



Student Assistant
Reference number: SA_2024_ECS_TR
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POTSDAM INSTITUTE FOR
CLIMATE IMPACT RESEARCH

Solving the climate crisis requires the brightest minds. The Mercator Research Institute on Global Commons and Climate Change (MCC) has established itself prominently in the climate policy research landscape. We conduct world-class research on climate solutions and offer an inspiring interdisciplinary environment for scientific excellence.

If you enjoy working in a very collaborative, supportive and international team, you crave to understand what climate policies work, when, and why, and you feel that policy should be informed by the best available scientific evidence, then you may want to apply for this position in MCC's Evidence for Climate Solutions group:

Student Assistant Data Engineering and Data Science

We are looking for student researchers interested in working on next-generation digital evidence synthesis tools (with AI).

Responsibilities

- Develop new features for our annotation platform and maintain existing system
- Support researchers that use our platform (e.g. additional in-depth analyses or project on-boarding)
- Develop and maintain "living" systematic maps (automatically fetch and classify new publications and integrate into existing databases)
- Develop and maintain our upcoming crowd annotation platform
- Evaluate and develop automation tools for information extraction and text classification
- Drive your own ideas and projects that accelerate (parts of) the evidence synthesis process

Qualifications

- Good software design skills and experience in building and maintaining data processing pipelines and REST-based systems
- Web-based front-end development (esp. typescript, vuejs)
- Experience (theoretical and practical) with relational databases (esp. PostgreSQL)
- Strong interest (ideally experience) in information retrieval, data integration, machine learning/AI, LLMs, knowledge graphs
- Excited to use "new" technologies such as vector databases, esp. integrating deepset haystack for full RAG
- Interested in experimenting with solr, postgres, vector stores, graph databases, knowledge graphs, huggingface, ...
- More buzzwords: data science, clustering, topic models, transformers, classification, entity extraction and linking, high-performance compute cluster with high-end GPUs, ...

We have funding for multiple student assistants/researchers, so you don't need to tick all the boxes. Once you have an overview, you get to choose what you want to work on. Most important is a strong interest in these methods, a solid knowledge foundation (e.g. from studying computer science or contributing to open source projects) and willingness to learn.

Our offer

- Experiences in an inspiring, international and interdisciplinary work environment in a world leading research institute on climate policy
- Working in a dedicated and motivated multi-cultural team

- Insights into a solution-oriented research project with several German and international partners and with immediate policy relevance
- The opportunity to contribute to tackling challenges of climate change and our common future
- An attractive workplace in an old industrial building at the EUREF-Campus in Schöneberg, Berlin
- Possibility to write an exciting master's thesis under our co-supervision closely related to your work in the field of web science

The MCC values a collaborative working place environment that values diversity, tolerance, and equity. MCC provides an exciting, collaborative, interdisciplinary and international research and working atmosphere.

Appointment terms

The position is for 1 year on an at least 8, but not more than 20 hours per week basis starting as soon as possible. Remuneration is according to TV-Stud III Berlin at 12,96 €/hour (gross). Note, that MCC will join PIK in January 2025, so TV Stud BB applies (13,83 € with BSc eq. or 13,25 € or w/o).

Applications

Please send an email with the reference number as subject SA_2024_ECS_TR to Tim Repke, repke@mcc-berlin.net (en/de). Please attach a *single PDF* (your name as filename) containing the following:

- Motivation letter
- Curriculum vitae
- Transcript of records

The position remains open until filled. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for an interview.