

PhD position on AI support for arthritis self-management

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Company: VU Amsterdam

Location: Amsterdam

Category: computer-and-mathematical

Ready to make a difference while pursuing your PhD in Artificial Intelligence at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU)? Join our mission in the SMART project to empower individuals with osteoarthritis through AI-driven personalized care. During your PhD project, you will conduct groundbreaking research and collaborate with experts to develop an app for individuals affected by osteoarthritis.

Location: Location: AMSTERDAM (and a few days per month in UTRECHT)

FTE0.8

Job description

Osteoarthritis of the hip and knee is one of the most common and growing chronic conditions. Individuals with osteoarthritis experience pain and stiffness when moving, which hinders their daily activities. Although various non-surgical treatment options exist, they are often underutilized in practice. The SMART project aims to develop and evaluate a personalized self-management app that supports patients with osteoarthritis using expert knowledge and Artificial Intelligence models. We are seeking a PhD candidate to develop these AI models. The candidate's responsibilities include:

Collaborating with a diverse team of experts to create AI models aimed at offering individuals with arthritis just-in-time advice and suggestions.

Combining expert knowledge-based models with data-driven techniques.

Leveraging AI to translate data into inductive insights for deductively testing predictors of

arthritis-related complaints.

Developing guidelines for the creation of AI models for health apps.

Your duties

Developing a rule-based model for predicting the worsening of pain, physical complaints, and social participation, in collaboration with experts in the project team.

Creating a refined model for suggesting guidance based on the application of learning algorithms on continuously collected self-administered data.

Developing methods for combining expert-knowledge-based models with data-driven knowledge.

Establishing guidelines for assessing the added value of measurements for model effectiveness.

Producing at least four scientific articles on these topics.

Requirements

have completed a Master in Artificial Intelligence, Computer Science including AI courses, or a related Master programme;

have experience with both machine learning and symbolic AI;

be enthusiastic about collaboration with people from other scientific disciplines and have the communicative and social skills to do so;

have affinity with the health care domain;

be proactive and able to work independently;

have strong oral and written communication skills in English;

possess good organizational skills.

The ability to speak Dutch is a pre.

What are we offering?

A challenging position in a socially involved organization. The salary will be in accordance with university regulations for academic personnel and amounts €2,770 (PhD) per month

during the first year and increases to €3,539 (PhD) per month during the fourth year, based on a full-time employment. The job profile is based on the university job ranking system and is vacant for 0.8 FTE.

The appointment will initially be for 18 months. After a satisfactory evaluation of the initial appointment, the contract will be extended for a duration of 5 years.

Additionally, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam offers excellent fringe benefits and various schemes and regulations to promote a good work/life balance, such as:

a maximum of 41 days of annual leave based on full-time employment,

8% holiday allowance and 8.3% end-of-year bonus,

solid pension scheme (ABP),

contribution to commuting expenses,

optional model for designing a personalized benefits package

About Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

The ambition of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam is clear: to contribute to a better world through outstanding education and ground-breaking research. We strive to be a university where personal development and commitment to society play a leading role. A university where people from different disciplines and backgrounds collaborate to achieve innovations and to generate new knowledge. Our teaching and research encompass the entire spectrum of academic endeavor – from the humanities, the social sciences and the natural sciences through to the life sciences and the medical sciences.

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam is home to more than 31,000 students. We employ over 5,000 individuals. The VU campus is easily accessible and located in the heart of Amsterdam's Zuidas district, a truly inspiring environment for teaching and research.

Diversity

We are an inclusive university community. Diversity is one of our most important values. We believe that engaging in international activities and welcoming students and staff from a wide

variety of backgrounds enhances the quality of our education and research. We are always looking for people who can enrich our world with their own unique perspectives and experiences.

The Faculty of Science

Working at the Faculty of Science means working together with students, PhD candidates and scientists who are focused on their discipline, yet also have a broad view of the world. We are proud of the collegial working environment within the faculty, which is characterised by an ambitious and pragmatic attitude with commitment to the bigger picture. At the Faculty of Science, scientists and students work on fundamental and complex social issues for a sustainable and healthy future. From forest fires to big data, from obesity to malnutrition, from genetics to pharmaceuticals and from molecules to the moon: our teaching and research cover the full breadth of the natural sciences. Scientific teaching and research is highly experimental, technical, computational and interdisciplinary in nature. This is why we collaborate extensively with leading research institutes and industry. The faculty has over 11,000 students studying across 40 educational programmes and employs over 1,600 staff spread over 10 scientific departments, making us the largest science faculty in the Netherlands.

About the department

The VU Department of Computer Science maintains highly successful programs in areas including Artificial Intelligence, Bio-Informatics, Computer Security, Computer Systems, Software Engineering and Green Computing, Information Sciences, Theory, and User-Centric Data Science.

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