

PHD POSITION FUNDED BY AN FNRS-TÉLÉVIE GRANT

GIGA RESEARCH INSTITUTE, UNIVERSITY OF LIÈGE (BELGIUM)

METASTASIS RESEARCH LABORATORY

START DATE: 01/10/2026 | DEADLINE: 20/09/2026

Located in the French-speaking part of Belgium, the University of Liège welcomes nearly 27,000 students of 123 different nationalities in a dynamic, multicultural city less than an hour away from Brussels and Cologne, two hours from Paris and three hours from London and Amsterdam. ULiège is spread across 4 campuses and boasts over 5,700 staff members, including 3,600 teachers and researchers active in all areas of the humanities and social sciences, science and technology, and health sciences.

As a key player in social change and environmental awareness, ULiège promotes ethical, transdisciplinary and open science. It contributes to the socio-economic development of its region through numerous partnerships with several institutions, including the university hospital (CHU). Given its international orientation, the University participates [in the European University of Post-Industrial Cities \(UNIC\)](#) initiative and has one of the most extensive collaborative networks in the world.

ULiège offers attractive career prospects [in a high-quality working environment](#) where well-being, diversity and equality of opportunity are promoted. Since 2011, ULiège has been proud to display the European [Human resources strategy for researchers \(HRS4R\)](#) label, which reflects its commitment to open, transparent and merit-based procedures. In addition, it upholds quality and diversity in line with the recommendations of the [Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment \(CoARA\)](#). ULiège encourages its academic staff to travel internationally and welcomes international researchers through its EURAXESS center.

ABOUT THE RESEARCH PROJECT

A PhD position is available, starting on October 2026, under the supervision of Prof. Akeila Bellahcène (Metastasis Research Laboratory, GIGA-Cancer) at the University of Liège.

Pioneering studies from our team established a novel link between glycation stress, cancer metastasis, and resistance to therapy (Nokin et al., eLife, 2016; Bellier et al., Cell Reports, 2020). Our latest findings on this topic are reported in Mohring et al. (Journal for ImmunoTherapy of Cancer, 2026). Further developments in this research area are reviewed in Bellahcène et al. (Seminars in Cancer Biology, 2018).

Prof. Bellahcène's team demonstrates accurate expertise to explore energetic metabolism and glycation stress and established efficient collaborations with recognized experts of the glycation stress/diabetes research field. Current projects in the team focus on investigating the molecular mechanisms underlying the impact of glycation stress on cancer progression with a

therapeutic finality. The proposed research project will be discussed with candidates selected for interview.

The Metastasis Research Laboratory is part of the GIGA Research Institute (<https://www.giga.uliege.be>) localized in Liège University Hospital thus making the successful applicant fully benefit from an excellent experimental and translational research environment.

JOB DESCRIPTION

You hold a **university degree with excellent academic results in biomedical sciences, biotechnology, biology, medicine, pharmacy, veterinary medicine, or a related field.**

- You are organized, passionate about scientific research, and able to work independently.
- You have a good knowledge of English and strong communication skills.
- Experience with wet-lab techniques and/or an interest in bioinformatics and computational approaches are considered assets but are not mandatory.

TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT

- ▶ **TYPE OF CONTRACT:** Full-time doctoral scholarship FNRS for a two-year period, from October 1, 2026, to September 30, 2028, with the possibility of extension, subject to available funding.

HOW TO APPLY?

- ▶ Please send your CV and a short description of your scientific interests by September 20th to: a.bellahcene@uliege.be

SELECTION PROCEDURE

- ▶ The selection process will include a review of applications and a pre-selection based on skills and suitability for the profile, followed by an in-person interview between September 21 and 25, 2026.

Our corporate policy is based on diversity and equal opportunity. We select candidates on the basis of their skills and do not discriminate on grounds of age, sexual orientation, origin, beliefs, disability or nationality.

CONTACT DETAILS

Informal inquiries about the project are welcome. Please feel free to contact Prof. Akeila Bellahcène by email a.bellahcene@uliege.be or by phone: +32 4 366 2480

Release date: 7/09/2026

Privacy policy

Personal data collected following your application will be processed by Prof. Akeila Bellahcène of the University of Liege for the sole purpose of recruitment.

The data will be processed within the framework of pre-contractual measures (art. 6-1, b. of the General Data Protection Regulation) and kept for up to 9 months after the publication of the vacancy. Your personal data will not be passed on to any third parties.

In accordance with the provisions of the GDPR (EU 2016/679), you may exercise your data protection rights (right of access, rectification, erasure, restriction, and portability) by contacting ULiège Data Protection Officer (dpo@uliege.be - Mr. Data Protection Officer, Bât. B9 Cellule "GDPR", Quartier Village 3, Boulevard de Colonster 2, 4000 Liège, Belgium). You may also lodge a complaint with the Data Protection Authority (<https://www.autoriteprotectiondonnees.be>, contact@apd-gba.be).