Post Specification

Post Title:	Research Assistant
Post Status:	Specific Purpose Contract – Full-time.
Research Group / Department / School:	AI Discipline, School of Computer Science and Statistics, Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin
Location:	Lloyd Institute, School of Computer Science and Statistics, Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin College Green, Dublin 2, Ireland
Reports to:	Prof. Khurshid Ahmad
Salary:	Appointment will be made on the IUA Research Assistant Pay Scale 9-13 at a point in line with Government Pay Policy €40272 to € 43872 per annum, appointment will be made no higher than point [13]
Hours of Work:	39 Hours per week.
Closing Date:	12 Noon (GMT), Monday 23rd February 2026

Post Summary

The School of Computer Science and Statistics at Trinity College Dublin (TCD) is recruiting a Postdoctoral Research Fellow to work with Prof Khurshid Ahmad on research on investigating the detection and analysis of facial expressions and voice modulations on public domain videos and sound tracks. Our Research Ireland project, "FEELING POLITICAL: A comparative investigation of the emotional politics of populist", will be evaluating systems for extracting emotions from the videos of prominent politicians that have been broadcast already. The Research Fellow will be working in a team comprising academics and researchers at TCD and Maynooth University. You will be working in a School with a university, that has been ranked highly in international evaluations in respect of academic and research performance.

Standard Duties and Responsibilities of the Post

Research Responsibilities:

This position is clearly focusing on research. The chosen candidate should contribute to the creation of new knowledge and publish in high-quality, international peer-reviewed journals . Specifically, this post-doc position focuses on the following responsibilities:

• Contribute to the design, analysis, and write-up of a method for extracting facial and voice expressions of a set of politicians and correlating the emotions with each other and with economic and social data
• Support the coordination and progress of research collaborations (meetings, reading/writing sessions).
• Provide mentoring and methodological support for PhD students, with opportunities to support supervision activities (as appropriate).
The position may entail participation and/ or management of externally funded research applications and projects.

Funding Information

Research Ireland COALESCE Programme

Person Specification

Qualifications

You must have an MSc, preferably, a PhD, in Computer Science from an Irish University or equivalent EU or international academic institutions.
An undergraduate degree in Statistics, Mathematics.

Knowledge & Experience (Essential & Desirable)

Essential:

1. The candidate should have at least 2 years research experience or equivalent experience in the industry.
2. Experience of neural networks and machine learning.
3. Experience in dealing large data sets from noisy real world sources
4. Programming skills in Java or Python

Desirable:

1. The candidate should have experience of emotion recognition technologies especially facial emotions and speech emotion.
2. Understanding of neural networks, Transformers, and multimodal architecture
3. Experience of evaluating emotion recognition models from one or more modalities (e.g. facial expressions, speech, text, physiological signals)

Skills & Competencies

The candidate should have excellent communication skills, and the ability to work with others especially with our partners at Maynooth University.

Application Procedure

Applicants should submit a full Curriculum Vitae to include the names and contact details of 2 referees (including email addresses), to:-

Name:

- Professor Khurshid Ahmad, Professor of Computer Science
- Email Address: kahmad@tcd.ie

Informal enquiries about this post should be made to Khurshid Ahmad via Teams/Zoom. Please send an email to arrange these meetings.

At Trinity, we are committed to equality, diversity, and inclusion. We welcome applications from all individuals, including those with disabilities, those who have followed non-traditional career paths, and those who have taken time out for reasons such as family or caring responsibilities. We also welcome international applicants, including those who have been displaced due to conflict or war.

Trinity College Dublin is Ireland's premier university. We are an EU Sustainable Gender Equality Champion and hold an Athena Swan Silver Award, recognising our ongoing work to advance gender equality both within Trinity and across the higher education sector. Trinity is committed to supporting work–life balance and creating a family-friendly working environment.

Further Information for Applicants

URL Link to Area	www.tcd.ie
URL Link to Human Resources	https://www.tcd.ie/hr/

Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin

Trinity is Ireland's leading university and is ranked 87 in the World by the QS World University Ranking 2025. Founded in 1592, the University is steeped in history with a reputation for excellence in education, research and innovation.

Located on an iconic campus in the heart of Dublin's city centre, Trinity has 18,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students across our three faculties – Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences; Engineering, Mathematics and Science; and Health Sciences.

Trinity is ranked as the Trinity is the 31st most international university in the world - Times Higher Education 2024 and has students and staff from over 120 countries.

