

Open Topic Postdoctoral Position (m/f/d; E13 or E14 TV-L, 100%)

The Helmholtz Institute for Human-Centered AI seeks to fill two fully-funded, open-topic postdoctoral positions.

About the position:

We are looking for Postdoctoral Researchers to join our lab in Munich working on human and machine learning. The proposed starting date is March 1st, 2026 but is negotiable. The postdoc will mainly work with Dr. Eric Schulz and the Ph.D. students of our lab but close collaborations with other labs, including at Harvard, MIT, and UCL, are possible (see our website for collaborators).

The ideal candidate should hold a Ph.D. in cognitive science, machine learning, computer science, or any other computational field and have cognitive modeling abilities, solid programming skills, and experience managing projects. Some elements to highlight in your application include any background in empirical research, machine learning, cognitive/computational modeling, psychiatry, and evidence of self-motivation and independence. If you have experience working with students, that is a big plus.

Possible topics for this position include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Foundation models of human learning and decision-making
- Cognitively-inspired machine learning (in particular, using deep learning)
- Automated/open-ended cognitive science
- Computational psychiatry

The contract will initially be for 2 years but can be extended after successful evaluation.

About the group:

We are an interdisciplinary research group of cognitive scientists, neuroscientists, and computer scientists. We develop computational models of intelligence. We study human intelligence using rich environments and tools from machine learning. We study machine intelligence using cognitive experiments and enrich it with insights from human cognition. Our research methods include cognitive experiments, computational modeling, interactive games, machine learning, and natural language processing. Access to thousands of high-performance compute nodes through the Helmholtz ecosystem enable us to do intensive computational research with large-scale data. You can learn more about our research at our website hcai-munich.com

In addition to that, we think that we are a fun group to join. We like playing table football, bringing cake to lab meetings, retreats, joint lab meetings with other research groups, and hackathons. We take equal opportunities and inclusivity seriously.

How to apply:

Please email a cover letter, your CV, 2-3 representative publications, a description of your research interests (not longer than one page), and the names and email addresses of 2-3 referees to eric.schulz@helmholtz-munich.de. If you have any questions about the position, the research group, or anything else, please do not hesitate to contact us directly. Our group is committed to increasing the number of individuals with disabilities in its workforce and therefore encourages applications from such qualified individuals. The Helmholtz Association seeks to increase the number of women in those areas where they are underrepresented and therefore explicitly encourages women to apply. Applications received by November 30th, 2025 will receive full consideration; review of applications will continue until the positions are filled.