

The project '*AI in Great Power Competition: Comparing Political Narratives Across Chinese, Russian, and U.S. LLMs*' at the Leiden University Institute for History invites applications for a Student Assistant (≈0,25 fte, 9 months).

Project description

Leiden University Institute for History is looking for a student assistant to work on the NWO XS grant '*AI in Great Power Competition: Comparing Political Narratives Across Chinese, Russian, and U.S. LLMs*.'

This project examines how artificial intelligence is emerging as a strategic instrument in great power competition. Focusing on Chinese, Russian, and U.S. large language models (LLMs), it explores how they generate narratives on political issues such as international conflicts, global governance, and human rights.

By analysing variations in responses across languages, user locations, and models' countries of origin, the project assesses whether LLMs reproduce geopolitical narratives and adapt to context. The findings will help better understand the political implications of artificial intelligence and support more transparent and accountable use of these technologies.

The student assistant will assist the PL, Dr. Intigam Mamedov with the collection and management of data, as well as with developing a searchable database and its codebook.

Key responsibilities

- Collecting data from large language models
- Maintaining and updating the research dataset
- Data entry, cleaning, and quality checks
- Assisting with the preparation of dataset documentation (e.g., codebooks)

Selection Criteria

- Experience working with Microsoft Excel
- Experience with data entry or database management
- Experience with CSV datasets, R or Python is an advantage but not required
- Knowledge of Chinese is a strong asset but not required
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Interest in artificial intelligence
- Interest in political communication, narratives, and discourse analysis
- Studying at Leiden University (BA3 or (R)MA)

Conditions of Employment

The appointment (≈0,25 fte or 9.5 hours per week) is for a period of nine months, starting from **October 1, 2026**. In accordance with the Collective Labour Agreement for Dutch Universities, the gross monthly salary is €3,110 (BA3) or €3,141 (MA), based on a full-time appointment (38 hours per week); for this part-time position, the salary will be paid pro rata.

Information and application

Applications should be submitted in English to Dr. Intigam Mamedov (i.mamedov@hum.leidenuniv.nl) and include a letter of motivation of approximately 500 words. It should be clear from the letter at what stage of the study the applicant is and when they intend to graduate. The letter should be accompanied by a resume (CV) and a certified copy of the list of grades obtained thus far in the BA and (where relevant) (r)MA. In the resume it should be clearly stated which software programs the applicant has experience with, and at what level. No letters of recommendation should be added, but instead the name of one staff member at Leiden University should be provided (name, e-mail, position) who is willing to provide further information should the need arise. Referees will be contacted directly.

Applications should be submitted **no later than September 1, 2026**.

Please direct all questions and related queries to Dr. Intigam Mamedov (i.mamedov@hum.leidenuniv.nl)