



**L-Università
ta' Malta**

**Human Resources
Management &
Development Office**

University of Malta
Msida MSD 2080, Malta

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www.um.edu.mt

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Post/s of Full-Time Research Support Officer III

MASRI – “Maltese Automatic Speech Recognition”

University of Malta Research Awards

And any other projects undertaken by the Institute of Linguistics and Language Technology

1. A Research Support Officer is required to carry out duties in relation to the MASRI Project, which is funded by the University of Malta Research Awards, and in which the Institute of Linguistics and Language Technology is the lead partner. The Research Support Officer may also be required to work on other projects undertaken by the Institute of Linguistics and Language Technology.
2. Applicants must be in possession of the following:
 - i. A doctoral degree in a speech recognition-related field with crossover knowledge;
 - ii. Excellent English communication skills;
 - iii. A proven track record of publications in the speech recognition field in top-tier conference proceedings and/or journals;
 - iv. Experience in programming languages such as Python/Matlab; and
 - v. Experience in KALDI and HTK.

We are particularly interested in candidates with past research experience in the following themes:

- a. HMM-based speech recognition;
 - b. DNN-based speech recognition;
 - c. Low-resource language speech processing;
 - d. Speech recognition bootstrapping techniques;
 - e. Language Modelling; and
 - f. Transfer learning techniques.
3. The full-time post is for a period of 18 months, starting in January 2019, and the initial remuneration is of €31,200 per annum.
 4. Candidates must submit their letter of application, a copy of their curriculum vitae, a scanned copy of their certificates, and contact details of at least two referees. Applications must be sent by e-mail to projects.hrmd@um.edu.mt and should be received by not later than **Wednesday, 31st October 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, 14th September 2018

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Further Information

1. The Institute of Linguistics and Language Technology (ILLT) works on interdisciplinary topics aiming at describing, explaining and reproducing communication in various modalities through text and audio-visual processing. ILLT is currently developing a number of speech tools for use with the Maltese language. The main areas of research in the speech processing domain are: speaker trait identification, speech synthesis and recognition for Maltese and feature extraction. The Research Support Officer will be responsible for the execution of the main tasks related to the MASRI (Maltese Automatic Speech Recognition) Project, which is being funded by the University of Malta Research Awards. The challenges in the project include the fact that Maltese is a low-resource language. Further information about the Project may be obtained from Dr Andrea DeMarco: andrea.demarco@um.edu.mt or Dr Albert Gatt at albert.gatt@um.edu.mt.
2. The Research Support Officer will be expected to perform high-quality research, delivering a working prototype Maltese speech recognition system and produce a number of publications along the duration of the project. S/he can expect to find a supporting team of experts in speech processing and computational linguistics, as well as a growing collection of sanitized Maltese speech data, carefully annotated by expert phoneticians. The Research Support Officer may also be required to work on other projects undertaken by the Institute of Linguistics and Language Technology.
3. The appointee is expected to work at such places and during such hours as may be determined by the University authorities.
4. 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.
5. The post is for a period of 18 months, which will be subject to a probationary period and to the provisions of the Statutes, Regulations and Bye-Laws of the University of Malta which are now or which may hereafter be in force.

Office of the University,
Msida, 14th September 2018