

80% postdoc position (5 years)

The project *Language Variation and Change in German-speaking Switzerland* (September 2019 – August 2024) – funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation – invites applications for a 80% (.8 FTE) early postdoctoral position in the area of computational linguistics, sociolinguistics, data science, phonetics, or a related area. The postdoc will work alongside the PI (Adrian Leemann), the PhD student, and two student assistants.

Project sketch

German-speaking Switzerland is known for its dialect diversity. Much of the existing material documenting this variation is outdated, however. In this cutting-edge, large-scale project, we study the dynamics of variation and change by collecting and analyzing phonetic, morphosyntactic, and lexical data from hundreds of localities across German-speaking Switzerland. The findings will bear on wide-reaching questions in research on language variation and change. Project start at the University of Bern (Center for the Study of Language in Society) is 1 September 2019.

Essential criteria

- Recently completed PhD in computational linguistics, linguistics (different philologies possible), sociolinguistics, data science, phonetics, or related area
- Demonstrable track record of independent research and strong publications
- If not German or Swiss German native, applicants should be able to speak at least English and be prepared to learn functional German in two years after arrival

Desired criteria

- Knowledge of statistical techniques used in variationist linguistics and/or Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- Good programming skills (e.g. *SQL*, *Python*, *R*)
- Working knowledge of database management and design
- Awareness of current issues in the study of language variation and change
- Experience with managing workload and deadlines – working both independently and with others – and of project administration and/or organizing conferences and meetings
- Proven collaborative, communication, and networking skills

Salary

The position is 80% (FTE .8). The salary ranges between 75'000 – 80'000 CHF / year.

Application

Informal inquiries and applications (in one PDF document) should be directed to a.leemann@lancaster.ac.uk. The application dossier should include:

- Cover letter describing qualifications and interest in project (no more than 1.5 pages)
- CV
- Official transcripts of education (MA and PhD certificates)
- Two letters of reference

Expected timeline

- 8 March: application deadline
- 1 April: notification and possible request to submit writing samples
- 15 April: announcement of shortlist
- First week of May: campus interviews in Bern / via Skype
- Mid May: announcement of result
- 1 September: project start at the University of Bern

Fully funded PhD position (4 years)

The project *Language Variation and Change in German-speaking Switzerland* (September 2019 – August 2024) – funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation – invites applications for a fully-funded PhD position in the area of sociolinguistics, language variation and change, phonetics, or a related area. The PhD will work alongside the PI (Adrian Leemann), the postdoc, and two student assistants.

Project sketch

German-speaking Switzerland is known for its dialect diversity. Much of the existing material documenting this variation is outdated, however. In this cutting-edge, large-scale project, we study the dynamics of variation and change by collecting and analyzing phonetic, morphosyntactic, and lexical data from hundreds of localities across German-speaking Switzerland. The findings will bear on wide-reaching questions in research on language variation and change. Project start at the University of Bern (Center for the Study of Language in Society) is 1 September 2019.

Essential criteria

- Completed MA in linguistics (different philologies possible), sociolinguistics, phonetics, or related area
- If not German or Swiss German native, applicants should be able to speak at least English and be prepared to learn functional German in two years after arrival

Desired criteria

- Awareness of current issues in the study of language variation and change
- Knowledge of geospatial analysis
- Knowledge of phonetics
- Experience with managing deadlines, working both independently and with others
- Proven reliability and team player
- Good English skills

Salary

The position is 100% (FTE 1). The salary ranges between 47'000 – 50'000 CHF / year.

Application

Informal inquiries and applications (in one PDF document) should be directed to a.leemann@lancaster.ac.uk. The application dossier should include:

- Cover letter describing qualifications and interest in project (not more than 1.5 pages)
- CV
- Official transcripts of education (BA and MA certificates)
- Two letters of reference

Expected timeline

- 8 March: application deadline
- 1 April: notification and possible request to submit writing samples
- 15 April: announcement of shortlist
- First week of May: campus interviews in Bern / via Skype
- Mid May: announcement of result
- 1 September: project start at the University of Bern

Two 25% student assistantships (2 years)

The project *Language Variation and Change in German-speaking Switzerland* (September 2019 – August 2024) – funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation – invites applications for two 25% (.25 FTE) student assistantships in the area of German linguistics, language variation and change, or a related area. The student assistants will work alongside the PI (Adrian Leemann), the postdoc, and the PhD student.

Project sketch

German-speaking Switzerland is known for its dialect diversity. Much of the existing material documenting this variation is outdated, however. In this cutting-edge, large-scale project, we study the dynamics of variation and change by collecting and analyzing phonetic, morphosyntactic, and lexical data from hundreds of localities across German-speaking Switzerland. The findings will bear on wide-reaching questions in research on language variation and change. Project start at the University of Bern (Center for the Study of Language in Society) is 1 September 2019.

Essential criteria

- Currently enrolled as undergraduate or graduate student of linguistics (different philologies possible), sociolinguistics, or a related area
- Native or near-native speaker of Swiss German

Desired criteria

- Experience with managing deadlines, working both independently and with others
- Proven reliability and a team player
- Good interaction and social skills
- Good English skills

Salary

The positions are 25% each; the salary ranges between 13'000 – 15'000 CHF / year.

Application

Informal inquiries and applications (in one PDF document) should be directed to a.leemann@lancaster.ac.uk. The application dossier should include:

- Cover letter describing qualifications and interest in project (not more than 1.5 pages)
- Transcripts (i.e. list of modules with grades)
- CV
- One letter of reference

Expected timeline

- 8 March: application deadline
- 1 April: notification and possible request to submit further information
- 15 April: announcement of shortlist
- First week of May: campus interviews in Bern / via Skype
- Mid May: announcement of result
- 1 September: project start at the University of Bern