

Trier University conducts socially relevant research and teaching at the cutting edge with a strong focus on digitalization, interdisciplinarity, and diversity. With currently more than 10,000 students and around 2,000 employees, Trier University is one of the largest employers in the European border region of Trier. Short distances on a green campus, a lively academic life, and an open-minded working culture offer many opportunities to make things happen.

In the Faculty II of the University of Trier, the Professorship for *Natural Language Processing* (Prof. Dr. Achim Rettinger) is seeking to fill the following position as soon as possible:

Doctoral Researcher (Wissenschaftliche/r Mitarbeiter/in m/w/d)

(E 13 TV-L, 100% fully funded, fixed-term for academic qualification in accordance with the WissZeitVG, for a period of 3 years. The position is intended for the purpose of academic qualification (PhD).)

The krAil research group of the professorship conducts research and teaching in the field of *natural language processing*, specifically *machine learning* with and for *human-aligned knowledge representations*. Current focus areas are developing generative agents for simulating human capabilities and behavior, e.g. for researching opinion formation in social networks. Another example is developing aligned AI models without undesired biases, e.g., for reducing the risk of information manipulation in democratic processes.

What We Offer

- Freedom to choose your research topic.
- You are hired as regular scientific staff of the University with a 100% paid position.
- No requirements to take classes, no formal curriculum, no structured doctoral training.
- A heterogeneous team with researchers from different institutions (Trier University, FZI Karlsruhe, HOP Berlin) from different disciplinary areas (NLP, AI, Computational Linguistics, Computational Media Studies, Computational Social Sciences, Political Sciences).
- A location at the heart of Europe (<1h to France, Belgium and Luxembourg) in Germany's oldest city.

Your Responsibilities

- Pursuing an academic qualification (PhD project) aligned with the team's research foci.
- 4h/week of teaching in the international Masters Programm of Natural Language Processing, and supervision of BA and MA theses.
- Assistance with research proposals, and pursuit of your own publications.
- Support in administrative tasks within the department.

Applications are requested in a single PDF file by June 30, 2025.

Application via E-Mail to

Rita Thielen
thielenr@uni-trier.de

Contact for questions or inquiries

Prof. Dr. Achim Rettinger
rettinger@uni-trier.de

Your Profile

- A successfully completed university degree (Master's) in Natural Language Processing, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Computational Social Science, Computational Media Studies or related.
- Strong interest in safety and explainability of ML systems, limitations and risks of AI systems, ML models for and of humane social systems, specifically social media and digital democracy.
- Excellent command of English (written and spoken) at C1/C2 level (German is not required)
- Teaching experience in natural language processing or related areas.
- The capability to conduct self-motivated and self-organized research towards finishing a PhD thesis.
- Willingness to become an active member of our group and work as a team.

The employment requirements are based on § 57 paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Higher Education Act of Rhineland-Palatinate. A key requirement is the successful completion of a university degree (Master's, Diploma, or equivalent) in an area listed above with above-average results.

The position is suitable for part-time work. Trier University is committed to increasing the number of female staff members and strongly encourages women to apply.

Disabled candidates with appropriate qualifications will be given priority (§ 2 Abs. 3 SGB IX, please enclose proof in your application).

Your Application Should Include

- Letter of motivation (max. 1 page), describing your research activities, interests and experience.
- Expose of your proposed PhD project (max. 1 page), pointing out how it aligns with the group's research focus and projects.
- Sample of your academic writing (e.g. a paper or your MA thesis).
- Curriculum Vitae, incl. a list of publications (if applicable).
- Copies of relevant qualification documents (MA degree, etc.), including transcript of records and grades.

Please send your application as a single PDF file via email to Rita Thielen (thielenr@uni-trier.de) by June 30, 2025. For further information on how your personal data is handled during the application process, please refer to the data protection notice for application procedures pursuant to Article 13 GDPR on the university homepage.

Applications are requested in a single PDF file by June 30, 2025.

Application via E-Mail to

Rita Thielen
thielenr@uni-trier.de

Contact for questions or inquiries

Prof. Dr. Achim Rettinger
rettinger@uni-trier.de