

30-month Postdoctoral Researcher in Natural Language Processing for Kids

CONTEXT

IRISA (<https://www.irisa.fr/>) is the largest research laboratory dedicated to computer science in France, hosting more than 800 people and 40 research teams. Its activities spans all fields of computer science. It is located in Rennes, Lannion, and Vannes. The Expression team (<https://www-expression.irisa.fr/>) works on natural language processing (NLP), be it through texts, speech or gestures. In particular, it focuses on the expressive components of the human languages.

The opened position is part of the very recent ANR (French National Research Agency) TextToKids project which aims at facilitating the writing and the filtering of texts for children, especially but not only in order to tell them about current events (e.g., presidential elections, Brexit, reception of migrants in France, etc.) in respect of their language skills. The consortium, which brings together linguists, computer scientists and specialized journalists, will seek to characterize the linguistic constraints to be respected for such a purpose and to propose assistive tools (text analysis, search engine, reformulation, good practices). The activities are conducted on French.

PROFILE

Tasks:

1. Propose, develop and compare NLP models to predict age recommendation for a given sentence or text. Models should compare expert and machine learning approaches.
2. Propose and develop explanation and reformulation tools for sentences and texts, i.e. tools that provide either explanations about why text chunks are inadequate, and informational hints or textual suggestions to rewrite them.
3. Handle software integration with partners and interact with them accordingly.

Required qualification:

PhD in computer science

Skills:

- **Natural language processing**
- **Machine learning**
- Programming skills (Python) and scripting (shell)
- Linux

CONTRACT

Duration: 18 months + 12-months renewal, full time

Location: IRISA, Campus of Lannion

Salary: competitive, depending on the experience.

Starting date: Spring 2020, depending on the candidate's availability but not later than June 2020.

APPLICATION & CONTACTS

Send a **cover letter**, a **resume**, and **references** by email to:

- Dr. Gwénolé Lecorvé, gwenole.lecorve@irisa.fr ;
- Dr. Jonathan Chevelu, jonathan.chevelu@irisa.fr ;
- Dr. Nicolas Béchet, nicolas.bechet@irisa.fr .

Applications will be processed as they arise.