The pursuit of excellence through research and scholarship is at the heart of a Trinity education, and our researchers have an outstanding publication record and strong record of grant success. Trinity has developed 19 broad-based multidisciplinary research themes that cut across disciplines and facilitate world-leading research and collaboration within the University and with colleagues around the world. Trinity is also home to 5 leading flagship research institutes:

- Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute (TBSI)
- Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience (TCIN)
- Trinity Translational Medical Institute (TTMI)
- Trinity Long Room Hub Arts and Humanities Research Institute (TLRH)
- Centre for Research on Adaptive Nanostructures and Nanodevices (CRANN)

Trinity is the top-ranked European university for producing entrepreneurs for the past five successive years and Europe's only representative in the world's top-50 universities (Pitchbook Universities Report).

Trinity is home to the famous Old Library and to the historic Book of Kells as well as other internationally significant holdings in manuscripts, maps and early printed material. The Trinity Library is a legal deposit library, granting the University the right to claim a copy of eevery book published in Ireland and the UK. At present, the Library's holdings span approximately 6.5 million printed items, 400,000 e-books and 150,000 e-journals.

With over 120,000 alumni, Trinity's tradition of independent intellectual inquiry has produced some of the world's finest, most original minds including the writers Oscar Wilde and Samuel Beckett (Nobel laureates), the mathematician William Rowan Hamilton and the physicist Ernest Walton (Nobel laureate), the political thinker Edmund Burke, and the former President

of Ireland Mary Robinson. This tradition finds expression today in a campus culture of scholarship, innovation, creativity, entrepreneurship and dedication to societal reform. Rankings

Trinity College Dublin is the top ranked university in Ireland.

• Trinity College Dublin is Ireland's No.1 University - QS World University Ranking 2025; Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2024
• Trinity is ranked 87 in the World by the QS World University Ranking 2025
• Trinity is ranked 139 in the World by the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2025

Full details are available at: www.tcd.ie/research/about/rankings.

The Selection Process in Trinity

The Selection Committee (Interview Panel) may include members of the Academic and Administrative community together with External Assessor(s) who are expert in the area. Applications will be acknowledged by email. If you do not receive confirmation of receipt within 1 day of submitting your application online, please contact the named Recruitment Partner on the job specification immediately and prior to the closing date/time.

Given the degree of co-ordination and planning to have a Selection Committee available on the specified date, the University regrets that it may not be in a position to offer alternate selection dates. Where candidates are unavailable, reserves may be drawn from a shortlist. Outcomes of interviews are notified in writing to candidates and are issued no later than 5 working days following the selection day.

In some instances, the Selection Committee may avail of telephone or video conferencing. The University's selection methods may consist of any or all of the following: Interviews, Presentations, Psychometric Testing, References and Situational Exercises.

It is the policy of the University to conduct pre-employment medical screening/full pre-employment medicals. Information supplied by candidates in their application (Cover Letter and CV) will be used to shortlist for interview.

Applications from non-EEA citizens are welcomed. However, eligibility is determined by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation and further information on the Highly Skills Eligible Occupations List is set out in Schedule 3 of the Regulations https://dbei.gov.ie/en/What-We-Do/Workplace-and-Skills/Employment-Permits/Employment-Permit-Eligibility/Highly-Skilled-Eligible-Occupations-List/ and the Ineligible Categories of Employment are set out in Schedule 4 of the Regulations https://dbei.gov.ie/en/What-We-Do/Workplace-and-Skills/Employment-Permits/Employment-Permit-Eligibility/Ineligible-Categories-of-Employment/ . Non-EEA candidates should note that the onus is on them to secure a visa to travel to Ireland prior to interview. Non-EEA candidates should also be aware that even if successful at interview, an appointment to the post is contingent on the securing of an employment permit.

Equal Opportunities Policy

Trinity is an equal opportunities employer and is committed to employment policies, procedures and practices which do not discriminate on grounds such as gender, civil status, family status, age, disability, race, religious belief, sexual orientation or membership of the travelling community. On that basis we encourage and welcome talented people from all backgrounds to join our staff community. Trinity's Diversity Statement can be viewed in full at https://www.tcd.ie/diversity-inclusion/diversity-statement.

Pension Entitlements

This is a pensionable position and the provisions of the Public Service Superannuation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2004 will apply in relation to retirement age for pension purposes. Details of the relevant Pension Scheme will be provided to the successful applicant.

Applicants should note that they will be required to complete a Pre-Employment Declaration to confirm whether or not they have previously availed of an Irish Public Service Scheme of incentivised early retirement or enhanced redundancy payment. Applicants will also be required to declare any entitlements to a Public Service pension benefit (in payment or preserved) from any other Irish Public Service employment.

Applicants formerly employed by the Irish Public Service that may previously have availed of an Irish Public Service Scheme of Incentivised early retirement or enhanced redundancy payment should ensure that they are not precluded from re-engagement in the Irish Public Service under the terms of such Schemes. Such queries should be directed to an applicant's former Irish Public Service Employer in the first instance.

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