

## TEMPLATE FOR ADVERTISING RESEARCH POSTS

based on indications given by par. 4.4.1 of the  
"Report of the Working Group of the Steering Group of Human Resources Management under the  
European Research Area on Open, Transparent and Merit-based Recruitment of Researchers"

**Recruiting Department/Research Unit:** Department of Humaniteis

**Title:** Artificial Intelligence to practice English as a Foreign Language: Surveying and assessing existing Dialogue Systems

**Offer description - Funded by the European Union – Next Generation EU – PNRR mission 4, component 2, investment 1.1**

The proposed research aims to survey and assess existing Dialogue Systems (DS) as AI-powered agents to practice English as a Foreign Language (EFL), in an inclusive way, in Italian university courses. The focus will be on: Educational Chatbots (EC), i.e. dialogue applications designed with language learning purposes in mind; Task-oriented Dialogue Systems (TDS), i.e. chatbots that assist users in completing specific tasks through natural language interactions. The research comprises three activities (A1, A2, A3). A1: survey and assessment of existing DS that can be used as pedagogical tools in an EFL context. A2: experiments involving interactions between Italian learners (including students with disability and specific learning disorders) and the DS identified in A1 to collect user perceptions data on the quality of the interactions. A3: analysis of perceptions data collected in A2, focusing on aspects such as the perceived naturalness, learning potential, and accessibility of the DS.

**Researcher career profile:**

- *R1 First Stage Researcher (up to the completion of PhD)*

For further details <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/europe/career-development/training-researchers/research-profiles-descriptors>

**Location:** Macerata, Italy

**Type of contract:**

- *temporary*

**Job status**

- *full time*

**Expected start date and duration of the contract:** 12 (twelve) months. The exact start date will be provided after the selection process.

**Annual gross salary:** € 19.367,00

**Selection criteria:** Master's Degree in Foreign Languages, in specific English

**Preferential selection criteria:**

1. PhD degree (or equivalent degree achieved abroad) in the field of English language.
2. Scientific-professional curriculum suitable for carrying out the proposed research activities.
3. Scientific publications relevant to the research program.

4. Excellent knowledge of the English language.
5. Good computer skills.
6. Any additional extra-academic experience will be evaluated if relevant to the research program.

**Application deadline:** 28/12/2023, 1 p.m.

*Indicate: date and timing (CET time). Deadline should be at least 2 months from the publication date, taking into duly account holiday periods.*

**Full details are available at:** <https://www.unimc.it/it/ateneo/bandi-e-concorsi/finanziamenti-ricerca/bandi-assegni-ricerca>

**Enquiries can be made to** Ufficio Ricerca Scientifica e Dottorato – [ufficio.ricerca@unimc.it](mailto:ufficio.ricerca@unimc.it)

## DISCLAIMERS

- The University of Macerata has adopted an OTM-R (Open, Transparent and merit-based Recruitment) policy within the framework of its Human Resources Strategy for Researchers; see <https://www.unimc.it/it/ricerca/hrs4r/la-policy-otm-r-open-transparent-and-merit-based-recruitment-of-researchers>
- The University of Macerata pursues an equal opportunities and diversity policy as well. Among facilities, a kindergarten is available for university's employees. Specific facilities and services are also dedicated to employees with disabilities (transportation services, specific technologies for studying).