TWO PHD SCHOLARSHIPS IN
CULTURE, LANGUAGE & TECHNOLOGY

Organisation
Since its foundation in 1614, the University of Groningen has enjoyed an international reputation as a dynamic and innovative university of higher education offering high-quality teaching and research. Balanced study and career paths in a wide variety of disciplines encourage the 30,000 students and researchers to develop their own individual talents. Belonging to the best research universities in Europe and joining forces with prestigious partner universities and networks, the University of Groningen is an international place of knowledge.

Campus Fryslân is the university’s newest faculty to be, located in Leeuwarden, the capital of Fryslân. The faculty’s goal is to connect regional themes with interdisciplinary global issues. To achieve this, research activities are organized under “Frisian Flagships”, which are areas of interest to the region. The four Frisian Flagships are: 1) Governance & Sustainable Economy, 2) Culture, Language & Technology, 3) High Tech Systems & Materials, and 4) Food & Health. The PhD projects are under the aegis of the Frisian Flagship 2: “Culture, Language & Technology”, which is dedicated to interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research in the human and social sciences.

Scholarship opportunities
We offer two four-year scholarships to complete a PhD in Culture, Language & Technology. Applications are invited from prospective PhD students with a good fit with the research specialisms and expertise of our academic staff. The PhD students will be enrolled in our Graduate School Campus Fryslân (GSCF). Information about Campus Fryslân can be found at: http://www.rug.nl/cf/.

The PhD students are expected to present results at specialist conferences and co-author articles on the outcomes of their research in international scientific journals. The articles will form the core of the PhD thesis.

During the course of the PhD, the students will develop research and teaching competencies as well as leadership skills. For this, the PhD students will receive a tailor-made program from the GSCF.

Candidates whose research intersects one of the topics below are particularly encouraged to apply:
- How do experts identify pathological speech? The PhD student will have the opportunity to collaborate with a multidisciplinary team, including Neurologists at the UMCG, Speech Pathologists at the University of Groningen, and Senior Scientists at INCAS3. Research will be performed in cooperation with supervisors and advisors from the GSCF, the RUG, and the UMCG. [linguistics, phonetics, speech pathology, forensic linguistics]
What insights into Frisian history can we get from digital tools? The PhD student will develop an innovative research project that addresses the topic of Frisian history or culture. [history, computational linguistics, eHumanities]

Qualifications
The ideal prospective PhD student should have the following qualifications:

- Master's degree in relevant field/s. Relevant applied experience in the private sector is an asset.
- Excellent record of undergraduate and graduate study
- Strong motivation to complete a PhD dissertation in four years
- Excellent command of spoken and written English. Additionally, Dutch, Frisian and/or German skills (or the ability to learn these languages quickly) is an asset
- Familiarity with machine learning and/or programming is desirable, but not required

Conditions
The successful candidates will be part of the University of Groningen’s PhD Scholarship Programme. After nine months, and thereafter annually, the progress will be evaluated. At these evaluations, it will be considered whether the results are sufficient for a successful and timely defense of the PhD thesis. As part of the programme, the PhD scholarship student will take part in the Career Perspectives Series, which provides a thorough preparation on the career after the PhD, inside or outside academia.

General information about the University of Groningen’s PhD Scholarship Programme can be found at http://www.rug.nl/education/phd-programmes/phd-scholarship-programme.

Application
Candidates may apply for this opportunity until December 1, 2016 Central European Time by means of the application form (click on “Apply” below on the advertisement on the university website).

Candidates must submit the following documents to vmp@rug.nl, with the subject line CLT PhD:
- A letter providing their motivation and key qualifications
- A current curriculum vitae
- A copy of diploma with list of course grades
- Reference letters from two academic referees
- A research proposal of up to 2000 words, covering state of the art, main research question, key objectives, and relevance, the proposed (methodological) approach, a brief description of the relevant literature, and a provisional timetable
- A writing sample of no more than 5000 words, such as an essay or part of a Master’s thesis

The intended starting date is in February 2017. Interviews will be scheduled in late 2016. Candidates may be asked to give a presentation.
Unsolicited marketing is not appreciated.

**Information**

For more information contact Dr. Matt Coler at m.coler@rug.nl or via +31 58 2882132.