

AI in Finance and Accounting

Summary

The overall goal of the PhD research is to examine how the rapid technological developments change the finance and accounting functions in organisations and how modern technologies affect work in these areas. The project addresses the following research questions: How is accounting and finance work impacted by latest developments in AI? How is AI used in these functions? What are the skills and competencies financial managers and accountants may need to master to remain relevant and add value?

Research field:	Business
Supervisors:	Prof. Dr. Mari-Klara Stein Dr. Mari Avarmaa
Availability:	This position is available.
Offered by:	School of Business and Governance Department of Business Administration
Application deadline:	Applications are accepted between June 01, 2023 00:00 and June 30, 2023 23:59 (Europe/Zurich)

Description

While it seems to be widely acknowledged that technology plays an important role (and increasingly so) in accounting and finance, the relationships have been studied relatively little, although the number of studies in the field seems to be increasing. The majority of existing studies are reviews and conceptual papers, while empirical research in the area is in its infancy. There is research needed on technologies such as AI, blockchain, big data, and how these technologies affect the processes and everyday work of managers and specialists working in accounting and finance. It is necessary to understand the new kinds of accounting and finance required to manage firms in the changing digital economy and to determine the new skills and competencies people may need to master to remain relevant and add value. AI, in particular, with both predictive and generative capabilities, is becoming essential in accounting and finance and is expected to have a profound impact on the work in these functions.

The overall goal of the thesis is to examine how the rapid developments in AI change the finance and accounting functions in organisations and how AI affects work in these areas.

The thesis should address the following questions: How is accounting and finance work impacted by latest developments in AI? How is AI used in these functions? What are the skills and competencies financial managers and accountants may need to master to remain relevant and add value?

The selected PhD candidate will be granted independence regarding her/his choice of theoretical frame, research philosophy, and methodology. The PhD candidate should already have learned or is willing to learn one or more research methodologies and methods such as experiments, surveys and related statistical techniques, ML-based methods, case-study analysis, and methods for analyzing different types of data.

The candidate's main task will be to prepare a doctoral thesis under the supervision of Professor Mari-Klara Stein and Senior Lecturer Mari Avarmaa. The candidate is also expected to engage in small-scale teaching and supervision as well as active participation in the department's activities.

Supervisors:

Main supervisor: Dr. Mari Avarmaa
Co-supervisor: Prof. Dr. Mari-Klara Stein

The candidate is expected to have

- a master's degree in business, economics or IT
- a clear interest in the topic of the position
- excellent command of English
- strong and demonstrable writing and analytical skills



- capacity to work both as an independent researcher and as part of an international team
- capacity and willingness to provide assistance in organizational tasks

The following experience is beneficial:

- Working knowledge of quantitative and qualitative methods
- Work experience in finance or accounting

The candidate should submit a research plan for the topic, including a preliminary overview of relevant literature, and an overall research plan. The candidate can, if they wish, expand on the listed research questions and tasks, and propose specific methods and theoretical lenses to be used.

We offer

- 4-year PhD position (employed as an Early-Stage Researcher at the Department of Business Administration) in a strong team of researchers with international publication records and experience in leading and participating in pan-European research consortia.
- The chance to do high-level research in a dynamic academic environment.
- Opportunities for conference visits, research stays and networking with globally leading universities and research centers in the various sub-fields of management.
- All PhD positions are guaranteed a gross income of at least 1718 EUR and Estonian national health insurance.

About the department

Tallinn University of Technology (TalTech) is an international scientific community with approximately 9,000 students and 2,000 employees, one of the largest universities in Estonia that is the leading EU country in digitalization. The strengths of the university are wide multidisciplinary study/research interests, modern research and study environment as well as strong collaboration with international educational and research institutions. TalTech is aiming to be an organization leading the way to a sustainable digital future.

The research carried out at the **Department of Business Administration** in the School of Business and Governance in TalTech deals with various aspects of business – entrepreneurship, sustainability, knowledge and technology transfer, operations and strategic management, digitalization, marketing, supply chain management, accounting and performance management. The School has over 200 employees.

The department is highly internationalised. Its staff have been involved in a multitude of international research projects with the EU (INTERREG, COST, Horizon Europe etc).

Additional information

For further information, please contact **Mari-Klara Stein** mari-klara.stein@taltech.ee and **Mari Avarmaa** mari.avarmaa@taltech.ee and visit <https://taltech.ee/en/department-business-administration> and <https://taltech.ee/en/phd-admission>

TalTech has a green and one of the most compact university campuses in Europe that includes the Tehnopol Tallinn Science Park. Low hierarchy, academic freedom and a balanced work and family life are valued at TalTech. The university provides individual development and training opportunities, material and non-material tokens of acknowledgement, sporting opportunities at TalTech Sports Club and all-staff activities.



TalTech as an employer brings together representatives from a wide range of disciplines - engineers and economists, business and biotechnology, and data scientists - with a common mission to develop Estonian higher education and research. Keywords that characterize TalTech today are rapid development, interdisciplinarity, and internationalization. The university has an international working environment and the working languages are English and Estonian.



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