PhD Student position in Computational Geometry at the Dalle Molle Institute for Artificial Intelligence, Faculty of Informatics, USI Università della Svizzera italiana

Università della Svizzera italiana (USI) is a young and lively university, a hub of opportunity open to the world where students are offered a quality interdisciplinary education in which they can be fully engaged and take center stage, and where our researchers can count on having the space to freely pursue their initiative. Established in 1996, USI is in constant evolution, always taking on new challenges while remaining true to its three guiding principles: quality, openness and responsibility.

The Faculty of Informatics is defined by its passion for scientific research. Over the years, the faculty has become one of the leading research centers in Switzerland and an international point of reference in many fields.

Dalle Molle Institute for Artificial Intelligence was founded in Lugano in 1988 by Angelo Dalle Molle (1908-2002), an Italian philanthropist whose vision was a world where technological progress and human development could both contribute to the improvement of our quality of life. Dalle Molle was a precursor of electric mobility, and he established a Trustee in Switzerland to promote creative scientific research, free from the bureaucratic ties of university institutions. Nowadays the institutes founded by Angelo (IDSIA in Lugano, IDIAP in Martigny, and ISSCo in Geneva) are integrated in the local institutions. Since the foundation of USI and SUPSI in Canton Ticino, IDSIA has been designated to be a “bridge” between these two institutions. For this reason IDSIA activities span from fundamental to applied research, transferring its knowledge into applications in the real world.

The Ph.D. Position
The candidate is expected to conduct research in Algorithms and Computational Geometry under the scientific supervision of Prof. Evanthia Papadopoulou. He/She will be enrolled in the PhD programme of the Faculty of Informatics. The position is funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF) on the topic of generalized Voronoi diagrams in two and higher dimensions and provides a competitive salary with standard benefits.

The successful candidate will be offered the possibility to work in a dynamic research team and in a multidisciplinary and international scientific environment.

On the teaching side, they will work as teaching assistant in courses at either bachelor or master level, helping in the preparation of teaching materials and tutoring students.
The teaching and working language is English.

Candidates’ profile
Ideal candidates should satisfy the following requirements.
- A master’s degree in Computer Science or Mathematics and an affinity with Algorithms.
- A keen interest and background in Discrete Algorithms, Theoretical Computer Science or Discrete Mathematics.
- Excellent academic qualifications as well as good communication and collaboration skills.
- Experience in Computational Geometry is very welcome, but it is not required;
- good programming skills is a great plus.
- fluency in English is required.

Contract terms
Admission to the Ph.D. program is highly competitive. Admission decisions are based on the candidate’s background, interests, attitude and potential for academic achievement. Successful enrolment in the Ph.D. programme and the position as doctoral researcher are not compatible with a further professional activity.

The position will be kept open until a suitable candidate has been found.

The Application
Applications should contain: (1) a letter in which the applicants describe their research interests and the motivation to apply, (2) a complete CV, (3) copies of relevant diplomas, certificates as well as the full transcript of records, (4) contact information of academic references.

Please send your application in electronic form or requests for further information to Prof. Evanthia Papadopoulou (evanthia.papadopoulou@usi.ch).

In addition, please follow the Faculty application procedure outlined here.

As an institution that values diversity, USI particularly encourages applications from women and individuals from underrepresented groups.

Lugano, May 2022