

PhD Position in Social Computing



The Social Computing Group at the University of Zurich (Switzerland) is inviting applications for a **fully funded** PhD Position. The student will be supervised by [Prof. Anikó Hannák](#) and will work on cutting-edge computational social science projects.

The group's research focuses on how digitization affects people and society, especially problems that arise due to automated decision-making and algorithms that curate smartphone apps and online platforms. We ask questions such as “how personalized are the search results we see on Google and why?” or “Are algorithms used by LinkedIn and other job search sites discriminating?”. Our work revolves around critically inspecting online platforms, and addressing fundamental social scientific questions using computational methods. The student hired for this position will develop their own topic in collaboration with the adviser, and beyond research excellence, emphasis will be placed on the social relevance and real-world impact of the topic.

The applicant should have:

- a Master's degree in Computer Science or a related field. Candidates with a social science background who have extensive experience with computational methods are also strongly encouraged to apply.
- strong analytical/mathematical skills
- experience in programming
- excellent communication skills in English, English is the working and teaching language in our department
- and interest in one of the following areas: online communities, online labor markets, algorithms' role in societal problems, privacy and fairness in the context of online platforms, fairness in machine learning, algorithmic auditing.

Beyond the above, useful skills include: web scraping, dealing with large data sets, big data analysis, machine learning, modeling of social processes, economics and data visualization.

We offer:

- a Master's degree in Computer Science or a related field. Candidates with a social science background who have extensive experience with computational methods are also strongly encouraged to apply.
- a team of young and highly motivated colleagues who are passionate about research
- the team is embedded in a diverse and international network of collaborators
- access to diverse interdisciplinary collaborators through the [Digital Society Initiative](#), a Zürich-based organization and meeting place for researchers across all disciplines who are interested in the challenges of digital societies.
- a work environment that is well equipped with the newest hardware and software technology
- strong support for your personal development and career planning
- an attractive work environment both within the research group and beyond: the University of Zurich is one of Switzerland's leading universities in the middle of a vibrant, cosmopolitan city that regularly ranks as one of the cities with the highest quality of life in the world
- a highly successful PhD program that places graduates at top rated institutions world-wide
- a competitive salary of around 60,000 CHF per year

How to apply:

If you fit the profile, like challenging tasks, have a critical and open-minded spirit, and are passionate about research then we would love to hear from you. To apply for the position, please send a detailed curriculum vitae, motivation letter, selected publications (if available), all grade transcripts, and your BSc/MSc theses as PDF files by email to Prof. Aniko Hannak at [hannak "at" ifi "dot" uzh "dot" ch](mailto:hannak@ifi.uzh.ch).

Additionally, applicants should arrange for up three letters of recommendation to be sent to Prof. Hannak directly. All applications received until **Jan 31st, 2020** will be considered for the positions. Applications received afterwards will be considered until both positions are filled.

The University of Zurich is committed to enhancing the number of women in scientific positions and, therefore, particularly invites women to apply.