
Open-Topic Postdoctoral Position

Human and Machine Intelligence

Munich • E13 or E14 TV-L • Start: October 2026-March 2027

The Institute for Human-Centered AI at Helmholtz Munich invites applications for a fully funded, open-topic postdoctoral position at the intersection of cognitive science, neuroscience, and machine learning.

About the positions

The successful candidate will develop ambitious research projects in human and machine intelligence. They will work closely with Dr. Eric Schulz and other group members while having substantial freedom to shape their own research.

The starting date is flexible between 1 October 2026 and 1 February 2027. The position is initially funded for two years, with the possibility of extension. Applicants should hold a PhD in cognitive science, machine learning, computer science, neuroscience, or a related discipline by the starting date.

We particularly value:

- programming and modeling skills;
- experience in empirical research, machine learning, cognitive science, or neuroscience;
- independence and supervisory experience;
- intellectual curiosity, creativity, and collaboration.

Possible research directions include:

- foundation models of cognition;
- foundation models for neuroscience;
- cognitively inspired machine learning;
- automated and open-ended cognitive science;
- meta-learned theories of cognition.

About the group

We are an interdisciplinary group of cognitive scientists, neuroscientists, and computer scientists developing computational models of intelligence. We study humans using rich, naturalistic environments and methods from machine learning, and study artificial systems using cognitive experiments and insights from human cognition. A particular focus of the group is the development of foundation models and their application to understanding the mind and brain.

Our methods include behavioral experiments, computational modeling, machine learning, and natural language processing. Group members have access to extensive high-performance computing resources and opportunities to collaborate with an international network of researchers, including collaborators at Harvard, MIT, and UCL. Former postdoctoral researchers from the group have progressed to independent academic leadership roles and senior positions in government and industry.

More information is available at hcai-munich.com. We combine ambitious research with a supportive and enjoyable culture, including retreats, hackathons, joint lab meetings, and a reliably high supply of cake.

How to apply

Please email the following materials to eric.schulz@helmholtz-munich.de:

- a cover letter and curriculum vitae;
- two or three representative publications;
- a one-page description of your research interests;
- the names and email addresses of two or three referees.

Applications received by **14 August 2026** will receive full consideration and will subsequently be reviewed until the position is filled. Questions about the position, potential projects, or the group are very welcome.

Our group is committed to equal opportunity and an inclusive working environment. We explicitly welcome applications from qualified candidates with disabilities. The Helmholtz Association aims to increase the proportion of women in areas in which they are underrepresented and therefore strongly encourages women to apply.