# Full-Time Research Assistant Position (E13, 100%) in Reasoning Models and AI Safety

## Key facts

- Duration: 12 months (TV-L E13, 100%), with the prospect of continued funding toward a PhD (subject to performance and funding availability)
- Location: University of Bonn, Bonn, Germany.
- Starting date: May 1st, 2026, or as soon as possible thereafter

## About the position

- You will be part of the mAI Alignment Lab (Dr. Florian Mai) and the Data Science & Language Technologies Group (Prof. Lucie Flek).
- You will work on AI safety and alignment, with a focus on scalable oversight. Concretely, you will train reasoning models to decompose a complex task into easier subtasks that can be delegated to a small, well-aligned LLM.
- You will design and run experiments, write up results, and aim to publish at high-ranking conferences.
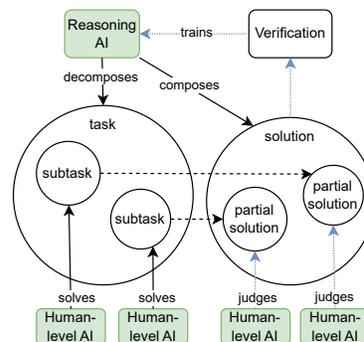


The University of Bonn with its 200-year history is one of only 11 German Universities of Excellence and the only German university with six Clusters of Excellence. The Bonn-Aachen International Center for Information Technology (b-it) and the Lamarr Institute are among Europe's leading institutions for cutting-edge research and education in informatics, developing high-performance, trustworthy, and resource-efficient applications of Machine Learning (ML) and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

## Applicant profile

### Required

- MSc degree in AI, Computer Science, or a technical/engineering/STEM-oriented field (e.g., mathematics, physics).
- Strong knowledge of machine learning and deep learning, including large language models (LLMs).
- Excellent command of Python and deep learning frameworks (e.g., PyTorch).
- Good command of English (written and spoken).

- Must be located in or relocate to Germany, preferably within commuting distance of Bonn.

**Preferred**
- Prior knowledge of AI safety / alignment and/or RL training of LLMs.
- Initial experience working in a scientific environment (e.g., student research assistant).
- Proficient in working with AI assistants such as coding tools and chatbots (e.g., Claude, Codex, Cursor).

We value and actively promote diversity in our team and therefore welcome all applications regardless of age, gender, nationality, ethnic and social background, religion, worldview, disability, sexual orientation, or identity. Applications from women and non-binary candidates are explicitly encouraged. Applicants with severe disabilities will be given preference in the case of equal qualification and professional performance.

## Application procedure

Please send an email with the subject line "E13 Research Assistant Application" to fmai@bit.uni-bonn.de containing, as a single PDF:
- Cover letter (max 1 page)
- CV incl. education, experience, language skills and other skills relevant for the position
- Diplomas and transcript of records

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled.