



PHYSIOLOGY OF
COGNITION LAB

TITLE: POSTDOCORAL RESEARCHER

AREA: COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENCE – GLYMPHATIC SYSTEM

START DATE: 1 SEPTEMBER 2026 | DEADLINE: 29 MAY 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

Human cognition is typically characterized by a continuous stream of thoughts. There are times, though, during which individuals may report moments in which their mind appears “empty”, a mental state known as mind blanking (MB). Although the behavioural and neural correlates of MB have been increasingly documented, its underlying biological purpose remains poorly understood. The BLANK project proposes that MB reflects the phenomenological manifestation of neurotoxic clearance processes, mediated by the glymphatic system. Beyond its established role during sleep, the project explores whether glymphatic clearance also occurs during wakefulness to support brain homeostasis and sustain ongoing cognitive activity. By linking MB to glymphatic clearance, the project challenges the long-standing view of the mind as a constant thought-oriented



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operator, and is ambitious to lead to new knowledge and a paradigm shift about our current mechanistic understanding of mental state reportability during waking life.

JOB DESCRIPTION

We are seeking a highly motivated postdoctoral researcher, whose expertise lies at the intersection of medical engineering, cognitive neuroimaging, and neurophysiology.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

The project will take place at the Physiology of Cognition lab, situated in the GIGA CRC-Human Imaging Center, GIGA institute, at the University of Liège, Belgium. The GIGA CRC-Human Imaging is a centre of excellence as recognized by the Belgian Fund for Scientific Research (FNRS). The centre is comprised of a multidisciplinary core team of 15 principal investigators, and about 50 researchers, including PhD trainees, postdoctoral researchers and logisticians, renowned for their research on consciousness, cognition, sleep-wake regulation, aging, neurodegeneration, and neuroimaging data analyses. The centre gives direct access to all required technologies via the CRC in vivo imaging platform. Specifically, we have access to two research-dedicated MRI scanners (3T Siemens MAGNETOM Prisma; 7T Siemens MAGNETOM Terra) with simultaneous high density EEG setup (Brain Products Inc.) as well as MR-compatible polysomnographic physiological recording system (Biopac Inc).

- ▶ The GIGA institute is an interdisciplinary research institute founded in 2007 and is committed to excellence in the biomedical sciences. It is located adjacent to the university hospital of Liège and counts >600 members, originating from six faculties and >40 countries, who are conducting research in neuroscience, oncology, infection and inflammation immunity, cardiovascular sciences, molecular pathology, medical genomics and in silico medicine.
- ▶ The university of Liège participates actively to the European research area, with over 130 EU-financed ongoing projects crossing all the thematic areas, and more than 600 collaborative projects worldwide. Its departments present appropriate facilities and infrastructures to conduct ambitious research projects. In addition, the researchers may rely on an administrative support from the institution. The R&D administration offers to the scientific teams' operational management expertise for administrative and financial tasks. This department follows-up the EU funded projects, of which 14 as a coordination role. It also coordinates the action of support departments, like the financial resources administration and the legal office.

SPECIFIC DUTIES AND ACTIVITIES

- ▶ The candidate will prepare the data infrastructure (setup and analysis pipelines)



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- ▶ The candidate will pilot the neuroimaging experiment, and assist data acquisition and analysis
- ▶ The candidate will train and supervise early-stage trainees on MREG data acquisition and analysis

PROFILE

- **ELIGIBILITY :**
 - ▶ At the start of the research position, applicants must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in Belgium for more than 24 months in the 36 months immediately prior to the start date.
 - ▶ Applicants must hold a relevant university degree (PhD required).
- **REQUIRED SKILLS :**
 - ▶ Past published research with MREG/EEG signals
 - ▶ Excellent programming skills in Python and R (evidenced on gitlab/github)
 - ▶ Competent with data management
- **DESIRABLE SKILLS :**
 - ▶ Past research field in cognitive neuroscience and consciousness research
 - ▶ Direct data acquisition (3T siemens scanner operation)
- **HUMAN SKILLS :**
 - ▶ Collaborative, eager to pass on existing knowledge to local team members
 - ▶ Accountable and with clear communication style
 - ▶ Growth mindset
- **LANGUAGES :**
 - ▶ English: Fluent (required due to the international working environment and project context)
 - ▶ French: Considered an asset, but not mandatory

TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT

- ▶ **TYPE OF CONTRACT: FULL TIME**
- ▶ **WORK SCHEDULE : WEEKDAYS**
- ▶ **CONTRACT DURATION : 12 MONTHS**
- ▶ **EXPECTED START DATE : 1 SEPTEMBER 2026**

OUR OFFER

With your career path and personal details, ULiège Human Resources Department can assess the gross monthly salary. Employment benefits such as reimbursement of public transportation fees and access to a [variety of training](#) opportunities are also included.



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HOW TO APPLY?

Please send the following documents in PDF format to a.demertzi@uliege.be by **29 May 2026** including “**PHYCOG-01**” in the subject line of your email (*applications without this reference will not be considered*) :

- a one-page motivation letter,
- a CV in English (maximum 2 pages),
- two recommendation letters, including the contact details of previous supervisors.

SELECTION PROCEDURE

- ▶ First selection based on CV. Priority will be given to candidates with prior research experience in MREG signals and strong recommendation letters.
- ▶ Interviews: Shortlisted candidates will be invited to interviews with the lab team, under the supervision of Athena Demertzi, between June and mid-July.

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 Dr. Athena Demertzi by email at a.demertzi@uliege.be

Release date: 26/03/26



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Privacy policy

Personal data collected following your application will be processed by Dr. Athena Demertzi of the University of Liège 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).