The Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research is seeking 3 Student Assistants for research projects carried out in the Laboratory of Digital and Computational Demography headed by Prof. Emilio Zagheni.

Projects and tasks include:

- Collection of social media data (e.g., geo-located Twitter posts) using Application Programming Interfaces (APIs), and processing of social media data from existing archives. For this and related tasks, the successful candidate will be expected to develop and maintain programs in R or Python, in close collaboration with scientists based at MPDR and at international universities or research centers.

- Qualitative analysis of social media posts. This task involves reading social media texts (e.g. Twitter tweets) from existing databases and scoring them in terms of, for instance, positive vs negative polarity. Ideal candidates would have a strong command of German, English, and additional languages. Proficiency in Turkish would be highly desirable for projects in this area.

- Collection of published matrix population models in animals (including humans) and plants. The successful candidate will carry out a range of regular tasks, mostly the digitalisation of data from already archived references as well as classifying datasets, and communications with publishing researchers worldwide to obtain further demographic information. The work will involve operating in an international English-speaking team (UK, Denmark, USA, etc.) and will include a close cooperation and coordination with other team members from the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research. Experience of work with references and basic logistic skills are desirable. For this specific project (http://www.compadre-db.org), we are seeking candidates who have already developed an interest in the diversity of life history strategies in animals and plants.

Ideal candidates are reliable, organized and motivated. A good command of English is essential, and individuals with advanced experience in Excel and proficiency with a programming language like R/MatLab or Python will be assessed positively. Preferred candidates are pursuing a degree in computer science/engineering, demography/statistics, biology, or ecology. However, other disciplines will also be considered.

We are particularly interested in final-year undergraduate students who will continue studying for an MSc in Rostock, or 1st year MSc students. The successful candidates will start working as soon as possible. There is some flexibility in the scheduling and in the number of working hours, though the typical expectation is 40-60 hours per month. More information on the work of the Institute is available at www.demogr.mpg.de.

Please send a short application by e-mail in English to sekzagheni@demogr.mpg.de, including:

- Cover letter: this must be no longer than 1 page, and detail why you are interested in this position, why you think you would be a good fit for one or more of the projects, and for MPIDR. Please also include your academic plans for the coming 1-2 years.

- CV: among other details, academic studies and grades, technical skills, like programming languages, general interests, and language skills.

Deadline for applications: rolling basis, preferably by mid-September 2018.

www.demogr.mpg.de