



L-Università
ta' Malta

Human Resources
Management &
Development Office

University of Malta
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Call for Applications

Posts of Full-Time or Part-Time Resesarch Support Officers (PhD Students), Research Support Officers I (Programmers) and Research Support Officers III (Postdoctoral fellows)

HORIZON 2020 Projects: ENVISAGE, CROSSCULT

And Any Other Projects Undertaken by the Institute of Digital Games

1. Applications are invited for Research Support Officers to work on the “*ENhance Virtual learning Spaces using Applied Gaming in Education*” (ENVISAGE) and “*CrossCult: Empowering reuse of digital cultural heritage in context-aware crosscuts of European history*” projects. Both research projects are supported by the European Union within the Horizon 2020 Programme. The Research Support Officers may also work on any other projects that are co-ordinated by the Institute of Digital Games (<http://www.game.edu.mt/>). The Institute of Digital Games runs a number of EU funded projects in the areas of **game artificial intelligence, machine learning, affective computing, computational creativity** and **game-based learning** and the candidate is expected to support research activities within these areas. Appointment is expected during **Spring 2018**.
2. The following *general* qualifications are required for all levels of employment:
 - ◆ Hold (or in the process of obtaining) a minimum of a Bachelor’s Degree in Computer Science, AI, Engineering, or related fields to the areas mentioned above.
 - ◆ Should be able to work both independently and as a member of a team.
 - ◆ Have experience working with multicultural and multidisciplinary teams.
 - ◆ Have good communication skills, both oral and written (an excellent command of English is essential)
 - ◆ Experience in game design and production will be considered a plus.

In addition, the following *specific* qualifications are required for the different levels of employment:

Research Support Officer I – Programmer – Full-time or Part-time (an average of 20 hours per week):

- ◆ Have excellent programming skills demonstrated through software prototypes and projects with an emphasis on machine and deep learning, data mining, data analysis and visualization, procedural content generation.

Research Support Officer – PhD Student – Full-time

- ◆ Hold (or in the process of obtaining) a Master's Degree in Computer Science, AI, Engineering, Digital Game Technology, or relevant fields.



Funded by the Horizon 2020
Framework Programme of the
European Union

Regarding the PhD student position, we are looking for excellent candidates with a background at the crossroads of artificial and computational intelligence, data science, computational creativity, affective computing, and machine learning. In particular we are interested in candidates with a good grasp of as many of the following areas as possible: affective modelling, player modelling, procedural content generation, computational creativity in games, game analytics, deep learning, general artificial intelligence, data visualization, data mining, human-computer interfaces, personalization. Industry experience with game data analysis will be considered advantageous.

Research Support Officer III – Postdoctoral fellow – Full-time or Part-Time (an average of 20 hours per week):

- Hold a PhD Degree in Computer Science, AI, Engineering, Applied Math, Interaction Design, or relevant fields.
- Excellent research output demonstrated through top-ranked publications in the aforementioned areas of research.
- Have experience working in EU-funded projects.
- Research management experience is desired.

3. The positions are for **up to three** years. The position may be renewed annually subject to the exigencies of the project or any other projects that are co-ordinated by the Institute of Digital Games. The gross salary per annum for the above mentioned posts will commensurate with qualifications and experience. The initial salary attached to the posts is €20,800 per annum or €10 per hour for the Research Support Officer I and the Research Support Officer PhD Student, and €31,200 per annum or €15 per hour for the Research Support Officer III.

4. Applicants must submit their letter of application (including motivation), their *curriculum vitae* **including three referees**, and **one set** of copies of their certificates indicating the position, namely Research Support Officer - PhD student, Research Support Officer I – Programmer, or Research Support Officer III – Postdoctoral fellow. Applications should be sent by e-mail to projects.hrmd@um.edu.mt by not later than **Sunday, 25th February, 2018**.
Late applications will not be considered.

5. Further information may be obtained from the website: <http://www.um.edu.mt/hrmd/vacancies>

Office of the University
Msida, 5th February 2018



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Further Information

1. The Research Support Officers will be responsible for the execution of a number of tasks related to the ENVISAGE and CROSSCULT projects, supported by the European Union under the Horizon 2020 Programme, and any other projects that are co-ordinated by the Institute of Digital Games. The successful candidates will contribute to managing the research activities of the University of Malta in the projects. This entails close cooperation with the other partners in the projects.

ENVISAGE Project Description

Envisage aims to transfer knowledge and technology from game analytics to the learning process. In particular, the project aims to offer a solution towards optimizing the learning process in virtual labs and therefore maximize their impact in education. The project outcome is a high-level, easy to use, authoring environment that enables the design and implementation of high standard virtual labs. The University of Malta is leading the efforts on implementing a set of data visualization tools that will provide course progress reports. It will also contribute in defining the architecture and design of the virtual labs authoring tool which will feature shallow and deep analytics for learning.

The successful candidates will focus on the research tasks associated with the University of Malta which include: data visualisation, user modelling, game data mining, adaptation and personalisation and prototype game tools development.

CrossCult Project Description (<http://www.crosscult.eu/>)

CrossCult aims to make reflective history a reality in the European cultural context, by enabling the re-interpretation of European (hi)stories through cross-border interconnections among cultural digital resources, citizen viewpoints and physical venues. The project aims to connect existing digital historical resources and create new ones through public participation, as well as to provide long-lasting experiences of social learning and entertainment. CrossCult will be implemented on 4 real-world flagship pilots involving a total of 8 sites across Europe. The University of Malta is leading the efforts on the game design and development of two games related to two of the flagship pilots of CrossCult. It will also contribute to the automatic or mixed-initiative discovery of associations within open-access and CrossCult-specific databases, as well as data visualization and interfaces for creating, curating and moderating content.

The successful candidates will focus; for a PhD student, on automated or mixed-initiative association discovery; and for a programmer on the game development tasks as well as data visualization and data input interfaces.

Further information about ENVISAGE, CrossCult and other projects may be obtained from the Institute's website <http://www.game.edu.mt/research/>). Information about the Institute of Digital Games can be found at <http://game.edu.mt/>.

2. The appointees are expected to work:
 - a. on part-time or full-time basis, and will not be allowed to engage in any other gainful employment without the permission of the Council; and
 - b. at such places and during such hours as may be determined by the University authorities.
3. The selection procedure will involve:
 - a. scrutiny of qualifications and experience claimed and supported by testimonials and/or certificates (copies to be included with the application); and
 - b. an interview and/or extended interview.
4. The appointments will be subject to a probationary period, and to the provisions of the Statutes, Regulations and Bye-Laws of the University which are now or which may hereafter be in force.

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