

## The Royal Observatory of Belgium seeks a collaborator (F/M/X) for the Time Laboratory

Our reference	Activity group	Recruitment category(ies)	Applications open until
ROBBdHI202510	1. Scientific research and experimental development	SW1	30/1/2026

### Job description

#### Purpose of the position

Maintaining an atomic timescale constitutes one of the tasks of the 'Reference Systems and Planetary Sciences' Operational Directorate of the Royal Observatory of Belgium (ROB), to which the Time Laboratory belongs. This function is part of the production and dissemination of the Belgian legal timescale, UTC(ORB), realized at the Time Laboratory.

The specific purpose of this function is to contribute to the monitoring of the Observatory's Time Laboratory, both for the microwave and optical devices, to ameliorate the operational scripting chain, and to consolidate the database management.

More information on the Time Laboratory can be found on the ROB website.

### Outcome areas

This function supports the outcome areas of the ORB Time Laboratory mainly at the level of operations of scientific and technical infrastructure and software architecture management.

Maintaining a local realization of UTC and contributing to multiple European projects require the health monitoring of the clock data acquisition system and a robust operational scripting chain.

In addition, the Time Department team is also involved in supervising the hardware infrastructure dedicated to distributing time and frequency signals through an optical network. This infrastructure has high cybersecurity needs and requires the elaboration of large scientific databases.

The function holder is expected to fundamentally contribute to these aspects, depending on the task distribution and task rotation within the team.

### Employer

There is one position open in the Time Laboratory at the Royal Observatory of Belgium (address: Ringlaan 3, B1180 Brussels).



The activity group for the position is: I. Scientific research and experimental development

**Time Laboratory:** *The selected candidate will work within the Time Laboratory at ORB, supported by a team of four researchers within the larger Operational Directorate OD1. The selected candidate will work closely with all its Time colleagues.*

**Royal Observatory of Belgium (ROB):** The ROB (<http://www.observatory.be>) is a Belgian Federal institute located in the green outskirts of Brussels (Uccle). The Time Laboratory is included in the operational directorate 'Reference Systems and Planetary Sciences'.

## Skills

### Behavioural skills

- **Exchange, communicate and cooperate:** the successful functioning of the time team is based on effective communication, cooperation and empathy. You embrace this strategy and adopt a constructive attitude of working relationships.
- **Show initiative, achieve results and grow:** You implement solutions to drive continuous improvement. You are committed to development and keep competencies up to date. You take responsibility, show initiative and complete tasks autonomously.
- **You are able to work well both independently and as a team member.**

### Technical skills

- **Software skills:** Fluent management of Python. Knowledge of Bash, Perl and Fortran. Knowledge of database access and visualization tools (InfluxDB, Grafana, ...).
- **Technical skills:** Strong knowledge of version control systems like Git. Basics in networks architecture and interfacing of equipment (SSH, SNMP, SPIE, I2C, ...).
- **You have good knowledge of programming.**

### Assets

- Good knowledge of networks protocol (TCP/IP, LAN, WAN) and cybersecurity
- Any experience in GNSS data analysis and knowledge of time measurement and time transfer, as well as any experience in database management and website maintenance
- Any experience in Timing network protocol (NTP, PTP, White Rabbit, etc.)
- Given the specific nature of the role, a good command of written and spoken English is required. Knowledge of French, Dutch or German is an advantage.



## Conditions for consideration

### Your profile

- You hold a master's degree in informatics/engineering/physics/mathematics, or in an equivalent field

Degree must have been conferred by the closing date for applications

***/!\ Applicants who have a degree or certificate from a foreign institution who apply for a scientific position for which the tasks are not related to the permanent missions of the institution are exempt from the need for an academic equivalence evaluation.***

### Do you wish to apply but your diploma is not in Dutch or French?

We invite you to contact the person listed in the 'Contacts' section (selection procedure) to find out if you need to take a language test: Article 7 - Level 1/A.

If it is deemed necessary, you can register for language exams by clicking on the link: [www.travaillerpour.be/fr/tests-et-certificats/linguistique/inscription](http://www.travaillerpour.be/fr/tests-et-certificats/linguistique/inscription).

## Job offer

### Contract and category

#### Applicant recruited as category SW1

You will be hired under a one-year fixed-term contract on the SW11 salary scale (SW10 if you do not have at least two years of recognised scientific experience). The contract might be renewed in case of mutual satisfaction and budget availability.

