SAP RESEARCH / SAP MERAKA UTD
OPPORTUNITIES FOR MASTERS AND PHD STUDENTS

SAP AG is one of the few multinational companies in the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector that, as part of its global technology research strategy, has established a research capacity in South Africa - SAP Research CEC Pretoria. It focuses its research on technologies for emerging economies and the utilization of ICT for socio-economic development in developing regions.

Collaboration between SAP Research CEC Pretoria and South Africa's Meraka Institute resulted in the establishment of a research unit known as the SAP Meraka Unit for Technology Development (UTD). The UTD undertakes basic and applied ICT research that fosters technology innovation and contribute to the development of advanced human capital in ICT. The UTD is supported by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Meraka Institute, managed by the CSIR.

The SAP Meraka UTD and SAP Research invite applications from Computer Science, Engineering, Informatics, Business and Social Science (the latter two with an ICT bias) graduates who want to work with SAP Research / SAP Meraka UTD in support of our long-term career goals. Our current research focus area - Technologies for Emerging Economies - includes research topics such as:

Focus Area 1 - Innovative Business Solutions for Very Small Enterprises (VSEs) / SMEs in EE (BRICS)

- Innovative solutions on mobile platforms e.g. cell phones, for services delivery and usage
- Component based ERP for VSEs
- Services front ends and services integration in Virtual Organisations
- Internet based mediation platforms enabling access to services and information for VSEs
- Controlled sharing of Information in Virtual Organisations
- Service engineering for collaborative platforms in networked organisations
- Internet of Services: Integrated solutions, intelligent e–services, advanced semantic layers on the web.

Focus Area 2 - ICT for Emerging Economies (EE)
- Social (e.g. gender issues) and economic impact of ICT solutions
- Ethnography / anthropology / sociology - study behavioural patterns of vertical sectors with reference to ICT infrastructures
- Business processes / models / economics for Very Small Enterprises
- Adoption of ICT (ERP) and change management in EE
- The use of ICT in the health sector to facilitate patient health improvements
- The use of ICT to improve effectiveness and efficiency of NGOs, CSOs and VSEs.

Focus Area 3 - Customer Centric Design
- Front end consumption and user experience: methodologies/development/integration/testing
- Innovative ways for improving technology and information accessibility: Human-Computer-Interaction and Adaptive User Interfaces
- Software engineering - with specific reference to rapid prototype design / development /construction / testing.

The following opportunities currently exist:

- Masters Intern: Successful four year B or Honours degree students will be awarded a 24-month internship in Pretoria, South Africa, during which period they will work on directed research projects to gain practical work experience whilst completing their academic studies. The contract is annually renewable based on overall performance
- PhD Programme: Successful M-Graduates will be involved in directed research projects in the abovementioned research areas and will also be required to complete their PhD degrees, on a relevant research topic within a 3-year contract period. Contract are annually renewable based on satisfactory overall performance

NOTES: **Preference will be given to South African citizens from disadvantaged backgrounds.**
All positions are non-permanent contract positions to give young students an opportunity to gain work experience within an active and interesting research work environment.

Finalisation of study/research topics and the selection of a supervisor will be subject to approval by the SAP Meraka UTD Research Director.

To qualify for any of these opportunities, you need to have strong motivation to gain practical experience in a research environment and to complete your academic qualification. Excellent oral and written communication skills in English are essential, as well as the ability to manage work and time whilst working in diverse and distributed project teams.

Please submit the following by email:
- Motivational Letter
- CV and academic records
- A research (concept) proposal, not more than 2 pages, outlining how your masters or doctoral studies will support one or more of the research focus areas of SAP Research /SAP Meraka UTD
- Indication of university of registration and supervisor to be selected.

Applications to be emailed to zelda.geyer@sap.com before end November 2009.
For queries please call Zelda Geyer on (012) 999 9100. No agencies please.

Find out more about SAP at www.sap.com or www.sap.co.za.

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