within the framework of the legal possibilities. Applicants with disabilities will be subject to preferential consideration in accordance with the applicable laws of Sweden.

How to apply

Applications should include copies of degree certificates, curriculum vitae, motivation statement, list of publications (if applicable) and a brief research sketch (up to two pages A4). The research sketch should outline the candidate's ideas and plans for the topic outlined above. Please email applications in the form of a single PDF to Mr Fredrik Müller at fredrik.muller@qualisys.se, quoting DCOMM in the subject line. The deadline for applications is the **31st of March 2016**. In case of any further questions, please use the same contact details.

General Enquiries

If you have general enquiries about the DComm Project please contact the Administrator, Jackie Orford at J.Orford@uea.ac.uk or +44 (0) 1603 597146