

University or Organization: *Europäisches Zentrum für Sprachwissenschaften* (EZS), Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg and Institut für Deutsche Sprache, Mannheim

Job Location: Heidelberg and Mannheim, Germany

Job Rank: 5 PhD fellowships

Specialty Areas: 1 German linguistics, 1 English linguistics, 1 Romance linguistics: Italian, 1 Romance linguistics: French, 1 English linguistics and Computational linguistics

Application Deadline: 15 September 2012

**Description:**

The *Europäisches Zentrum für Sprachwissenschaften* (EZS) (<http://www.ezs-online.de>), a joint cooperation between the Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg (Germany) and the Institut für Deutsche Sprache in Mannheim (Germany) invites applications for five PhD fellowships in the newly founded *Promotionskolleg* “Sprachkritik als Gesellschaftskritik im europäischen Vergleich / Critique of language as Critique of Society – a European Perspective”. The fellowships are available for a period of three years. The earliest starting date is 1 November 2012.

Critique of language means any form of critical comment on language usage. A critique of language is socially relevant and shapes the cultures of European nations. Critique of language is a form of evaluation of language through language. As such, a critique of language also serves as a mirror of the linguistic and cultural self-conception of a society and language community. The thematic focus of the *Promotionskolleg* is to compare historical and contemporary language politics, language policies, language institutions that include the German, English, Italian and French language areas and communities of practice. The *Promotionskolleg* is part of the research project *Europäische Sprachkritik Online* (ESO) / *European Critique of Language Online*.

The PhD fellowships will be situated in the following institutions of the *Europäisches Zentrum für Sprachwissenschaften* (EZS):

- a) German department, Heidelberg and Institut für Deutsche Sprache, Mannheim (1 PhD fellowship)

- b) English department, Heidelberg (1 PhD fellowship)
- c) Romance department, Heidelberg: Italian (1 PhD fellowship)
- d) Romance department, Heidelberg: French (1 PhD fellowship)
- e) Institute for Computational linguistics and English department, Heidelberg (1 PhD fellowship)

**Qualifications:**

- a) excellent study records and a university degree above average which qualifies for a PhD application and shows a strong interest in linguistics as well as in dealing with the major topics and methodologies of the PhD programme
- b) emphasis on the quality of the project description and on the academic and personal ability of the candidate to complete the dissertation in the given time frame
- c) sound knowledge of linguistic methodologies; proof of prior research experience, e.g. work experience as research assistant, in MA-thesis, etc.
- d) excellent knowledge of German and English as well as computer literacy
- e) demonstration of good cooperative skills and the ability to work in interdisciplinary partnerships
- f) candidates applying for the 2 PhD fellowships in the Romance department should be fluent in Italian or French.
- g) candidates applying for the PhD fellowship in computational linguistics and English linguistics should have a degree in computational linguistics.

**We offer:**

- a) fellowship of € 1200/month which lasts for three years (plus additional support for research costs)
- b) a friendly and academically stimulating working environment

**Submissions:**

Applicants must submit the following documents with the electronic application (in one pdf-file):

- a) cover letter describing qualifications, academic goals and interest in the topic of the *Promotionskolleg* (maximum 2 pages)
- b) CV including information about education, grades, related work and research

experience

- c) a project description of max. 5 pages written in English or German and outlining the research project (including research aims, criteria of analysis, method, data, theoretical focus, time-table)
- d) educational certificates
- e) up to two letters of recommendation

Master theses and the like are not to be submitted with the application, but applicants may be asked to submit such works later.

Applications should be sent electronically to Prof. Dr. Beatrix Busse at [beatrix.busse@as.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:beatrix.busse@as.uni-heidelberg.de). The deadline for submission is **15 September 2012**.

The short-listed candidates will be called for an interview at the Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg or we will arrange for an interview on Skype.

The University of Heidelberg is particularly interested in applications from female candidates and therefore strongly urges women to apply for these fellowships. Applications from disabled candidates will be given preference if the qualifications of these candidates are identical to those of non-disabled candidates.

If you have any further questions please contact:

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