

Job offer: one doctoral position in *Architectural & Design Research* at University of Liege, Belgium

Offer

The LUCID research lab (Lab for User Cognition and Innovative Design) of the University of Liège is seeking one highly motivated doctoral candidate to join the team and conduct research within the INTER'ACT research project. The successful candidate will be funded for a two years full-time position, renewable once.

Application deadline is March 1st, 2020.

Your missions within the INTER'ACT research project

The INTER'ACT research project, funded by the F.R.S.-FNRS¹, tackles the under-studied societal and professional challenge of end-users' (dis)satisfaction levels and low involvement towards architectural design processes. Building on qualitative inquiry, the team dedicated to this project (two PhD candidates and one post-doctoral fellow) will closely work together and research (i) current interactions, expectations and involvement modalities as well as (ii) best practices from related design disciplines. The main goal of the project is to help end-users maximize their positive input during architectural design processes and to develop dedicated models, methods and tools that will eventually provide users and architects with renewed ways of interacting together on an every-day basis².

Within this research project, you will build a comprehensive, systematic literature review of scientific work currently delineating users/designers interactions (in architecture or closely related design disciplines). You will conduct retrospective and on field cases' studies in order to challenge current interactions' bottlenecks. Interactional Workshops conducted by the whole team will inform the iterative design, testing and validation phases of models, methods and tools that will contribute to long-lasting empowerment of both end-users and architects. You will then submit and defend your PhD thesis and validate your doctoral training program in order to obtain the academic grade of "doctor".

The position includes opportunities to present the results at national and international levels (included 5 k€ of running costs). Collaborations and exchanges (including short research stays) with Belgian and foreign universities will be encouraged.

¹ Belgian national fund for scientific research.

² More information about the INTER'ACT research project will be provided to the shortlisted candidates.

Profile

By July, 1st, 2020, applicants for the doctoral position should have completed their Master degree (and for no more than three years) in Architecture, Architectural Engineering or a closely related field (Master in Design, Interior Design, Design Strategy and Management,...). Applicants should not have been hired as teaching assistants by University of Liège for more than 365 cumulated days before applying.

You should demonstrate ability to synthesize information from scientific literature, to think creatively and critically in order to collect, document, analyze and evaluate empirical data. French proficiency is required. Excellent written and verbal English communication skills are a plus.

We offer

The successful candidate will join a dynamic research team within the Urban and Environmental Engineering Research Unit of the University of Liège (UEE). The UEE Research Unit welcomes more than 200 members, including 22 full-time academics, 70 PhD students, 80 senior researchers and 40 members of the support staff³.

Within UEE, the LUCID team gathers two full-time professors and welcomes in average 15 researchers from various backgrounds (architecture, building and architectural engineering, computer sciences and cognitive sciences). Created in 2001, this interdisciplinary research team conducts research projects (both basic and applied; supported by qualitative and quantitative methods) in the fields of architecture, design research or design engineering, following one goal : to develop new methods and tools to support design and learning in/through design⁴. Moreover, University of Liège offers a comprehensive and innovative training program⁵, which enables early-career scientists to carry out their research in the best possible conditions, in compliance with the European Charter for Researchers⁶.

The candidate will be fully funded for two full years, renewable once for an extra 18 months (tax-free allowance approx. 2000 €/month, net in accordance with university standards).

How to apply?

Your CV, cover letter, full transcripts of Bachelor and Master studies, and at least one reference letter should be submitted by email to Prof. Catherine Elsen (catherine.elsen@uliege.be), including the mention « Application for PhD Thesis INTER'ACT ». Application deadline is March, 1st, 2020.

The position will remain open until filled, but the selection process will start from March 1st, 2020. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an interview (preferably face-to-face; Skype is possible) during the second half of March. Starting date is expected in April/May 2020; July 1st at the latest.

³ See www.uee.uliege.be

⁴ See www.lucid.ulg.ac.be

⁵ See www.recherche.uliege.be/cms/c_9022734/en/training

⁶ See www.recherche.uliege.be/cms/c_9022717/en/ethics-and-scientific-integrity