

# CNGL Undergraduate Students as Researchers Programme PROJECT DESCRIPTION

<b>Institution/Track:</b>	SF1 @ TCD	
<b>Project Title:</b>	Investigating the usability and user experience of language technology applications	
<b>Suitable for students who are studying in the following areas:</b>	The project is suitable for any Computer Science student. Background in Natural Language Processing and/or Human Interaction (HCI) is a plus but it is not required. It is also appropriate for students in Computational Linguistics, Linguistics and even Social Sciences.	
<b>Skills needed:</b>	Good social skills, interest in getting out of the office and willingness to investigate what makes applications usable.	
<b>Project Description:</b>	<p>Our aim is to understand how people use existing and prospective language technologies by applying methods from HCI. Our principal framework of investigation is <i>Contextual Design</i> (Bayer and Holzblatt 1998).</p> <p>E.g. to understand how translators can benefit from Machine Translation and other language technologies we visited them at their workplace and interviewed them while they were working. After the visit, a retrospective analysis of their actions took place to identify usability issues and wider aspects of user experience. These data are currently used to inform the design of prototypes that will again be evaluated in situ.</p>	
<b>The Role of the student &amp; benefits gained from participation in this project:<sup>1</sup></b>	The student will participate in various activities including user observations, observation analysis, design and evaluation of early prototypes. By the end of the project, the student will gain experience in applying contextual techniques to investigate what makes applications usable. This crucial skill is often not covered in the standard curriculum.	
<b>Who will be working with you?</b>	<p>The student will be working closely with Dr Nikiforos Karamanis, post-doc in SF1.</p> <p>The student will also participate in our weekly discussion of papers and group meetings and will have the opportunity to meet and discuss issues with other members of the group. Many of our projects are carried out by several people so collaboration with others will be encouraged. By the end the student will have a good impression of how research is carried out in a group.</p>	
<b>Short description of the group:</b>	Our group consists of 6 more people: Dr Saturnino Luz (PI), Dr Gavin Doherty (PI), Dr Ielka Van der Sluis (Postdoc), Anne Schneider (PhD student), Illana Rozanes (PhD student), Stephan Schlogl (PhD student). We come from 7 different countries and from various backgrounds (Computer Science, Computational Linguistics, HCI, Business studies, and Industry).	
<b>Recommended Reading Material:</b>	Beyer, Hugh and Karen Holtzblatt. 1998. <i>Contextual Design: Defining Customer-centered Systems</i> . Morgan Kaufmann.	
<b>Other information:</b>		
<b>For further details on this project please contact:</b>	<b>Name:</b> <b>Phone:</b> <b>E-Mail:</b> <b>Website:</b>	Dr Nikiforos Karamanis +353-(0)1-896-1885 <a href="mailto:Nikiforos.Karamanis@cs.tcd.ie">Nikiforos.Karamanis@cs.tcd.ie</a> <a href="http://www.scss.tcd.ie/Nikiforos.Karamanis">www.scss.tcd.ie/Nikiforos.Karamanis</a>

<sup>1</sup> 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.