Assistant Professor position (tenure-track) in Data Science, Faculty of Informatics at 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 at the Università della Svizzera italiana (USI) welcomes applications for a tenure-track Assistant Professor in any area of Data Science (DS) and Statistics, specifically Computational Statistics. The position is available from August 2024. Applications from exceptional candidates in other areas strategically important to the Faculty are also strongly encouraged to apply (see section “Additional Areas Considered” below).

About the Faculty of Informatics
USI's Faculty of Informatics is an international, English-speaking, research-focused faculty in Lugano (Switzerland). About 200 researchers from around the world conduct research in eight different macro-areas, with tens of millions of Swiss francs acquired through competitive funding; since its inception less than 20 years ago, faculty members have obtained 13 ERC grants and various other distinctions. The Faculty is one of the leading research centers in Switzerland and an international point of reference in fields such as Computational Science and AI.

The Faculty’s strong commitment to research impacts its educational programs through a unique teaching philosophy where the student is actively and creatively placed at the heart of the learning process. All of the Faculty’s academic programs are entirely taught in English. The faculty is set to introduce the first Swiss B.Sc. degree in Data Science in 2024. The selected candidate will have the opportunity to actively participate in the program.

Requirements
The successful candidate must have a Ph.D. and is expected to develop a strong, independent, and well-funded research program in Data Science-related topics. They should be prepared to build and maintain a research group from third-party funding, such as the Swiss National Science Foundation and industry partnerships.

We consider Data Science broadly defined, encompassing multiple disciplines, ranging from theoretical and methodological contributions rooted in statistics, mathematics, and computer science to developing cutting-edge computational algorithms for diverse applications in science and engineering. Ideal candidates will have a strong track record in theoretical or
applied research in fundamentals of Statistics or Data Science, e.g., algorithm development or disseminating software packages for practical applications.

We seek a colleague who will support our goal of ensuring an inclusive, equitable, and diverse workplace. As an institution that values diversity, USI particularly encourages applications from women and from all individuals from underrepresented groups.

Access to state-of-the-art research computing facilities will be available, including a local University cluster and the Swiss high-performance computing facility (CSCS) in Lugano. Successful applicants will receive institutional funding for a Ph.D. position.

About USI
Located on Ticino in the South of Switzerland, Università della Svizzera italiana (USI) is one of 12 certified public universities in Switzerland. It is organized into six faculties and is active in several study and research areas, such as architecture, communication sciences, computational science, data science, economics, health studies, humanities, informatics, law, medicine, and biomedicine. 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 pursue their initiative freely.

About 4'200 students and 1'300 professors and researchers from more than 115 countries convene daily on its campuses in Lugano, Mendrisio, and Bellinzona. The relatively small size of the university encourages the free flow and open exchange of ideas. The University provides a rich environment for collaboration and career growth. USI encourages faculty, students, and researchers to develop their potential and appreciates their curiosity and willingness to experiment with new ways of thinking, learning, teaching, and working.

USI has an active research community in data science, with various activities in the Institute of Computing (high-performance computing in Bayesian inference, Statistics for Networks, High-dimensional inference, Biostatistics), Economics (Social Network Modelling, Econometrics and Finance), Biomedicine (Biostatistics and Bioinformatics), and the interdisciplinary Euler Institute.

Additional Areas Considered
Exceptional candidates in Security and Programming Languages are welcome to apply in this call.

General terms
Workplace is USI Università della Svizzera italiana, located in Lugano, Switzerland. Availability to travel to other parts of Switzerland and abroad (for purposes of collaboration and research) is required. Salary will be defined according to terms and conditions as in the university Statutes (Link)

Residence
Professors reside in Ticino, which is part of the Italian-speaking area of Switzerland. The new professor is expected to provide consistent participation in the academic activities of the university.
Applications with a curriculum vitae, list of publications, the names of three references, and statements on research and teaching should be sent to dean.inf@usi.ch.

The closing date for applications is January 31, 2024.
The targeted starting date for the position is September 1, 2024.

Inquiries: Prof. Marc Langheinrich, Dean, Faculty of Informatics, at dean.inf@usi.ch.

More information
- Institute of Computing: https://www.ci.inf.usi.ch/
- Euler Institute: https://www.euler.usi.ch/
- Faculty of Informatics: https://www.inf.usi.ch/en
- Università della Svizzera italiana: https://www.usi.ch/en

Lugano, December 5th, 2023