

PHD-Position: Academic Entrepreneurship and Technology Transfer in (Distributed) Optical Fibre Sensors

Informal and formal enquiries as well as applications should be addressed to Prof. dr. Thomas Crispeels at Thomas.Crispeels@vub.ac.be.

The application must be accompanied by: motivation letter, CV, Transcripts of education records, example of technical writing (e.g., thesis, essay, scientific paper...).

The deadline for application is 6th of January 2017.

Starting date of the contract is 1st April 2017 (to be discussed with candidate).

Job Summary

Candidates with a degree in Management Science/Economics and a background in technology are invited to apply for a job at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, as part of a European-funded project. Within this function, you will:

- Conduct PhD-research on 'Academic Entrepreneurship and Technology Transfer in (Distributed) Optical Fibre Sensors'.
- Disseminate research results through journal publications, conferences and internal reports;
- Co-organize the PhD school on Entrepreneurship in Photonics;
- Participate to FINESSE Network Activities;
- Execute long term secondments at UPVL-Ingenio (3 Months, Valencia, ES), UCambridge-CSTI (3 Months, Cambridge, UK). Short term secondments at other academic institutions are also planned.

A highly competitive and attractive salary is offered, plus mobility and family allowances (if applicable). The successful candidate will be part of FINESSE, a EU-funded Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Network (ITN).

Job Description

As a FINESSE (MSCA-ITN-2016) research fellow (ESR), you conduct your doctoral research on the cross-section of Management Science and Engineering. You will investigate how Academic Entrepreneurs (AE) refine their business concept and orchestrate their resources during the initial stages of the technology transfer (TT) process. You will do this as part of a group of ESRs active in the domain of Optical Fibre Sensor technology development. During your research, you will be guided and supervised by a multidisciplinary team from the management and the engineering faculties. Intensive interaction with other FINESSE research fellows and stakeholders will allow you to construct a unique dataset on European TT processes and projects.

Your research results will allow you to develop methodologies to identify, screen and assess business opportunities in the relevant technology domain and share them with the consortium partners. As such, your findings will act as a catalyst in the Optical Fibre Sensor TT Process, not only for FINESSE but also for the European photonics research community as a whole.

During your time as an ESR, a number of international secondments at top-level research institutes in the domain are planned:

- Long Term Secondments (3 months) at UPVLC-INGENIO, Valencia, Spain; and University Cambridge-CSTI, Cambridge, UK.
- Short Term Secondments (2 weeks), for interdisciplinary work and data collection at Ecole Polytechnique Fédéral de Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland; Leibniz-Institut für Photonische Technologien, Jena, Germany; Universidad de Alcalá, Madrid, Spain; and Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel.

Criteria:

The candidate must have a MSc. in Management or Economics (or equivalent), preferably with majors in Technology (management). Given the multidisciplinary nature of the project, the candidate should have good knowledge and interest in both technology and entrepreneurship. Knowledge on TT and a track record in scientific publications are great assets. Professional proficiency of English is required.

At the time of appointment, candidates must meet the Marie Skłodowska-Curie ESR eligibility criteria (<http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/>):

- Candidates must have had less than four years FTE research experience and must not have already obtained a PhD.
- Candidates must not have resided in the Belgium for more than 12 months in the three years immediately before the appointment.

Benefits

You will receive a contract of employment as a full-time researcher for the relevant period of your appointment, which will include applicable benefits in the host country. The grant and salary, including social security coverage, complies with the Marie Skłodowska-Curie

PhD fellowship scheme for early career researchers as described on the following webpage: ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/about-msca/actions/itn/index_en.htm

This PhD position is part of an Innovative Training Network (ITN) and the ESR to be employed will also benefit from a personal career development plan with targeted training measures and participation in a range of network activities with other FINESSE consortium partners.

You will be subscribed to the doctoral training program of the Doctoral School of Human Sciences at VUB. At VUB, you will have 35 vacation days, a public transport pass (home-to-work) and access to the university's sporting facilities.

Researchers moving to Belgium can take full advantage of the country's high standard of living, international orientation and quality of life: housing, healthcare, cultural life, education and infrastructure are all excellent.

Additional Information

This position is within the framework of ITN FINESSE, which offers challenging and exciting research positions in an international, multidisciplinary research network. All the academic and industrial supervisors in FINESSE network are European, if not global, leaders in their respective fields. You will benefit from opportunities offered by your host employer and the whole FINESSE network, made up of 26 partners representing all the different aspects associated in making distributed in fibre sensing systems from fibre manufacturing, design of interrogation systems to the successful deployment on infrastructures and bringing the systems to market.