Post Title	Research Assistant in Cognitive science and Generative AI
Post Duration	Specific Purpose full time 24 Month contract
Salary Scale	IUA Research Assistant Salary range €33,291.00 - €43,372.00
Location	The School of Computer Science & Statistics The O'Reilly Institute Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin College Green, Dublin 2, Ireland
Reports to	Giovanni Di Liberto
Closing Date	1st of February 2026

Why ADAPT?

- **Contribute** to the ADAPT research agenda that pioneers and combines research in AI driven technologies: Natural Language Processing, Video/Text/Image/Speech processing, digital engagement & HCI, semantic modelling, personalisation, privacy & data governance.
- **Work** with our interdisciplinary team of leading experts from the complementary fields of, Social Sciences, Communications, Commerce/Fintech, Ethics, Law, Health, Environment and Sustainability.
- **Leverage our success.** ADAPT's international research leadership, research excellence, industry collaborations, multidisciplinary outlook, strategic national position and the opportunities arising from its scale, make our researchers highly sought after for collaboration and highly competitive in international funding programmes and has competitively won over 40 European Research Projects.

As an ADAPT researcher, you will have access to a network of 85 global experts and over 250 staff, as well as a wide multidisciplinary ecosystem across 8 leading Irish universities. We can influence and inform your work, share our networks and collaborate with you to increase your impact, and accelerate your career opportunities. Specifically we offer:

- Exposure and free access within a multidisciplinary ecosystem across 8 leading Irish universities
- Opportunity to build your profile at international conferences and global events

- Fast-track your career through formalised training & development, expert one-on-one supervision and exposure to top AI specialists

Research project/Challenge

This project will investigate how and in what contexts Generative AI can meaningfully contribute to human learning. The project will involve the design and implementation of a multimodal evaluation framework to assess GenAI-assisted learning, combining objective metrics derived from behavioural and electrophysiological measurements. These metrics will be used to quantify the impact of GenAI support during learning in controlled experimental scenarios. A key component of the project is to explore how individual traits (particularly those associated with neurodiversity, such as autism spectrum disorder) modulate the effectiveness of GenAI tools. This work aims to determine whether these technologies can enhance learning for certain neurodiverse populations or, conversely, pose risks of adverse effects. The successful candidate will contribute to various aspects of the project, including the experimental design, data collection (e.g., recruitment, behavioural and EEG data collection), and data analysis. The successful candidate will also get the chance of learning about a broader set of topics by participating in the weekly team meetings, journal clubs, and seminars at the Di Liberto-lab (https://diliberg.net) and the ADAPT centre.

About the role

- Have a high-valuable impact to the project through the implementation of technical solutions to the project goals, in particular the behavioural and neurophysiology experiments for measuring the neural processing of trust
- Enhance your reputation through publishing in top-quality journals and conferences in collaboration with team members
- ADAPT's Research Development Team will help you develop your ideas into projects and establish a strong funding track record
- Collaborate with other team members across different universities (e.g., Prof. Ben Cowan, UCD; Prof. Claire Gubbins, DCU) and industry, acquiring substantial expertise in how to lead an interdisciplinary academia-industry collaboration
- You will develop as a researcher through access to a wide training & development opportunities
- You will build a strong network through opportunities to liaise with internal and external stakeholders, including industry and academic partners/collaborators.
- Involvement with all aspects of the project lifecycle

Minimum qualifications:

Master's or equivalent in computer science/engineering, cognitive psychology, neuroscience, or other relevant fields

Preferred qualifications:

- Prior experience running EEG and behavioural experiments (or similar)

- Experience in psychoacoustics or other related areas

- Any of the following would be desirable: Machine learning, Signal processing, Time-series analysis, Neural data analysis, LLM, Speech processing, Experience or background in neurodiversity research

Benefits

- Competitive salary
- Flexible working arrangements
- Computer and peripherals of your choice
- A fast-paced environment with impactful work
- Pension
- Day Nursery, Staff rates available
- Travel Pass Scheme

- Bike to Work Scheme
- Employee Assistance Programme
- Sports Facilities available at staff rate
- 22 days of Annual Leave
- Paid Sick Leave
- Training & Development
- Staff Discounts

Application Process

Interested candidates can submit their CV & cover letter via this link or to giovanni.diliberto@adaptcentre.ie with the subject line **"Research Assistant in Cognitive science and Generative AI – Application"**

Applications must include:

- Cover Letter
  - A personal letter of motivation, indicating why you wish to conduct this research project offered by ADAPT, and why you expect that you will be able to complete the research successfully;
- CV
  - Detailed curriculum vitae, including – if applicable – relevant publications;

Informal enquiries about the role can also be sent to, giovanni.diliberto@adaptcentre.ie.

Diversity

ADAPT is committed to achieving better diversity and gender representation at all levels of the organisation, across leadership, academic, operations, research staff and studentship levels. ADAPT is committed to the continued development of employment policies, procedures and practices that promote gender equality. On that basis, we encourage and welcome talented people from all backgrounds to join ADAPT.

About the ADAPT Centre

ADAPT is the world-leading Research Ireland research centre for AI Driven Digital Content Technology, coordinated by Trinity College Dublin and based within Dublin City University, University College Dublin, Technological University Dublin, Maynooth University, Munster Technological University, Technological University of the Shannon, and the University of Galway. ADAPT's research vision is to pioneer new forms of proactive, scalable, and integrated AI-driven Digital Content Technology that empower individuals and society to engage in digital experiences with control, inclusion, and accountability with the long term goal of a balanced digital society by 2030. ADAPT is pioneering new Human Centric AI techniques and technologies including personalisation, natural language processing, data analytics, intelligent machine translation human-computer interaction, as well as setting the standards for data governance, privacy and ethics for digital content.

Our Research Vision

Governments and civil society are starting to recognise the need for urgent and concerted action to address the societal impact of the accelerating pace of digital content technologies and the AI techniques that underpin them. ADAPT provides an ambitious, ground-breaking, integrated research programme that assembles three interlocking Strands that together are capable of addressing this challenge. Each of these complementary and reinforcing research strands takes one of the different perspectives on the provision of personalised, immersive, multimodal digital engagement, i.e. the individual's experience and control of the engagement, the algorithms underlying digital content processing, and the balanced governance by enterprise and societal stakeholders.

Digitally Enhanced Engagement Strand

From the individual perspective, research within this Strand will deliver proactive agency techniques that sense, understand and proactively serve the needs of individual users to deliver relevant, contextualised and immersive multimodal experiences, which also offer them meaningful control over the machine agency delivering those experiences.

Digital Content Transformation Strand

From the algorithmic perspective, new machine learning techniques will both enable more users to engage meaningfully with the increasing volumes of content globally in a more measurably effective manner, while ensuring the widest linguistic and cultural inclusion. It will enhance effective, robust integrated machine learning algorithms needed to provide multimodal content experiences with new levels of accuracy, multilingualism and explainability.

Transparent Digital Governance Strand

From the enterprise and societal perspective, new structured knowledge frameworks and associated practices for AI data governance will be required to balance the needs and values of individuals, organisations and society when it comes to rich digital experiences. This requires the advancement of research in the areas of data ethics, data quality, data protection, data value, data integration, and multi-stakeholder governance models.