PhD Position in Statistics

Göttingen, Germany

The Centre for Statistics at the Georg-August-University Goettingen in Germany, is currently inviting applications for **1 PhD Position in Statistics** within the Research Training Group (RTG) 1644 ‘Scaling Problems in Statistics’, starting October 1, 2016. The position is funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) for 3 years.

The highly interdisciplinary Research Training Group aims to solve current questions in the areas of agricultural economics, ecology, econometrics, genetics, and remote sensing by means of statistical methods, and at the development thereof. It distinguishes itself through joint supervision and a structured study program consisting of methodologically oriented lectures, interdisciplinary research seminars, and skills courses, as well as including a career enhancement program for female PhD students.

The Research Training Group involves working groups from agroecology, agricultural economics and rural development, animal breeding and genetics, ecosystem modelling, forest inventory and remote sensing, genetic epidemiology, statistics and econometrics. For more information, visit [www.uni-goettingen.de/rtg1644](http://www.uni-goettingen.de/rtg1644). The advertised position is located at the Chair of Statistics with Prof. Dr. Thomas Kneib.

The research project is titled ‘Multilevel Generalized Additive Models for Location, Scale, and Shape’. Generalized additive models for location, scale and shape (GAMLSS) generalize traditional generalized additive models by allowing for the specification of additive predictors not only for the mean of the response variable but also for other parameters of a potentially complex response distribution. In this project, the particular focus will be on multilevel extensions of these models where predictor parts such as random effects may themselves be assigned another regression predictor. Multilevel GAMLSS therefore allow to investigate hierarchical structures in regression data but also temporal or spatial dependence. Inference in multilevel GAMLSS is rather challenging and we will rely on Markov chain Monte Carlo simulations to make inference tractable even with complex model specifications. For more details, visit [www.uni-goettingen.de/rtg1644/jobs](http://www.uni-goettingen.de/rtg1644/jobs).

By the time of appointment, the successful candidate will already have completed a M.Sc. degree or equivalent in statistics or mathematics with a major focus on statistics or a related field with strong quantitative skills. Very good knowledge of English is required.

The Georg-August-University is an equal opportunities employer and places particular emphasis on fostering career opportunities for women. Qualified women are therefore strongly encouraged to apply as they are underrepresented in this field.

The University firmly intends to raise the number of disabled persons in its employment. In the case of equally qualified applicants, disabled persons will be preferentially considered.

**To apply** for this position, please upload your application via the online application site: [https://s-lotus.gwdg.de/uni/uwfb/grk_1644.nsf/enter](https://s-lotus.gwdg.de/uni/uwfb/grk_1644.nsf/enter).
Further application details are available on this webpage. The closing date for applications is **May 15, 2016**.

Contact: Coordinators Dr. Lisa Reinecke and Monika Carlsson (coordination.rtg1644@uni-goettingen.de)

https://www.statsjobs.com/job/phd-position-statistics/