eLearn Center NEW GOALS call for applications for the Learning Intelligent System (LIS) project at Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

PREAMBLE

The successful candidate will join as co-principal investigator (co-PI) of the Learning Intelligent System (LIS) project and work at the UOC's offices at Rambla del Poblenou 156, Barcelona.

There are many systems that help students to learn. Some of them help students find resources or recommend exercises while they learn; some aim to help students by giving them feedback when they're assessed, and others monitor students' progress during the instructional phase to recommend the best learning path to succeed on the course. Depending on a course's competences or objectives, certain features are more suitable than others. The Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC) has a heterogeneous campus covering different specialties (knowledge areas). Thus, this project cannot expect one single solution to cover all eventualities. The main objective is to develop an adaptive system that can be applied throughout the UOC Campus to help students succeed in their learning process. The system developed must be widely applicable to all types of courses, regardless of the learning resources and contents. Likewise, certain features will, no doubt, not be suitable for some courses. The system must be configurable, allowing teaching staff to enable features as they see fit. The project will focus on the following topics:

- predictive analytics,
- early warning systems,
- automatic feedback,
- gamification,
- virtual educational advisor.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

This document sets out the terms and conditions for the eLearn Center NEW GOALS (NG) call for applications.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this call for applications is to recruit a co-principal investigator (co-PI) for the UOC's LIS project.

The project's other co-PI will be **Dr David Bañeres Besora**.

NATURE AND TERMS OF THE POSITION

The successful candidate will:

- have a full-time UOC contract.
- form part of the LIS project, as co-PI.
- report on the project's progress to the eLC's and/or the UOC's management.
- receive a salary on a par with UOC academic staff, in accordance with their category and merits.
- work on the university's premises.
- form a team with the other co-PI and 2 full-time UOC senior researchers.

The successful candidate is expected to contribute to positioning the UOC as a leader in the project's research field by producing valuable scientific work, publishing in high impact journals and attending key events in the field.

ELIGIBLE CANDIDATES

Anyone who meets the requirements set forth in the following section can apply.

AVAILABLE BUDGET

The LIS project will have €27,000 a year to cover expenses related to the project. (The actual amount will be proportional to the months the project is in progress in each of the calendar years).

In addition, the co-PI will be awarded €6,000 a year for accommodation expenses if they were resident outside Catalonia when selected for the position.

REQUIREMENTS

The requirements for applying are:

- PhD
- Distinguished research career
- Experience in managing research (PI in competitive projects)
- Knowledge of the key principles of strategic planning, allocating resources, leadership techniques, and coordinating people and resources
- Ability to lead in the field of research and knowledge transfer
- Knowledge of the scientific sector and related business sectors
- Communication skills (spokesperson, conflict management, outreach, etc.)
- Ability to motivate
- Commitment to the institution
- Ability to inspire trust
- Ability to take decisions (entrepreneurship, allocating resources, negotiating skills, etc.)
- B2-level English or higher

Applicants must submit the application by the date and in the way stipulated in the Application Submission and Deadline section.

As part of a translational research process, the successful candidate will be required to actively lead the research project. The starting point will be a systematic review (or equivalent) of the field proposed, compiling evidence for assessment of the results obtained in a real-life test environment. The conclusions reached will then be fed back into the research.

The researcher will have to sign all publications deriving from the project as a member of the UOC's eLearn Center.

PROFILE

- Knowledge of the field of e-learning, e-assessment, and adaptive learning
- Knowledge of intelligent tutoring systems, automatic feedback, design of systems for learning support, recommenders, and dashboards
- Knowledge related to tools and resources for education (technology-enhanced learning)
- Knowledge of (web) programming (Python, Java, Java EE, PHP, HTML5, etc.)
- Knowledge of the field of data analytics (databases, data warehouses, learning analytics)
- Experience in the design, development and execution of innovative projects that combine technology and education (research or innovation projects)
- Experience in the design and execution of pilot tests
- Proficiency in English (oral and written)
- High level of initiative, proactivity and organizational ability
- Ability to work in a team (face-to-face and online)
- Master's degree or postgraduate studies in the field of e-learning or other fields related to the project
- Experience in management of research and innovation projects, drafting of reports and dissemination of results

CALENDAR

The project is expected to be developed in 3 years (6 semesters).

Experiments must be carried out during UOC semesters and, therefore, must respect the UOC's academic calendar.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION AND DEADLINE

The **deadline** for submitting applications is **11.59 pm on 12 November 2018**. Applications must be sent to preaward_osrt@uoc.edu with the code "**UOC_NG-coPI_ applicant_name**" in the subject field. Applications will be considered formally accepted when the applicant has received a confirmation email from preaward_osrt@uoc.edu.

The following documentation must be included with the **application**:

- CV in a single PDF file (max. 15 pages).
- Copy of the doctoral degree certificate or academic transcript, expressly stating the date of obtainment.
- Letter of motivation and intentions, in which the candidate explains their interest in performing the research at the UOC and in the LIS project in particular, highlighting the most salient points of their CV (publications, previous projects, etc.) to support this (max. 2 pages).

SELECTION PANEL AND CRITERIA

The UOC's expert panel on research will evaluate each application and advise the Research and Innovation Committee, and the Office of the Vice President for Teaching and Learning, who are responsible for the recruitment process.

If deemed necessary, candidates may have to pass an interview with the project's co-PI, Dr David Bañeres Besora, and members of the eLearn Center.

DECISION

The applications received will be processed by 26 November 2018.

The UOC Knowledge Transfer and Research Support Office (OSRT) will notify all applicants of the outcome in writing to the email address provided at the time of applying.

The successful candidate is expected to start in February 2019.

EXECUTION OF THE GRANT AWARDED

In the first year, an annual budget charged to the FUOC's structural funds will be granted. In the second year, a new budget with the same features will be granted.

The OSRT will notify the grant's financial code to the awardee within 7 working days of approval so that they can begin executing the expenses covered by the grant.

The grant can only be used for the expenses itemized in the budget submitted. Any modification of the budget items must be approved by the eLearn Center's management.

All of the expenses charged to this call must be made in accordance with the OSRT's procurement procedure for projects, and the FUOC's travel policy.

PROPOSAL FOLLOW-UP

Once the project has been completed, the principal investigators must draw up a report with the results obtained by the project, using the template provided for this purpose, and send it in PDF format to postaward_osrt@uoc.edu.

During development of the project, the eLearn Center will monitor achievement of the milestones established in the planning and may ask for changes to adapt it to the academic calendar or any other developments.

The principal investigators will draft an interim report at the end of the project's first year, describing the progress and deviations from the schedule and outlining the results obtained.

RESULTS AND JUSTIFICATION OF THE PROJECT

At the end of the year, and **within a maximum of one month**, the researcher responsible for the application will:

- **Submit** a **report** which includes
    - a description of the activity performed
    - the scientific output generated by the project
    - the results actually obtained compared with those expected at the time of making the initial application, and any deviations

- o the future lines to be followed
- o the project's final recommendations
- o recommendations for management of future projects

- **Update the information in the Research Portal (GIR)** with the data from the activity performed and, if applicable and insofar as any intellectual property restrictions allow, deposit them in the O2 repository.