Two or Three (2-3) PhD POSITIONS on Digital Legal Studies at the Faculty of Law (1.0 fte)
Maastricht University

The Maastricht University Faculty of Law provides funding for two (2) to three (3) paid full-time PhD positions in the Maastricht Law & Tech Lab.

The Digital Legal Studies Experience:

In the coming years, the Faculty of Law invest significantly in digital legal studies and in building technology for law. We offer three (3) full-time PhD positions in this area.

Digital legal studies (or AI in Law) research can be divided into Law for Technology research (e.g. privacy, liability for self-driving cars, legal status of blockchain) and Technology for Law research. As a PhD in Maastricht University, you will focus on the latter. You will apply computer science to law to unravel the DNA of the law. The Digital Legal Studies project aims to develop a research infrastructure that allows applying artificial intelligence to legal data in order to answer legal research questions and to solve legal problems. You should apply if you are interested in developing legal knowledge graphs, defining criteria for the assessment of legal data quality, create legal knowledge graphs, conducting network analysis, leveraging machine learning and text mining for answering legal questions, or conducting research using similar analytical methods or techniques. PhD projects that are mostly doctrinal legal research do not fit the goals of this project.

You will be offered the opportunity to collaborate with law professors and computer scientists. You will be given an opportunity to learn and apply computer science methods in relation to the legal domain. You and your research will take place within the Maastricht Law & Tech Lab, an exciting and vibrant community where legal scholars and computer scientists meet and form interdisciplinary teams that work at the intersection of Law and Technology. Supervision is equally interdisciplinary: each successful PhD candidate will be supervised by both law and computer science faculty. We are aiming for interdisciplinary publications in both fields (for Law: Journal of Empirical Legal Studies, Artificial Intelligence in Law, JURIX; European Law Journal; Oxford Journal of Legal Studies etc.; for Computer Science: target conferences like ICML, ECMLPKDD, EMNLP, ACL, etc.)

PhD researchers participate in the Maastricht University Graduate School of Law. They will prepare a PhD thesis in English or Dutch within the Faculty of Law's research programme. Supervision will be provided by individually assigned senior researchers. At least 80% of the position will be dedicated to research and not more than 20% to teaching activities.

Matching Skills and Competencies:

- Master's degree in Law and / or Computer/Data Science;
- (For candidates with a legal background:) Computer science skills are a plus.
- (For candidates with a computer science background:) Expertise in Knowledge Representation and Machine/Deep Learning is required. Legal knowledge and/or experience in working with legal data is a plus.
- Ability to teach in English and, if applicable, willingness to learn Dutch;
- Interest in developing interdisciplinary education in Digital legal studies;
- Community-friendly team player;
- Optional: geek-friendly.

Terms of Employment:

We offer a 1.0 fte contract for a period of 4 years, starting preferably in September 2019. An application for a shorter period can also be submitted. Continuation after the first year is dependent upon a positive evaluation.

The full-time gross monthly salary amounts to €2,325 in the first year according to salary scale PhD ('promovendus'), increasing to € 2,972 in the fourth year; on top of this there will be an 8% holiday and an 8,3% year-end allowance.

You have to be willing to move to (the vicinity of) Maastricht. If you do not already live in Maastricht (or its direct surroundings), you will be eligible for an allowance for moving costs. If you do not already live in Maastricht (or its direct surroundings), you might be eligible for an allowance for alternative housing.Other secondary conditions include a pension scheme and partially paid parental leave.

The terms of employment of Maastricht University are set out in the Collective Labour Agreement of Dutch Universities (CAO). Furthermore, local UM provisions also apply. For more information look at the website: www.maastrichtuniversity.nl > Support > UM employees.

Appointment date

1 September 2019 (preferably).

Application

An application consists of:
- academic transcript of bachelor's and master's degrees and list of grades;
- if the dissertation will be written in English, proof of the English language level (being a native speaker, having completed a university degree in the English language or having passed an IELTS or TOEFL test; an IELTS score of 6.5 with no less than 6.5 in writing or an Internet-based TOEFL score of 90 with no less than 23 in writing is sufficient);
- a motivation letter;
- the master thesis or, if applicable, another substantial piece of English or Dutch writing.
- a mini research proposal, consisting of 500 words (max.) for the research idea and 250 words (max.) for the embedding of the research in the research program (the research program is attached to this vacancy). Please use the format attached to this vacancy for the research proposal.

The deadline for submitting your application is up to and including **28 July 2019**.

Conditions for submitting an application:

Applications should be addressed to: Pzfdrvacatures@maastrichtuniversity.nl. Only an application with all the above mentioned required documents will be assessed. *Please mention the vacancy number.*

More information on this vacancy can be obtained from Dr Marcel Schaper (mgh.schaper@maastrichtuniversity.nl), associate professor, Maastricht Law & Tech Lab.

Application Procedure:

Applications are assessed on the basis of the candidate's CV, their motivation letter, and the research proposal. The research proposal will be assessed based on the originality of the proposal and its methods, the potential contribution to science; feasibility; and the fit between the proposal and the research program.

Time schedule

28 July, 23.59	Closing date submission of applications
Early August 2019	Applicants are informed whether they are invited for an interview
August 2019	Interviews
End August 2019	Final decision

Maastricht Law & Tech Lab:

The Maastricht Law and Tech Lab, embedded within the Faculty of Law, aims to produce cutting-edge research and to build a creative community of researchers, teachers and students at the intersection of law, technology, data science and knowledge engineering. The Lab aims to analyze how technology and data science interact with law and justice in society, how technology and data science can increase access to law and justice in society, and analyzes the ethical, legal, and social issues arising from technology and data science innovations. Activities are conducted in collaboration between lawyers, data scientists and/or knowledge engineers.

Maastricht University:

Maastricht University is renowned for its unique, innovative, problem-based learning system, which is characterized by a small-scale and student-oriented approach. Research at UM is characterized by a multidisciplinary and thematic approach, and is concentrated in research institutes and schools. Maastricht University has around 16,300 students and 4,300 employees. Reflecting the university's strong international profile, a fair amount of both students and staff are from abroad. The university hosts 6 faculties: Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences, Faculty of Law, School of Business and Economics, Faculty of Science and Engineering, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience.

Faculty of Law:

The Faculty of Law has a strong and distinct international profile both in education and research. Our faculty is an inspiring and lively place where enthusiastic and inquisitive researchers attempt to find answers to the important legal issues of today. Researchers are able to flourish in the faculty's vibrant academic community. They develop their own research projects, within the contours set by the faculty's research programme. Research is focused on the study of the role of law in an increasingly globalised society. Research involves studying both institutional and substantive developments in the process of Europeanisation and globalisation and the role of the national legal order therein. This takes place by means of comparative research and research in the field of European law, international economic law and human rights in a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary context. To this end, various research methods are applied whereby more traditional methods are combined with empirical research methods.

Graduate School:

The faculty values the significant contribution of motivated and talented PhD researchers to a vibrant research climate, which is why the recruitment, supervision and training of PhD researchers are set so high on the faculty's agenda. All these activities are covered

by the Maastricht Graduate School of Law. The school is committed to educating young academics and to contributing to the advancement of knowledge through original research. It is dedicated to training excellent law students from all over the world to help them to extend, deepen and actively apply their knowledge, so as to become highly qualified independent researchers. The graduate school offers PhD candidates a stimulating and internationally oriented environment for legal research and aims to contribute to strengthening the faculty's research profile.