



Subject to the availability of funding from the external funding source, HafenCity University Hamburg is seeking to fill the following position as soon as possible in the Department of SKU: Urban Planning, Cultural Digitization, Metropolis, and Urban Design:

Research Associate (m/f/d) in the project “UNITAC 2026-2028”

Pay group 14 TV-L

to support the research with 75% of the regular weekly working hours. The position is limited until December 31, 2028.

About us

The HafenCity University Hamburg, University of Architecture and Metropolitan Development (HCU) is a university that focuses on the built environment. The HCU unites all aspects of building and design, engineering, and natural sciences as well as geoscientific and social sciences under one roof.

UNITAC Hamburg is a partnership between the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat, Nairobi), the United Nations Office of Information and Communication Technologies (OICT, New York), and HafenCity University. In this project, UNITAC, in collaboration with the City Science Lab@HCU, explores the potential of digital technologies, data, and innovations for sustainable urban development. The project employs a variety of applied and innovative research methods and develops innovative solutions and digital prototypes, primarily for cities in the Global South. These methods aim to accelerate the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to cities and urbanization, particularly SDG 11.

The position is assigned to the Professorship of Prof. Dr. Gesa Ziemer.

Here you can find more information about [HCU](#) and the [Arbeitgeberin Freie und Hansestadt Hamburg](#).

Your tasks

- overall coordination and management at the technical level of UNITAC activities across the strategic areas of focus (digital tools, data platforms, capacity building, and multi-level governance)
- coordination and communication between technical teams and academic leadership, as well as between project partners UN-Habitat and UN-OICT monitoring, further development, and scaling of UNITAC tools and methods in an
- further development and maintenance of existing digital tools and servers, ranging from machine learning applications to full-stack web applications, as well as

the awarding and acceptance of contracts for software design and development

- monitoring, further development, and scaling of UNITAC tools and methods in an international context, as well as dissemination of results through publications and technical articles
- establishment, maintenance, and strategic development of partnerships with international organizations, governments, and research institutions, as well as participation in conferences and exchange programs
- participation in strategic development, resource mobilization, and preparation of grant proposals to strengthen and scale UNITAC in the long term

Your profile

mandatory requirements

- an academic university degree (master's degree or comparable) in Data Science, Computer Science, Geoinformatics, or a comparable field of study

additional requirements

- relevant experience in technical project management as well as in leading and coordinating international projects and interdisciplinary and intercultural teams
- expertise in the fields of computer science, data science, visualization, as well as in the development of interfaces and creative solutions at the intersection of technology and urban development. This includes in-depth knowledge of applied statistics and machine learning algorithms (particularly classification, predictive models, and deep learning) and practical experience with at least one common machine learning framework (e.g., TensorFlow, PyTorch, or Keras), ideally with a focus on the analysis of geodata
- experience in full-stack web development, including server deployment
- proficiency with version control systems (e.g., Git) is required, particularly in the context of interdisciplinary and intercultural research and project work
- experience collaborating with a wide range of stakeholders, such as international NGOs, the United Nations, development or humanitarian organizations, as well as civil society and local government agencies

Benefits

- workplace at an attractive location in HafenCity
- varied work in a university environment in cooperation with international scientific partners
- a family-friendly university that supports its employees in balancing work and family life
- support for professional and personal development through a wide range of training and continuing education opportunities
- other benefits such as discounts in the student union canteens

Contact

For questions and further information, do not hesitate to contact Nicola Stradtman, at +49 (0) 40 300 880-5229

The applicant's classification regarding the level of experience within the advertised TV-L pay group is based on the candidate's individual work experience and is reviewed by the HR department. Legally binding statements can only be made by the HR department of the HCU.

Please send your application (including CV, cover letter, and copies of relevant certificates), no later than **18.05.2026** (preferably by email as one PDF file) to:

HafenCity Universität
Personalverwaltung
Stellen-Nr.: 2026-31
Henning-Voscherau-Platz 1
20457 Hamburg
E-Mail: HCU-bewerbung@vw.hcu-hamburg.de

Please include the reference number „**2026-31**“ in your application.

Please be aware that in case of an invitation to an interview, HCU will not be able to cover any expenses for travel and lodging.

Due to the high number of applicants, the HCU will not be able to return application documents. Therefore, please do not submit originals of certificates. If you add a post-paid envelope, the HCU will return your application documents.