

ADAPT Undergraduate Internship Programme 2018

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Institution/Team:	ADELE – Social Dialog Agent
Project Title:	Identifying appropriate future deployment scenarios for a spoken social dialog agent
Suitable for students who are studying in the following areas:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Computer Interaction (HCI) • Computer Science Students (With Interest in Dialogue Agents) • Social Sciences • People with a general interest HCI, Dialogue Agents, Social Sciences
Skills needed:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organising, running, and analysing focus groups & interviews • Qualitative data analysis (e.g. thematic analysis, qualitative software such as Nvivo)
Project Description:	<p>ADELE is a Personalized Intelligent Companion designed to engage with users through spoken dialog to help them explore topics of interest. The system will maintain a user model of information consumption habits and preferences in order to (1) personalize the user's experience for ongoing interactions, and (2) build the user-machine relationship to model that of a friendly companion.</p> <p>An upcoming phase of the research project aims to tackle three questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What domains of application are appropriate for this type of dialog agent? • What information might users expect from the agent? • How would users like to interact with the agent? <p>To answer these we need to understand the opinions of potential users and stakeholders in different contexts.</p> <p>The aim of this project is to identify future scenarios that ADELE may be deployed in, and understand people's expectations of a social dialog agent in specific domains.</p> <p>This will involve conducting semi-structured focus groups (similar approach to [1]) and semi-structured interviews (similar approach to [2]) with people and identifying themes and patterns in their responses. The areas of context will be somewhat flexible, though may include areas such as wellness (e.g. nutrition and exercise) and elderly users, in collaboration with The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA) [3].</p> <p>[1] Cowan et al. (2017) "What Can I Help You With?: Infrequent Users Experiences of Intelligent Personal Assistants"</p> <p>[2] Luger & Sellen (2016) "Like Having a Really Bad PA": The Gulf between User Expectation and Experience of Conversational Agents</p> <p>[3] https://tilda.tcd.ie</p>
The Role of the student & benefits gained from participation in this project:¹	<p>The Research Intern will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop experience of engaging in a user-centered research process • Get an overview of the research being conducted in ADAPT • Contribute a useful resource to the research community • Attend weekly project meeting as and when required • Get a fuller understanding of the state of the art of speech communication. the challenges surrounding its deployment, and needs requirements of users
Who will be working with you?	<p>The Research Intern will be working closely with the ADELE team. This includes Professor Vincent Wade, Chair of Computer Science TCD and Director of the ADAPT Research Centre who's research has mainly focused on Personalisation and Adaptive Hypermedia, Dr Benjamin Cowan of UCD School of Information & Communication Studies who's research focus is HCI, Christian Saam, a Research Fellow working in speech recognition and processing, Leigh Clark a Research Fellow working in HCI, Emer Gilmartin a Research Assistant / PhD student working on Spoken Dialogue and Dialogue Agents, and Brendan Spillane, a PhD student</p>

¹ ***This is an initial description of the role of the student and it is liable to change following discussions between the investigators and the student.***

	<p>working in the area of Personalisation and the impact of News website design and Credibility</p> <p>The student will gain first-hand knowledge of each member of the team and will attend weekly meeting as and when needed.</p>	
Short description of the group:	<p>1 x Professors 1 x Lecturer 2 x Research Fellows 1 x Research Assistant / PhD Student 1 x PhD Student</p> <p>The ADELE research group is part of the ADAPT Center, an SFI funded Research Centre spread between TCD, DIT, UCD and DCU https://www.adaptcentre.ie/</p>	
Recommended Reading Material:	<p>Some recent publications from the research group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gilmartin, E., Spillane, B., O'Reilly, M., Saam, C., Su, K., Cowan, B. R., ... Campbell, N. (2017). Annotation of greeting, introduction, and leavetaking in dialogues. In <i>Proceedings of the 13th Joint ISO-ACL Workshop on Interoperable Semantic Annotation (ISA-13)</i>. www.aclweb.org/anthology/W17-7405 • Gilmartin, E., Spillane, B., O'Reilly, M., Su, K., Saam, C., Cowan, B. R., ... Wade, V. (2017). Dialog Acts in Greeting and Leavetaking in Social Talk. In <i>Proceedings of the 1st ACM SIGCHI International Workshop on Investigating Social Interactions with Artificial Agents</i> (pp. 29–30). New York, NY, USA: ACM. https://doi.org/10.1145/3139491.3139493 https://dl.acm.org/citation.cfm?id=3139493 • Spillane, B., Gilmartin, E., Saam, C., Su, K., Cowan, B. R., Lawless, S., & Wade, V. (2017). Introducing ADELE: A Personalized Intelligent Companion. In <i>Proceedings of the 1st ACM SIGCHI International Workshop on Investigating Social Interactions with Artificial Agents</i> (pp. 43–44). New York, NY, USA: ACM. https://doi.org/10.1145/3139491.3139492 https://dl.acm.org/citation.cfm?id=3139492 	
Other information:		
For further details on this project please contact:	<p>Name: Brendan Spillane</p> <p>Phone:</p> <p>E-Mail: brendan.spillane@adaptcentre.ie</p> <p>Website: www.adaptcentre.ie</p>	