South-East European Research Centre (Thessaloniki, Greece),
International Faculty, The University of Sheffield

Call for applicants: Marie Curie research fellowship in semantic technologies for cloud platform management (Postdoc/PhD)

Closing date: 10 September 2012

Overview:

The South-East European Research Centre (www.seerc.org) is an overseas research centre of the University of Sheffield, based at the University's International Faculty in Thessaloniki, Greece. The centre carries out multidisciplinary research and doctoral training in the fields of Enterprise & Innovation, Information & Communication Technologies, and Society & Human Development.

In the frame of the FP7 Marie Curie Initial Training Network RELATE, we invite applications to fill one open Marie Curie fellowship at SEERC. The position can be offered to an Experienced Researcher (Postdoc) or an Early Stage Researcher (pre-PhD). The RELATE network (www.relate-itn.eu) provides a unique opportunity to researchers who are in early stages of their careers to study emerging research topics in the field of cloud computing and to receive training to enhance their research skills, under the prestigious scheme of a Marie Curie fellowship.

The applicant to be selected will be employed under a full-time fixed-term contract with full social security coverage and all benefits in accordance to Marie Curie ITN regulations (highly competitive salary including allowances for living expenses, mobility, travel, and career exploratory activities). The duration of the contract will range from 24 to 28 months, depending on whether the fellow to be appointed is an Experienced Researcher (4 to max 5 years of full-time equivalent research experience) or an Early Stage researcher (less than 4 years of full-time equivalent research experience).

If the fellow to be appointed is an Early Stage Researcher he/she could be registered to read for a PhD in Computer Science from the University of Sheffield through the Doctoral Programme of SEERC, in which case he/she would also be granted a scholarship covering PhD tuition fees.

The fellow's research activities will be carried out at SEERC, in Thessaloniki, but in close collaboration with colleagues from the University of Sheffield as well as collaborating researchers from the RELATE network. The fellow will spend 4 months visiting one or more of SEERC's partners in RELATE (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, CAS Software AG, Universite de Rennes I, King's College London, Charles University Prague, or SingularLogic SA).

The fellow will join the Information & Knowledge Management research group at SEERC (www.seerc.org/ikm) and will work on developing methods and tools for improving the management of cloud-based service delivery platforms using Semantic Web technologies and ontology-driven software engineering methodologies. The group is already active in a number of closely related research themes, such as ontology-driven governance, policy compliance and self-management in cloud application platforms and cloud brokers.

Eligibility criteria

In accordance to the eligibility regulations for Marie Curie Initial Training Networks, the fellows to be appointed must not have resided or carried out their main activity in the host organisation's country (Greece) for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the appointment date. Short stays such as holidays are not taken into account.

In addition:

- Experienced Researchers: (i) should hold (or be close to obtaining) a PhD degree in Computer Science or a related area, and (ii) should have less than 5 years of full-time equivalent research experience at the time of their appointment (an applicant's period of full-time study towards obtaining a PhD is considered full-time equivalent research experience).
- Early Stage Researchers: (i) must have not yet been awarded a doctoral degree, (ii) must be, at the time of recruitment, in the first four years (fulltime equivalent) of their research careers, measured from the date they obtained the degree which would formally entitle them to embark on a doctorate, (iii) should hold a good first degree in Computer Science or related area, and a postgraduate degree in Computer Science, Software Engineering or relevant.

Applicants are expected to have an outstanding research record, be highly motivated and proactive, have excellent organisation and communication skills, and be eager to disseminate research results through publications and presentations at international conferences and seminars. Fluency in English is a prerequisite. Applicants for the PhD positions are specifically required to have an IELTS point score of 6.5 or above.

Job description

Main duties and responsibilities:
- Conduct research into the design and development of novel methods and tools for ontology-driven engineering and management of cloud service delivery platforms, in collaboration with researchers from SEERC and the RELATE network.
- Undertake reporting requirements for the project, present results to collaborators, to members of the research group and to external audiences.
- Prepare papers for journals/presentations either in-house or at national/international conferences or seminars to disseminate research findings.
- Write supporting documents to contribute to the work of the research group, e.g. reports, interim reports and grant applications.
- Assist with supervision and training of junior members of the group (for Postdoc applicants).
- Carry out administrative roles as required; arranging project progress meetings, etc.
- Read academic papers, journals and textbooks and attend conferences to keep abreast of developments.
- Any other duties, commensurate with the post and Marie Curie ITN regulations.

Planning and organising:

- Plan for specific aspects of research programmes. Timescales range from 1-6 months in advance.
- If given a particular problem/hypothesis to examine, plan for own contribution up to 3 months ahead, incorporating issues such as the availability of resources, deadlines, project milestones and overall research aims. Design individual experiments weekly.
- Coordinate and liaise with other members of the research group over work progress. Supervise research team/activities if required.
- Continuously monitor and check results. The unpredictability of research means that daily planning needs to accommodate new developments.
- Plan several months in advance to meet deadlines for journal publications and to prepare presentations and papers for conferences.

Person specification

Applicants should demonstrate evidence of the following criteria in their applications. We will use a range of selection methods to measure candidates' abilities in these areas including reviewing your on-line application, seeking references, inviting short-listed candidates to interview and other forms of assessment action relevant to the post.

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications and experience		
For both Early Stage and Experienced Researcher applicants: Good first degree in Computer Science or related area.	✓	
For Early Stage Researcher applicants: Good postgraduate degree in Computer Science, Software Engineering or related.		✓
For Experienced Researcher applicants: PhD degree (or close to completion) in Computer Science or related area.	✓	
For both Early Stage and Experienced Researcher applicants: A record of quality research publications.		✓
Communication skills		
Excellent communication skills (written and verbal), report writing skills, and experience of delivering presentations.	✓	
Excellent English language skills (fluency).	✓	
Team working		
Excellent team working skills.	✓	
Problem solving and decision making		
Ability to develop creative approaches to problem solving.	✓	
Ability to analyse and solve problems with an appreciation of longer-term implications.	✓	
Personal effectiveness		
Ability to assess and organise available resources, plan ahead to meet deadlines and monitor progress of work activities.	✓	
Ability to develop and maintain good working relationships with colleagues and a network of contacts throughout own work area.	✓	
Ability to adapt own skills to new circumstances.	✓	

Post duration:
- Experienced Researcher: 24 months, starting no later than March 2013
- Early Stage Researcher: 28 months, starting no later than October 2012

Terms and conditions of employment: In accordance to Marie Curie ITN regulations.

Salary: Gross salaries (before taxes and insurance contributions):
- Experienced Researcher: approx. **41,000 € per annum**
- Early Stage Researcher: approx. **27,000 € per annum**

The post holder will receive additional allowances as per Marie Curie ITN regulations (mobility, travel, and career exploratory activities). Amounts vary depending on researcher's family status and country of origin, and may be subject to taxation.

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Informal enquiries: Informal enquiries about this post may be directed to Dr Iraklis Paraskakis (iparaskakis@seerc.org) and Dimitrios Kourtesis (dkourtesis@seerc.org).

Application submission: Application is a two step process:
1. Complete the online application form in RELATE website (http://www.relate-itn.eu/wiki/pmwiki.php/Appls/UploadingForm). Please make sure to follow the instructions concerning the format of the CV and the cover letter, and to specify SEERC as your preferred host institution in the application form.
2. After the submission, please also send a notification to jobs@seerc.org.