



**L-Università  
ta' Malta**

**Office for Human  
Resources Management  
& Development**

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## **CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**

### **Post/s of Full-Time Research Support Officer II or III**

#### **Coastal SAGE – “Coastal Satellite Assisted Governance (tools, techniques models) for Erosion” MCST Space Research Fund 2020**

And any other projects undertaken by the Department of Communications & Computer Engineering, Faculty of Information & Communication Technology

1. Applications are invited for the post of a Research Support Officer to carry out duties in relation to the **Coastal SAGE** Project which is funded by Space Research Fund 2020 of the Malta Council for Science & Technology, and in which the University of Malta is the lead partner. The Research Support Officer may also be required to work on other projects undertaken by the Department of Communications & Computer Engineering within the Faculty of Information & Communication Technology.
2. Applicants should possess a PhD in an area specifically related to the project, such as computer vision, image processing or remote sensing. Experience in Python, SAR data processing and image denoising will be considered an asset. Those in possession of a Master’s degree in similar areas and are reading for a PhD in the above areas are also encouraged to apply. In this case, if successful, the appointee will be initially employed as a Research Support Officer II. Upon attainment of the PhD his/her title will be changed to that of Research Support Officer III.

**The University of Malta is an Equal Opportunity employer.**

3. The full-time post is for an initial period of 12 months, which may be extended to a further 6 months, and carries an initial annual remuneration of EUR24,960 for those in possession of a Master’s degree (Research Support Officer II) and EUR31,200 for those in possession of a PhD (Research Support Officer III).
4. In view of the current COVID-19 situation, remote onboarding and working conditions will be considered until the situation returns to normal.
5. Candidates must submit their letter of application, a copy of their curriculum vitae, a scanned copy of their certificates (certificates of degrees must be submitted in English), and contact details of at least two referees. Applications must be sent by e-mail to [projects.hrmd@um.edu.mt](mailto:projects.hrmd@um.edu.mt) by not later than the **Monday, 7 September 2020**.

**Late applications will not be considered.**

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6. Further information about the vacancy may be obtained from:  
<https://www.um.edu.mt/hrmd/recruitment/projects>.

Office of the University,  
Msida, 17 August 2020



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#### **Further Information**

1. Coastal erosion is an unrelenting phenomenon which is of importance to the Maltese Islands as the coast is one of the most-intensely used and visited areas. Research in the downstream Earth Observation sector is key to achieving reliable and cost-effective monitoring of coastal erosion. Persistent Scatterer Interferometry (PSI) techniques utilize Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) onboard satellites to provide millimetric deformation estimates. However, SAR suffers from speckle noise, which can affect the PSI processing pipeline and the resulting deformation maps and their interpretation. The Coastal SAGE project will use image processing and deep learning techniques to address two key aspects of the PSI pipeline: denoising of interferometric phase and phase unwrapping. The developed denoising and unwrapping methods will be used to extract ground displacements from time series of synthetic aperture radar (SAR) acquisitions, in order to estimate deformation and displacement in study areas around Malta and Gozo. These estimates will be validated through in-situ sensors. Further information may be obtained by contacting Dr Ing. Gianluca Valentino at [gianluca.valentino@um.edu.mt](mailto:gianluca.valentino@um.edu.mt).
2. The appointee will be expected to:
  - a. produce deliverables and related reports within the stipulated time frames as specified in the project description;
  - b. keep detailed progress reports and abide to all the conditions imposed by the project;
  - c. assist in the dissemination process with the relevant stakeholders via a workshop/seminar;
  - d. attend project internal meetings and consortium meetings;
  - e. travel and attend meetings/conferences as the need arises;
  - f. take part in the submission of EU-funded research proposals to sustain related research beyond the funding of the project; and
  - g. perform any other project related task as instructed by the project coordinator and key experts.
3. The Research Support Officer may also be required to work on other projects undertaken by the Department of Communications & Computer Engineering within the Faculty of Information & Communication Technology.
4. The appointee will be expected to work at such places and during such hours as may be determined by the University authorities.

5. The selection procedure will involve:
  - a. scrutiny of qualifications and experience claimed and supported by testimonials and/or certificates (copies to be included with the application);
  - b. shortlisting; and
  - c. an interview and / or extended interview.
  
6. The post is for an initial period of 12 months, which will be subject to a probationary period and to the provisions of the Statutes, Regulations and Bye-Laws of the University of Malta which are now or which may hereafter be in force.

Office of the University,  
Msida, 17 August 2020