

PhD student position in digital journalism at the Institute of Media and Journalism, Faculty of Communication, Culture and Society 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 initiatives. 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. In the QS World University Rankings 2021, USI was the highest-ranking new entrant, while in 2020, the university was globally ranked second in the THE University Ranking for international outlook.

The Institute of Media and Journalism, which is part of the Faculty of Communication, Culture and Society, is engaged in research activities in the areas of journalism studies, media economics, media history, as well as media culture and society. In the field of journalism studies, IMeG is active in the field of journalism and artificial intelligence, the datafication of journalism, journalism innovation as well as media accountability and transparency. IMeG adopts multiple perspectives, methods, and promotes a culture of cooperation and mutual support. Within the institute, people from different disciplines and backgrounds collaborate to generate new knowledge and impact in society. We offer excellent opportunities for national and international networking.

The Institute of Media and Journalism invites applications for 1 fully-funded PhD position (4 years). The position will be supervised by Prof. Colin Porlezza, who is leading the Chair of digital journalism within IMeG. The PhD candidate will develop his or her dissertation project preferably within the field of journalism, datafication and artificial intelligence.

The Ph.D. Position

The doctoral student will work under the scientific supervision of Prof. Colin Porlezza (USI search). The successful candidate will be offered the possibility to work in a dynamic team and in a multidisciplinary and international scientific environment. The PhD candidate is, first of all, expected to complete a dissertation in three to four years. In addition, he or she will collaborate to the development of the institute research agenda. He or she will have the task of setting up a collection of data for his or her dissertation, while at the same time participating in a variety of tasks related to the research stream in which he or she will be involved. As a PhD candidate, you will also take part in the doctoral educational program at the Faculty of Communication, Culture and Society.

With regard to teaching, he or she will work as teaching assistant in courses at both the bachelor and the master level, helping in the preparation of teaching materials and tutoring students.

The PhD candidate is also asked to present papers at scientific conferences (which means that the position involves traveling), to produce publications for high ranking scientific journals, to acquire further academic qualifications, and to contribute to academic service within the institute.

Candidates' profile

Ideal candidates should satisfy the following requirements:

- A Master (or equivalent title) in journalism, media studies, communication sciences, or a related discipline.
- High personal interest in journalism innovation, datafication, news automation and artificial intelligence. Interest in journalism ethics, accountability, and transparency is an advantage.
- Experience in qualitative and/or quantitative methods and data analysis, interest in ethnographic and computational research methods.
- Enthusiasm for working in an interdisciplinary and international setting.
- Excellent skills in oral and written English.
- Good oral and writing skills in one (or more) national Swiss languages (German, French, Italian, Romansh), preferably Italian.
- Good organizational skills, ability to work independently and to plan and direct own work.
- Motivation to engage in the elaboration of a PhD dissertation. Ability to work in a team and with colleagues and other members of the Institute, engage in scientific dialogue.
- Interest for teaching and tutoring students is also required.

Contract terms

The successful candidate will work as a research and teaching assistant at the Institute of Media and Journalism, and will have the possibility to interact with an international network of collaborators. The PhD position is for four years. In addition to a tuition fee-waiver for the duration of the four-year scholarship, a fully-funded PhD at USI includes an annual salary of 47'040 Swiss Francs (0.75 FTE) upon appointment. PhD scholarships are subject to annual review and successful completion of a progress report.

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

Starting date is ideally February 2021. However, the position will be kept open until a suitable candidate has been found. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an online interview.

The Application

Please send your application in electronic form as a single pdf file in the following order:

Applications should contain: (1) a cover letter, including a description of your research interests and an explanation why you are applying for this position, (2) a proposal outlining your PhD project, including a research question, theoretical approach, methodology, and the potential contribution to the existing state of the art (max. 1000 words) (3) a complete CV, (4) copies of certificates and official transcripts of your Master's degree (5) an electronic copy of a research work (Master thesis or another scientific publication), and (6) the names, affiliations, and email addresses of two academic references.

For further information about the position please contact Prof. Colin Porlezza at colin.porlezza@usi.ch

Applications received before December 6th, 2020, 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.

Lugano, November 6th 2020