The [Assistive Intelligent Robotics Lab](), a research facility within the [Friedrich-Alexander University (FAU)]() of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany, is seeking to appoint

One Ph.D. candidate in lower-limb prosthetics

Tasks

You will **design and perform user studies on participants missing a lower limb,** mainly using the **Open-Source Leg v2.0**, our own lower-limb prosthetic prototype platform. To this aim, you will first calibrate and test the OSLv2.0 itself, turning it into a fully-fledged prosthetic platform; you will then explore bio-signal processing, machine learning and interaction design, creating an apt functional assessment protocol. User studies carried out using the OSLv2.0 and the protocol will shed light on the optimal interaction / control method and will assess the participant's progress and satisfaction while using the platform.

You will also **participate in shaping** the AIROB Lab, our research facility, dealing with technological, scientific and human-related aspects of medical robotics. The Lab is already equipped with an OSLv2.0, a suspension-aided walking area and numerous kinds of biological, wearable sensors – electromyography, inertial measurement units, force-myography, ultrasound, and so on. Moreover, we have a small but raging mechanical / electronic workshop, which you will need to operate the OSLv2.0 and make it work smoothly.

You will also **marginally support the group's teaching activities** at the bachelor and master's level. This includes, e.g., organizing seminars and holding occasional lectures, computer labs and journal clubs.

Position

The position is full-time for three years (probation time: six months), extendable if required, initially paid according to the German public administration ranking E13/1-2, consisting of up to EUR 64.000+ gross/year. A flexible home-office plan is available. You are expected to start within August, 2026 and required to live in Erlangen or in the vicinity. Erlangen, a student city in Central Franconia inhabited by ~120.000 people, offers plenty of housing opportunities and ranks average in Germany, as far as the cost of living is concerned.

Requirements

As the ideal candidate, you

- are interested in an academic career in assistive robotics and are passionate about interaction with patients;
- have an M.Sc. in medical technology, biomedical engineering, or related;
- already have some competencies in rehabilitation and assistive robotics;
- already possess a good track record, e.g., a distinction in the M.Sc. and/or a publication;
- can work independently and manage multiple tasks simultaneously; and,
- have excellent communication skills in both written and spoken English.

Do you think you are the one? Then apply!

Send your application to [claudio.castellini@fau.de]() via mail, with subject [Application PhD 2026], as a single PDF file, containing:

- a motivation letter and CV;
- note transcripts, both at the B.Sc. and M.Sc. level;
- any letters of recommendation;
- links to your projects; and, well,
- anything else which could convince us to hire you.

Your deadline: March 15th, 2026.

Applications not meeting the requirements above, and/or missing the deadline, will not be considered.