Job Description: PhD on latent finger and palm print recognition

The FP7 Marie Curie Initial Training Network (ITN) "BBfor2" (Bayesian Biometrics for Forensics) provides an opportunity for young researchers to study several biometric technologies in a forensic context (http://bbfor2.net/). The Network consists of 9 European research institutes and 3 associated partners. The Network will provide regular workshops and Summer Schools, so that the 15 PhD students (Early Stage Researchers - ESRs) and PostDocs (Experienced Researchers - ERs) and senior researchers can exchange research experience, insights and ideas. The main areas of research are Speaker Recognition, Face Recognition, Fingerprint Recognition, but also combinations of these techniques are studied. The challenge of applying biometric techniques in a forensic context is to be able to deal with the uncontrolled quality of the evidence, and to provide calibrated likelihood scores. The researchers in this Network will have the opportunity during their assignment to stay for some period at another Network institute and to get experience in an industrial or forensic laboratory.

Within BBfor2, the present job offer for an ESR is oriented to obtain a PhD degree at Universidad Autonoma de Madrid focused on latent finger and palm print identification. The ESR will conduct a comprehensive survey of recent advances in automatic finger and palm print recognition, will study their application to realistic latent data found in forensic case work, will develop new image processing and pattern recognition methods specific to latent data, and will evaluate the performance of such methods in a transparent way. See also http://atvs.ii.uam.es/files/BBfor2_JobOffer_ESR9.pdf

The PhD student will be working at the ATVS – Biometric Recognition Group, Universidad Autonoma de Madrid (ATVS-UAM, http://atvs.ii.uam.es), and he will be also collaborating with institutions such as the Spanish Guardia Civil (one of the two nationwide police forces in Spain), the UAM Institute for Forensic Sciences and Security and the rest of the BBfor2 partners. In particular, the PhD fellow will benefit from a close contact with University of Twente (Netherlands), which will act as secondary advisor for the PhD project (main contact: Prof. Raymond Veldhuis, R.N.J.Veldhuis@ewi.utwente.nl).

The starting date of the PhD project is to be determined, but will be inside the period from October 2010 to December 2010.

Eligibility Requirements

According to the BBFor2 Network rules, there are some requirements that the applicants must satisfy:

- Applicants shall not be a national of Spain. In case of more than one nationality including Spain, the candidate must have not been residing in Spain for the last 5 years.
- Applicants shall not have resided or performed their main research activity in Spain for more than 12 months in the 3 year period immediately prior to the start date.
- Applicants shall be willing to work temporarily in at least one other country in the BBfor2 network.
- Applicants shall not hold a PhD degree.
- Applicants shall be in the first 4 years (full-time equivalent) of their research careers, including the period of research training, starting at the date of obtaining the degree which would formally entitle them to embark on a doctorate.

Conditions of Employment

The duration of the contract is 3 years. The ESR will receive an initial contract for the duration of one year, with the possibility of prolongation for another 2 years. The salary is according to EU standards for Early Stage Researchers, which for Spain after social security charges and taxes results in a net salary up to 2300€ per month (depending on family charges). Further, travel allowances and career exploratory allowances are foreseen according to generous Marie Curie ITN provisions.

Application Submission

Letters of application, including extensive CV, are to be sent by e-mail to Dr. Julian Fierrez, julian.fierrez (at) uam.es, indicating the vacancy number (Subject: BBfor2 ESR 9).