

Research Consultant: Societal Acceptance of Drones in Urban Switzerland

The “Societal Acceptance of Drones in Urban Switzerland ([SADUS](#))” is a new research project at the UZH Digital Society Initiative ([DSI](#)). In this project, DSI researchers aim to develop evidence-based knowledge around the prevailing perceptions about, and the divergent attitudes toward, urban use of drones, to raise awareness of the ethical and social implications related to the deployment of high-impact technologies more broadly.

This project is a collaboration between UZH and University of Geneva (UNIGE). It sets out to examine the ethical risks associated with urban use of drones, the regulatory frameworks within which they operate, and the societal acceptance of their deployment at scale, in the Swiss context. The project is funded by the [UZH Strategic Partnership Program](#), alongside the DSI and the UZH Alumni Fund.

As part of this exciting new project, you will be fully engaged in and directly contribute to the research work, which will result in scientific publications. You will also have access to the scientific resources of the two universities, including supervision and other ongoing scholarly activities. The consultancy is planned initially **for 6-8 months on a 20-30% basis**, with the possibility of extension subject to the quality of your work.

Your responsibilities

Your deliverables will include:

- In-depth research of academic and grey literature related to the research topic
- Empirical fieldwork involving qualitative interviews (in Zurich & Geneva)
- Development of draft papers for publication

Your profile

We are looking for candidates with a high degree of academic competence. You are independent and able to communicate in English (excellent written and oral level). If you are bilingual in German and/or French, you will be ranked high in our shortlist. English however will be the working language within the research team and with diverse project partners (scientists, industry members, government officials, among others). Generally, we expect team spirit, commitment and pleasure in working in science and research; as well as fluency in English and very good command in French and/or German.

Required skills

- Academic qualifications in related disciplines (minimum Master’s degree), including social sciences and humanities, with at least one year’s experience in academia.
- Experience in conducting literature reviews, preferably with already published work.
- Experience in empirical work, especially qualitative research methods with respect to data collection and data analysis.

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DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Preferred skills:

- Experience in new and emerging technology, such as robotics, autonomous systems, and AI (even better drones!)

Desired skills:

- Experience in interdisciplinary research
- Experience with stakeholder-oriented approach
- Multi-lingual background and insights on the unique cultural diversity of Switzerland

What we offer

We offer an exciting project, a highly dynamic and inspiring working environment, accesses to expertise at two leading Swiss universities, exposures to a diverse group of subject matter experts, and plenty of opportunities for interdisciplinary exchange and further engagement in our ongoing and upcoming projects. Diversity and inclusion are important to us!

The duration and percentage of the contract is flexible, between 6-8 months on a 20-30% basis.

Place of work

[Geneva Centre for Humanitarian Studies](#), UNIGE

Start of employment

Employment will start in **July 2022** or upon mutual agreement. Selection of applicants will start on 1 June 2022 and continue until the position is filled.

Please provide the following documents in **one single pdf file** when applying for the position:

- CV (include complete list of publications, max 3 pages)
- Cover letter (indicating your motivation, experience and skills you could bring to the project, max 2 pages)
- Academic diplomas
- Daily rate of you apply as a consultant

Please send all material to Dr. Ning Wang (ning.wang@uzh.ch) and Joelle Gentile (joelle.gentile@unige.ch). If you have any questions related to this position, please do not hesitate to contact us.