Università della Svizzera italiana (USI) is a young and lively university, a hub of opportunities open to the world where students are offered a quality interdisciplinary education in which they can be fully engaged and take central stage, and where our researchers can count on having the space to freely pursue their initiative.

USI is well ranked in the two leading global academic rankings, the Quacquarelli Symonds World University Rankings (QS) and the Times Higher Education (THE). Recently, it has been ranked 32nd worldwide in the Times Higher Education Young University Rankings.

The Institute of Digital Technologies for Communication invites applications for a fully funded Ph.D. position in Communication Sciences, in the field of Digital Fashion Communication.

While the specific topic is still open, and has to be agreed with the supervisor and approved by the relevant Faculty committees, hereafter two topics of particular interest:

- Use of digital media within fashion education (e.g.: eLearning, MOOCs, …)
- Relationships between digital fashion and the tourism sector

The Ph.D. Position
The doctoral student will be enrolled in the Ph.D. program in Communication Sciences. He/she will work under the scientific supervision of Prof. Lorenzo Cantoni. The successful candidate will be offered the possibility to work in a dynamic research team and in a multidisciplinary and international scientific environment. The salary levels correspond to those set by the Swiss National Science Foundation for PhD researchers. Annual renewal is not automatic, but contingent on satisfactory progress.

Candidates’ profile
The ideal candidate should satisfy the following requirements:

- A Master degree in a relevant area (including Media and Communication, Fashion Management, Marketing, Social Sciences, Education), finished prior to appointment, within the last three years
- High motivation for academic research
- Interest in online communication, specifically in the fashion domain
- Ability to work independently and to plan and direct own work
- Excellent communication skills and ability to collaborate in teams
- C1 level in both oral and written English (the official language of the Ph.D. program)
- Knowledge of Swiss languages is beneficial
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. program and the position as doctoral researcher are not compatible with a further concurrent professional activity.

The successful candidate will take the role of a junior researcher at the Institute of Digital Technologies for Communication and will have the possibility to interact with an international network of collaborators. The candidate will collaborate on teaching activities at USI.

The workplace is USI Università della Svizzera italiana, located in Lugano, Switzerland.

The successful candidate will ideally start his/her collaboration and research activities in the last months of 2023.

The Application
Applications should contain (1) a two-pages letter in which the applicants describe both (a) their research interests and (b) their motivation to apply; (2) a CV; (3) copies of relevant diplomas, certificates as well as the full transcript of records that prove the candidates’ eligibility for doctoral studies in Communication Sciences: and (4) the names of two academic references that can be contacted for further information.

Please send your application in one single pdf document to dr. Nadzeya Sabatini (nadzeya.sabatini@usi.ch) with the subject “Ph.D. in Digital Fashion Communication”.

The call is open until the place is filled.

Applications received by September 15, 2023, will be given priority.

USI strives to be an equal opportunity and family friendly employer and is further responsive to the needs of dual career couples. We guarantee that the selection process will give equal opportunities to female and male researchers. As an institution that values diversity, USI particularly encourages applications from women and from all individuals from underrepresented groups.

Lugano, August 8, 2023