Job Description

ABOUT GHENT UNIVERSITY AND GHENT

Ghent University is a world of its own. Employing more than 15.000 people, it is actively involved in education and research, management and administration, as well as technical and social service provision on a daily basis. It is one of the largest, most exciting employers in the area and offers great career opportunities. Ghent University is not only the largest university in Belgium, but also the oldest and is consistently ranked as one of the top-100 best institutions world-wide.

With its 11 faculties and more than 85 departments offering state-of-the-art study programmes grounded in research in a wide range of academic fields, Ghent University is a logical choice for its staff and students.

The university is located in the picturesque city of Ghent, in the heart of Europe. Brussels, Amsterdam, Paris and London are all within short train rides of the historical town with excellent connections to many other locations. Ghent is an international city with a vibrant culture and an active startup scene.

For the AIDA-IDLab research group we are looking for one or two m/f/x
Doctoral fellows on the ERC Advanced Grant VIGILIA

YOUR JOB

- You will conduct world-leading **research, with the aim of obtaining a PhD degree**.
- The topic of your research will be defined within the scope of the **European Research Council (ERC) Advanced Grant VIGILIA** (VIrtual GuardIan angeLs for the post-truth Information Age), with **Prof. Tijl De Bie** as Principal Investigator.
- Your research will advance the state-of-the-art in **Artificial Intelligence**, and specifically in the intersection of **Large Language Models**, **Knowledge Graphs**, and **user modelling**. In the spirit of the VIGILIA project, you will develop novel methodologies with the aim of creating radically innovative approaches to mitigate the challenges of so-called **mis-, dis-, and malinformation**, while fully safeguarding the fundamental freedom of expression and of information.
- You will be part of the **AIDA research group**, which is home to 12-15 researchers performing world-leading research on topics including the foundations of AI, data science, and machine learning, AI trustworthiness, visual analytics, and applications in areas such as the labor market, biology, and (social) media analysis. The AIDA research group is part of the larger IDLab group, with research activities ranging from data science and AI to internet technologies and networking.

YOUR PROFILE

- **You hold a Master's degree** in Artificial Intelligence, computer science, cognitive science, behavioral economics, or a related field, from a reputable academic institution.

- You have been an **outstanding student** in your Master's degree, as evidenced by a top-5% grade, and/or by other extraordinary curricular or extra-curricular achievements or circumstances.
- You are highly knowledgeable in several of the following, and have an interest in learning about the others: **AI** (specifically machine learning), **Large Language Models**, **knowledge graphs**, **probabilistic modelling**, **cognitive science**, **behavioral economics**.
- You have strong **analytical skills**.
- You have some experience with contemporary **(AI) software paradigms**.
- A keen interest in the **functioning of traditional and social media**, and its influence on the public debate and on democratic processes, is considered a plus.
- You are **fluent in English** and an **excellent communicator**, both orally and in written form.

WHAT WE CAN OFFER YOU

- We offer a full-time position as a doctoral fellow, consisting of an initial period of 12 months, which - after a positive evaluation, will be extended to a total maximum of 48 months.
- Your contract will start on 1 October 2024 at the earliest. A later start date is possible.
- The fellowship amount is 100% of the net salary of an AAP member in equal family circumstances. The individual fellowship amount is determined by the Department of Personnel and Organization based on family status and seniority. A grant that meets the conditions and criteria of the regulations for doctoral fellowships is considered free of personal income tax. Click here for more information about our salary scales
- All Ghent University staff members enjoy a number of benefits, such as a wide range of training and education opportunities, 36 days of holiday leave (on an annual basis for a full-time job) supplemented by annual fixed bridge days, bicycle allowance and eco vouchers. Click here for a complete overview of all the staff benefits (in Dutch).

HOW TO APPLY

Send your CV, copy of your diploma and transcripts (if already in your possession), and a concise motivation letter to tijl.debie@ugent.be, **no later than 15 September 2024**. Applications may be processed and offers may be made before this deadline, so applying early is advised.

IMPORTANT: *as a subject of your application email, please use the following:*
    "VIGILIA PhD fellowship – [YOUR FULL NAME]"

Applications using a different subject line will be discarded.

For more information about this vacancy, please contact Prof. Tijl De Bie (tijl.debie@UGent.be).