The University of Passau owes its strong visibility and good repute to excellent research, innovative teaching and its tight-knit international academic networks. Some 12,000 students from 100 countries and more than 1,200 staff study and work on our University campus, which is located a stone's throw from the historical Old Town of Passau and combines state-of-the-art technical infrastructure with award-winning architecture. Internationally successful high-tech companies and a vibrant start-up scene, coupled with a rich culture and Lower Bavarian traditions, give Passau and the surrounding area a special appeal that makes it a great place to live and work.

The University of Passau is conducting a five-year ERC (European Research Council) Consolidator project (2019–2024) titled *The Consequences of the Internet for Russia's Informational Influence Abroad (RUSINFORM)*. Receiving approximately two million euros in funds from the European Research Council, RUSINFORM will involve six researchers and a series of visiting fellows. The project aims to investigate how, and with what consequences, new Internet-based technologies have contributed to the emergence of novel resources, techniques and processes by which political elites in Moscow can influence media audiences abroad. More information is available at www.rusinform.uni-passau.de.

For the **RUSINFORM project**, the Chair of Political Communication with a Focus on Eastern Europe and the Post-Soviet Region (Professor Florian Toepfl) invites applications for the position of

Student Assistant (Studentische Hilfskraft)

to support the project with a workload of approximately 20 hours per month at an hourly rate of 9.50 euros (to rise to 9.60 euros as of 1 July 2021). The position is based on a two-year contract with the possibility of extension.

Job description/duties and responsibilities

You will support an international team of researchers in their research efforts. Specifically, you will assist the research team by developing software that facilitates automated data collection, as well as the processing and storage of this data. Duties and responsibilities may include but will not be limited to:

- developing scripts in Python and/or R that scrape data from a range of platforms on the World Wide Web
- monitoring ongoing data collection efforts
- servicing the server of the Chair
- helping to develop software that addresses all types of issues surfacing in the course of auto-mated data processing and analysis

Person specification/selection criteria

- Evidence that indicates that you are able to develop software solutions that solve practical prob-lems in social science research (you have successfully completed several semesters of a bache-lor's programme in computer science, Internet computing, or in a social science discipline with a focus on computational methods).
- Prior knowledge in the area of text mining and natural language processing is an advantage.

- Good English-language skills (essential).
- Knowledge of German (desirable).
- Knowledge of an Eastern-European language (desirable).
- Prior knowledge of R or Python and how to use these programming languages for the collection and analysis of social-science data (desirable).
- Evidence of strong self-management skills (essential).
- Evidence of strong problem-solving skills (essential).
- Evidence of flexibility and autonomy (desirable).
- Evidence of strong communication skills (desirable).

The University of Passau wishes to increase the proportion of its female staff and expressly encourages women to apply for the position. Furthermore, this post is suitable for those who are registered disabled. Registered disabled persons are given preference over non-disabled applicants who do not otherwise have statutory preferential status if their overall personal aptitudes, skills and qualifications are equal.

What we offer

- A rewarding, diverse and challenging academic position within a team of international research-ers with flat hierarchies, working on a topical issue of high political relevance.
- The opportunity to look behind the scenes of a social science research group engaged in highly visible, internationally leading research within the scope of the project.
- A high level of freedom when it comes to planning your work.
- An enjoyable and friendly work climate.

More information about the project is available at www.rusinform.uni-passau.de.

How to apply

Your full application (in German or English), sent as **a single PDF** attachment, should include the **following documents:**

- Your curriculum vitae.
- University entrance qualification (usually your secondary-school leaving certificate).
- Letter of motivation approximately half a page in length, stating why you would like to join this specific research group and why you think you are the right person to work with us. In this letter, please also provide evidence with regard to the selection criteria listed above.
- If you wish, share with us a piece of code that you created and that illustrates your skills.

Please send your application by e-mail to sarah.miedl@uni-passau.de, **subject line 'RUSINFORM-SHK', by 20 October 2020.**

We look forward to receiving your application!

Once the application process has been completed, we will retain your application on file for six months before deleting it from our computer systems. Please visit www.uni-passau.de/en/university/current-vacancies for our data privacy statement.