

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 a m/f/x Postdoctoral fellow on the [ERC Advanced Grant VIGILIA](#)

YOUR JOB

- You will conduct world-leading **research at post-doctoral level**.
- You will also **assist one or two PhD students** in their research, as their daily supervisor, who will be working on topics directly related to your research.
- The topic of your research will be defined within the scope of the **European Research Council (ERC) Advanced Grant VIGILIA** (VirtuAl Guardlan angeLs for the post-truth Information Age), with **Prof. Tiji 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.
- A limited portion of your time will be spent helping with the **scientific project management** of the VIGILIA project (following up the workplan, scientific reporting), with **research data management**, with organizational duties such as **organizing scientific events** (seminars, tutorials and summer schools, workshops,...) and **public outreach activities**, and with writing **grant applications** related to your research.
- 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 doctoral degree** or a diploma or certificate recognized as equivalent by law or in application of the guidelines of the European Union or a bilateral agreement, on the topic of Artificial Intelligence, computer science, cognitive science, behavioral economics, or a related field.
- In exceptional circumstances and based on detailed scientific justification, researchers who do not hold such a degree may also be considered, provided they have demonstrated exceptional scientific merit. Exceptional scientific merit is defined as having excelled in scientific research and publications at a level at least equivalent to a doctoral degree.
- You have an outstanding research track record for your career stage 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 published influential scientific papers in leading conferences and/or journals in your research area.
- You have demonstrable 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.
- The grant can only be awarded within the framework of international scientific mobility. This is the case if:
 - the researcher has resided abroad (outside of Belgium) for at least 24 months out of the 3 years prior to the start date of the postdoctoral fellowship and has not worked or studied in Belgium during that period. However, short-term stays in Belgium are allowed during 24 months, such as holidays, participation in conferences or a short stay to prepare for the period as a postdoctoral researcher
 - the researcher is funded by the Marie-Sklodowska-Curie Action (MSCA) and thus meets the associated mobility conditions.
 - only for postdoctoral researchers in international mobility.

WHAT WE CAN OFFER YOU

- We offer a full-time position as a postdoctoral fellow, with a minimum period of 12 months (to be negotiated) which can be extended twice, considering the maximum period of 36 months.
- In deviation from the above, an EEA national, who has previously received a postdoctoral grant in the 12 months prior to an MSCA grant, can exceed the maximum term of 36 months under this MSCA grant provided that the entire term does not exceed 48 months.
- Your contract will start on 1 October 2024 at the earliest.
- The grant amount is equal to the net salary of a Doctor Assistant (AAP 5) with the same level of education and seniority and based on the same family situation as the Doctor

Assistant. The supervisor may deviate from this and assign a higher level based on acquired experience, professional career and demonstrated competences. The grant amount will not be revised in the current year except in case of indexation. [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 an offer may be made before this deadline, so applying early is advised.

IMPORTANT: *as a subject of your application email, please use the following:*

"VIGILIA postdoctoral 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).