Teaching assistant temporary position at the Geophysical Institute

Do you want to contribute to the development of new methods of teaching and learning at GFI? Would you like to help improving the culture of scientific programming for the students? And could you assist us in making sure that these new practices become sustainable and durable at the department?

This is your chance! We are creating a new evening course aimed at helping the students gain skills and fluency in Python programming at GFI using a Git-based framework. This framework has not only become a standard in the natural sciences and industry, but it also enables deeper collaboration between learners working with code. Introducing these new methods therefore is necessary, both to be up to date with the latest practices, but also to support the students in taking ownership of their coding as a natural part of their activity as geophysicists.

The course that we are developing revolves around real-life coding situations inspired by examples from meteorology and oceanography. The employed teaching methods are based on didactics literature. In addition to that, we would like to conduct a small educational research study to measure how and how much such a course really helps the students with their programming skills and fluency.

As a teaching assistant in this project, you would:

• work in a small group with teachers and researchers at GFI, before and throughout the course

• contribute with your creativity and critical thinking to shaping the course into an exciting and relevant experience for the students

• learn and perfect yourself in the use of scientific Python and Gitlab

• assist in the preparation of course material and participate in the teaching

• participate in a small research project potentially turning into a journal article, and co-author the publication

• assist in archiving the material and methods developed during the course, for future use and reference

This project is made possible through the co-creation project aiming at enhancing the collaboration between students and teachers in educational settings at GFI.

Read more about the project here: <https://www.uib.no/matnat/150374/betre-l%C3%A6ring-gjæm-tettare-community>.

Workload and work tasks

The appointed students will participate in the small aforementioned working group with teachers and researchers. The amount of work is up to 40 hours during the Spring 2024 semester, with possibility of extension. The working time is distributed between meetings in the working group, independent work anticipating the course, activities during the course, and possibly some work after the course for the research project (non-obligatory).

Working hours are flexible and may vary from week to week, but should not exceed 5 hours per week.

The working group will, among other things:

• Prepare the course, to be given during the Spring 2024 semester

• Lead the educational research project

• Contribute to the evolution of the scientific programming culture for the students at GFI

Qualifications and personal characteristics

You as an applicant should:

• be a bachelor student at GFI or an early master student at GFI

• able to collaborate and work independently in a structured way

• be interested in influencing your study environment

• dare to have your own opinions and novel ideas

• prior experience with Python and GitHub/GitLab is beneficial, but not strictly necessary. You should however be motivated to become acquainted with these two tools over the entire project, in order to help other students acquiring them.

We offer

• Salary according to collective agreement (salary level 35 with an hourly wage of NOK 183.40)

• A reference letter that can embellish your CV

• Inclusion in the research life and teaching dynamics at GFI

• Flexible working hours

• Relaxed yet productive meetings fueled with enthusiasm and great team-sprit (and maybe even coffee and pastries 😊)

Your application

Your application should include:

• A short letter of motivation for why you are applying for the position (less than 1 page)

• CV

Send the application to [kjerstid.daae@uib.no](mailto:kjerstid.daae@uib.no)

Application deadline: 06.03.2024

For more information about the position, contact Julien-Pooya Weihs at [julien-pooya.weihs@uib.no](mailto:julien-pooya.weihs@uib.no)