

Profile Student Assistant

For support of the Resilient Delta initiative theme coordinators

(temporary position - 6 months)

Convergence

This vacancy is related to the Convergence Alliance, a joining of forces of the TU Delft, Erasmus University Rotterdam and Erasmus Medical Centre in order to tackle the urgent and complex societal challenges of our time. These challenges ask for fundamentally new forms of cooperation, whereby the boundaries between institutes and academic disciplines are crossed to create new perspectives and solutions. In research and education, the Convergence Alliance is committed to combine strengths, knowledge and methods to address societal challenges such as climate change, sustainability, pressure on the healthcare systems, urbanization, artificial intelligence and digitalisation. On these challenges, the Convergence collaborates with a large number of public and private partners in the province of South Holland and beyond. Using the region as living lab, the Convergence thus creates a leading research and innovation ecosystem in South Holland, with great (inter)national appeal and ambitions. Read more on www.convergence.nl.

The Resilient Delta initiative and our themes

As an assistant, you will be connected to the Resilient Delta initiative, one of the 5 programs in the Convergence alliance. Resilient Delta has a dedicated team of academics and practitioners that organize research, education and collaboration to design resilience solutions in the real-world dynamics of our living lab; the Rotterdam delta. Through interdisciplinary research and co-creation, Resilient Delta builds on policies, technologies, business models and methodologies that address the concrete societal issues that are prevalent in urban deltas, such as water systems, climate change, the energy transition, poverty and inequality etc. Resilient Delta believes that a better understanding of the complex coherence and mechanisms of systems contributes to achieving the breakthroughs that are needed to really combat societal challenges. We therefore do our work in close cooperation with public and private entities, societal organizations and other knowledge institutions. Read more on www.resilientdelta.org.

Resilient Delta works with six major themes: Port transitions, Delta systemics, City challenges, Methodology, Education, and Innovation, Tools & Assets. In our team, each theme has a theme coordinator, most of them at assistant professor level. These coordinators work at creating, with inside and outside partners, a portfolio of transdisciplinary projects which aim to have societal impact in fields related to the big transitions of our time. Our total portfolio has grown from a few three years back, to more than 60 by now. Also the amount of partnerships within the universities but also without outside partners has grown significantly over the last years, with a wide array of counterparts working with us to create and build the Resilient Delta program.

Due to all of these developments, currently, we are experiencing some growing pains, and we'd like to add extra capacity to support our theme leads in their efforts to create a relevant portfolio for (1) tuning of these six themes regarding events and their sequence of 'Coordination Committee' meetings; (2) each theme, to manage in- and external relations, coordinate research networks and provide the necessary coordinating / management and administrative support to get their part of the program sustained in focus and network, and prepared for continuing growth. This is now increasingly becoming urgent, as ambitions for Convergence and Resilient Delta continue to thrive; and we therefore expect to significantly grow further over the next years.

Against this background, we are looking for two parttime student assistants (2 x 0,5 FTE), to support our theme leads and help expand our work in their respective fields, and mutual tuning.

Characterization student assistant

Resilient Delta is part of a new way of working connecting academic knowledge production with societal challenges: transdisciplinary cooperation. As a student assistant within the Resilient Delta community, you are enthusiastic about helping to develop this new way of working and creating impact with your support work. You are willing to help set up new collaborations, cross disciplinary boundaries, work together with

professionals, social partners, local practitioners, communities and citizen target groups. The assistant work will take place mostly in the wider Rotterdam region, often also online or from our HQ in de Merwe4haven in Rotterdam. The work itself will be done under the guidance of one or more Resilient Delta theme leads, and also in close cooperation with the respective Resilient Delta Coordination Group for our themes, consisting of both senior scientific staff from the three Convergence universities, and societal partners like Rotterdam municipality, Smartport, Deltares and others.

We are looking for individuals, who combine (some) content related experience (e.g. in a relevant field), with (some) practical organizational and administrative experience, ideally (but not necessary) in supporting operational aspects of a program. The ideal candidates combine insight on content matters, with a practical and positive personality and are service minded with a willingness to help the program further in all aspects. Sometimes this will mean organizing an event or meetings, sometimes it will relate to the online activities or support for business development, sometimes this will mean writing content pieces. In short: a great challenge for intelligent, cheerful and entrepreneurial individuals that would like the opportunity to learn and develop themselves in one of the core strategic programs of the university.

The following result areas and competencies apply:

Position results areas

- Provides support to the Resilient Delta theme leads on organizational, administrative and content levels.
- Contributes to strengthening the structure and coordination of the Resilient Delta theme they are assigned to.
- Gathers, interprets, processes and provides information on relevant developments for the program.
- Advises and supports stakeholders and other relevant parties, both internal and external.
- Provides contributions in terms of content and processes.
- Organizes meetings in terms of content and practical details.
- Provides services for external communications, where needed and in close cooperation with the theme leads and our communications officer.

Competencies

- Conceptual ability to understand our themes
- Practical inclination, 'down to earth' personality
- Result orientation
- Good oral and writing skills in English, understanding and speaking Dutch is an advantage.

Practicalities

This position is initially for 6 months, starting February 2024 at the latest, with the option to renew, depending on necessity and funding. Scale: Student Assistant. The positions will be a part of our cooperation program with Erasmus Verbindt; "Students for Society". This means you will be hired by the Erasmus Verbindt/EUR and 'loaned' to the Resilient Delta Convergence Program.