

Assistant Professor dr.ir. Bernd Brandt

July 1, 2022

ACADEMIC CENTER FOR DENTISTRY AMSTERDAM
THE NETHERLANDS

Job Application for data engineer for high-dimensional data in relation to oral health

Dear dr. ir. Bernd Brandt

About Me

After my civil service duty, I moved from Germany to the Netherlands in order to study medical biology in Nijmegen. After finishing my bachelor studies, I started my master's in medical biology - medical epigenomics track. For financial and personal reasons, I could not finish my master studies with a diploma. However, I finished the mandatory two internships - during which I taught myself bioinformatics - and the bulk of the courses. I started working in logistics to finance myself and my studies. What was supposed to be a temporary solution to my financial situation turned out to be detrimental to the remainder of my study and to be a longer endeavour - lasting 4 years. Although having a lot of nice colleagues and superiors, who value me as a person and employee, I want a change in my life and start following my passion again. I want to work in a field that I am deeply interested in, and which is more meaningful to me.

Why The Department of Preventive Dentistry at ACTA and Data Science Centre of the University of Amsterdam DSC UvA?

I believe at ACTA and DSC UvA, I could pursue my passion and get back working in the field of next-generation sequencing and data-analysis and to finally start off my career in bioinformatics. Within the Personal Microbiome Health (PMH) research priority area, as well as for the METAHEALTH project, I could put my skills to use and implement user friendly standard operating procedures (SOPs) for next-generation sequencing data-handling and analysis, while delving into scalable frameworks for reproducible data analysis like nextflow, snakemake or cwl. Given that I am also interested in data-science and modelling, I like the idea of gathering and integrating data from different sources in order to model oral health. At ACTA within PMH and the DSC UvA I could share and discuss my work within a highly motivated and knowledgeable interdisciplinary group of peers and I would be in the best environment to learn and expand my skills.

Why Me?

I believe that I am the ideal candidate for this job, because I have proven technical skills to perform and analyse omics data. I worked with publicly available data and I strongly agree with FAIR data principles. Furthermore, my internships and especially working in logistics taught me that well implemented SOPs greatly improve performance and productivity. As such I believe that SOPs are fundamental to reproducible research and meaningful results. Omics and the ability to study a large population of molecules at once, the vast amount of data generated and the technical as well as analytical intricacies this comes with fascinate me and I am keen on learning the ins and outs of metagenomic analysis. I am proud of my autodidacticism which allowed me to develop most of the skills presented in my CV. After all, I don't like idling, I am a hands-on and down to earth person as well as a hard worker. I'd be pleased if you consider my application.

Sincerely,

Jonas Falck