

For the [Artificial Intelligence and Data Analytics \(AIDA-IDLab\)](#) research group at [Ghent University, Belgium](#), we are looking for one or two m/f/x:

Doctoral fellow (PhD student) 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. Tijn 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**, with strong links to **AI Safety**. In the spirit of the VIGILIA project, you will develop novel AI-based methodologies with the aim of creating radically innovative approaches to mitigate the challenges of the so-called **information chaos** (due to 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 around 15 researchers performing world-leading research on topics including the foundations of AI, data science, and machine learning, AI safety and 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 research group [IDLab](#), with research activities ranging from data science and AI to internet technologies and networking.

Job 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 extensive experience with contemporary **(AI) software paradigms.**
- A keen interest in the **functioning of the 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 writing.

WHAT WE CAN OFFER YOU

- We offer a **fully funded 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 between 1 June and 1 October 2025**, depending on your availability, though exceptionally a later starting date can be considered as well.
- 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).

ABOUT GHENT UNIVERSITY

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. 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 city of Ghent, Belgium

Ghent is a beautiful and bustling historical city in Belgium, a short train ride away from Brussels (30min), Paris (2h), Amsterdam (3h), and London (3h). Thanks to the presence of the university, along with a thriving innovation ecosystem and a vibrant AI startup scene (e.g. with the [Wintercircus](#)), it is home to a large expat community where international PhD students naturally feel at home.

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 10 May 2025**. 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 2025 – [YOUR FULL NAME]"

Applications using a different subject line will be discarded.

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