

Computational linguist / Postdoctoral researcher in NLP

We have a vacant **postdoctoral** research positions in the area of **Natural Language Processing / Understanding** for a maximal duration of 3 years.

CONTEXT

The research is performed as part of **two R&D projects with companies**, with access to their real-life data. You will investigate and implement existing and novel Natural Language Understanding technologies and develop a proof-of-concept. Your work will be performed in close collaboration with another postdoctoral researcher who takes care of the machine learning & recommendation parts.

For the first project, the goal is to (a) build a *curated knowledge base* extracted from speech-to-text natural language, (b) make sensible recommendations for humans interacting with the system.

The second project is in partnership with Collibra, a spin-off of the VUB. It aims to build a platform to bridge structured *systems of records* (e.g. a DBMS) with unstructured *systems of engagement* like Slack by using Natural Language Understanding, machine learning & recommendation systems.

YOUR TASK

You will read literature, discuss ideas, develop algorithms and prototypes, publish papers and participate in international conferences. You will join an enthusiastic and open-minded team of researchers in a flexible and rewarding work environment.

The research will be carried under the supervision of Prof. Ann Nowé at the Artificial Intelligence Lab of the Vrije Universiteit Brussels, VUB in Belgium: <https://ai.vub.ac.be>

For more information/questions, contact Johan Loeckx: jloeckx@ai.vub.ac.be or +32 (0) 2 629 35 43.

PROFILE

- The candidate has a PhD degree in Computer Science or Linguistics;
- Programming experience in AI, for example in Python, R or another language;
- Research and/or Industrial experience in natural language processing; knowledge of symbolic techniques is strongly recommended;
- Knowledge of machine learning is a plus;
- Having a good knowledge of English;

Female candidates are particularly encouraged to apply.

OFFER

As an employee of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel your days will be spent in a dynamic, diverse and multilingual environment. Our campus are set within green oases on the outskirts of the centre of the capital of Flanders, Belgium and Europe. This centre, with all its opportunities, is within your reach by public transport in under half an hour.

Depending on your experience and academic merits you will receive a salary on one of the pay scales laid down by the government. Hospitalisation cover and free use of public transport for travel to and from work are standard conditions of employment. If you would rather cycle to work, compensation is also available for that. Both campuses have extensive sporting facilities which are at your disposal and a nursery is within walking distance.

- **Planned starting date:** 01/03/2018 or later
- **Length of contract:** 1 year, extendable to 3 years upon positive evaluation
- **Deadline for application:** 20/02/2018

APPLYING

Applications should be emailed to jloeckx@ai.vub.ac.be and should include:

- a CV;
- a concise motivation letter;
- a copy or picture of your diploma(s).