### Benefits

We offer you an interesting job with a social impact, which comes with a number of benefits:

- A good work-life balance
  - flexible working hours of 38 per week
  - option of taking compensatory leave for overtime worked
  - offices closed between Christmas and New Year's Day
  - 26 days of paid leave (for a year of full time employment)
  - easy commuting using public transport
- numerous opportunities for self-growth
  - numerous opportunities for training and apprenticeship (during working hours)
- Financial benefits
  - possibility of receiving a bilingualism bonus
  - hospitalisation insurance at reduced rate

- supplementary pension (occupational pension)
- free use of public transport for commuting between your home and the place of work
- meal vouchers
- possibility of receiving a bicycle allowance for travel via bicycle
- Benefits and offers via the Benefits@Work card
- a range of fringe benefits (subject to conditions)

## Conditions for employment

If you are selected through this procedure, you must – in order to be hired – fulfil the following requirements on the date of selection:

- Enjoy full civil and political rights
- Have fulfilled military service requirements
- Behave in a manner fitting of the requirements of the position
- Hold the necessary degree(s)
- Have the necessary skills and fulfil the requirements listed in the job profile

## Procedure

### Step 1 – Verification of the participation conditions

You will be considered in the selection procedure if you fulfil all of the required conditions. Verification will be carried out by the selection board on the basis of the application documents you have submitted. The board will decide whether the qualifications, awards and experiences you have submitted meet the requirements of the position. If they do, you will be invited to continue to the next step of the procedure.

### Step 2 – Interview

The interview will take place online or at the **Royal Observatory of Belgium**. Further details will be sent to you by one of our employees via email.

The selection board assesses whether the qualifications, awards and experience you included in your application documents meet the requirements for the position.

### If you fail to attend

If you fail to attend the additional evaluation and/or interview, you will be automatically excluded from the remainder of the selection procedure unless you provide evidence, within three days, that your absence was justified for one of the following reasons:

- illness
- emergency relating to a member of your household (= anyone who lives with the applicant) or family (= spouse or legal cohabitant of the applicant, parents or grandparents of the applicant)
- mandatory presence at your workplace
- disruption or delay to public transport of at least 30 minutes
- force majeure



If applicable, you may request, within 10 days of the interview date, to be interviewed by the board. A new date will then be offered to you.

## Notification

If you are not selected in a step, the procedure will end, and you will not be invited to any subsequent evaluations in the same selection procedure.

For each step, you will receive a notification of the result.

## Equal opportunities and reasonable accommodations

The Federal Administration has an active diversity policy.

Do you live with a disability, with learning difficulties or an illness? If so, you can request accommodations for the selection procedure. Please contact the individual listed under the "Contact persons" section.

## Facilities provided for people who are pregnant or breastfeeding

Are you pregnant or breastfeeding your child? If so, you can request access to the relevant facilities. Please contact the individual listed under the "Contact persons" section.

## Final result

### What happens if you are selected?

Following the selection procedure, an unranked group of applicants will be placed on a short-list. These applicants will be those deemed most suitable to fill the open position in accordance with the conditions for consideration. The Director General of the institute will hire one person from this list.

### How long will this list remain valid?

A shortlist of selected applicants will be created and will remain valid for one year.

## Apply

**Do you want to apply?** Send your application documents by email to Dr Pascale Defraigne ([p.defraigne@oma.be](mailto:p.defraigne@oma.be)) and [dir-rob@oma.be](mailto:dir-rob@oma.be) including the selection reference in the subject line.

Your application documents must include:

- an updated CV
- a cover letter
- the names and contact details of two persons that can recommend your application are an asset

**The closing date for sending your application is 30/1/2026 (inclusive).**

Applications that do not follow the indicated procedure will not be considered.



## Contact persons

### **Concerning the position:**

For more information about the position, please contact:

*Dr Pascale Defraigne, Time, head of the Time Laboratory, 02 3730260, [p.defraigne@oma.be](mailto:p.defraigne@oma.be)*

### **Concerning the selection procedure:**

For more information about the selection procedure, please contact:

*Dr Ronald Van der Linden, Director General, 02 373 0211, [dir-rob@oma.be](mailto:dir-rob@oma.be)*

If you want to request a reasonable accommodation for the selection procedure or access to facilities for people who are pregnant or breastfeeding, please also contact this person.