

University of Geneva
Departments of Computer Science



Research Associate Statistical Natural Language Processing

The University of Geneva, Department of Computer Science, invites applications for a post-doctoral research associate position in natural language processing. The successful candidate will be part of the EU-funded project PARLANCE. He/she will investigate statistical methods for natural language understanding, including spoken language understanding.

The PARLANCE project will design and build mobile applications that approach human performance in conversational spoken interaction, targeting interactive search and information provision applications. The PARLANCE systems will be based on probabilistic inference procedures and incremental dialog processing. Systems will be developed for English, Spanish and Mandarin. The other project partners are Cambridge University, Heriot-Watt University, CRSA, iSoco, and Yahoo! Iberia.

At the University of Geneva, the project will be lead by James Henderson (Department of Computer Science) and Paola Merlo (Department of Linguistics) within the research group Computational Learning and Computational Linguistics (<http://clcl.unige.ch/>). Work will focus on incremental models of spoken language understanding which integrate domain-general statistical models of syntactic-semantic parsing, as well as open-domain information extraction. The successful candidate will be expected to participate in this project, plus engage in research of their own choosing.

Applicants should have received a PhD in Computer Science or Computational Linguistics by the start of the project. The ideal candidate will have a background in natural language processing, statistical methods, machine learning, and spoken language understanding. Good programming skills are required. Fluency in either English or French is required.

The appointment is initially for a fixed term of 3 years, with a start date of 1 November 2011 or soon thereafter. Competitive salary, according to qualifications.

Applicants should send a curriculum vitae, a statement of research interest, and names and addresses of at least 3 references to James Henderson at James.Henderson@unige.ch, with PARLANCE Postdoc as the subject line. Review of applications will begin immediately, but will continue until the position is filled. Applications received by **1 September** 2011 will be guaranteed full consideration.

Informal inquiries can be addressed to James Henderson (James.Henderson@unige.ch) or to Paola Merlo (Paola.Merlo@unige.ch). The University of Geneva wishes to increase the proportion of female academic staff and, for this reason, especially welcomes applications from women.