



## Joint position in Gravitational Wave Physics

# The Royal Observatory of Belgium and UCLouvain are looking for A researcher in gravitational wave physics (50% Royal Observatory of Belgium and 50% UCLouvain)

### About us

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The Royal Observatory of Belgium (ROB) is a federal research institute (200 staff) located in the leafy suburbs of Brussels, working under the aegis of Belgian federal science policy. Its main areas of research are solar physics, astronomy and astrophysics, geophysics and reference systems. The Royal Observatory of Belgium is involved in several research areas that are directly linked or in strong synergy with the experimental physics of gravitational waves.

The ROB maintains a time and frequency laboratory, with atomic clocks contributing to the international reference UTC (Coordinated Universal Time).

In this field, the Time and Frequency Section also conducts tests of fundamental physics, including the general relativity theory, made possible thanks to the extreme precision and stability of atomic clocks.

The position is open to both UCLouvain and the Royal Observatory of Belgium: it is a 50% academic position at UCLouvain and a 50% scientific position at the Royal Observatory of Belgium. The person recruited must hold both positions; the expected activities will be carried out on the sites of both partners, at the level of 50% on each of them. This joint position, which involves strong interaction between the two institutions, is planned for a period of 10 years. At the end of this period, UCLouvain will take on the successful candidate on a full-time basis within its academic framework.

UCLouvain is one of the world's top 1% universities. A comprehensive university located in the heart of Europe since 1425, it brings together 33,000 students and 6,000 members of staff on 8 campuses in Brussels and Wallonia. At UCLouvain, research and teaching are organised into 14 faculties, 22 research institutes, 5 learning centres and 18 libraries. It also has two university clinics.

## Post description

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**At UCLouvain**, within the Faculty of Science and the Institute of Research in Mathematics and Physics, (Science and Technology Sector), position duties include teaching, research, and community service activities. Within the Royal Observatory of Belgium position duties include research activities only.

**At the Royal Observatory of Belgium**, the position only includes research activities that will be carried out within the Section Time and Frequency, in the Department Reference Systems and Planetology.

You will develop your research activities, including research programme management, in the field of gravitational wave physics, in which UCLouvain is already involved, and linked research areas of interest for the Royal Observatory of Belgium. In this context you are expected to contribute to the exploitation of the existing gravitational wave detectors LIGO-Virgo-KAGRA and/or to the preparation of future facilities such as Einstein Telescope, LISA and LGWA.

## Who we're looking for

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► Education

You have a PhD in Physics or a comparable field. You have completed it with an extended study period abroad or significant experience outside your home institution.

► Experience

You have a proven track record in university teaching, evidenced where possible by formal evaluations. Your scientific experience is demonstrated by publications of international standing.

► Skills

You work well as part of a team of teachers and integrate research results into your teaching. You are capable of conducting high-level scientific research, from obtaining funding to team management. You are creative, open to pedagogical innovation and multidisciplinary.

You communicate in French and English. If this is not the case, you undertake to acquire a command of these two languages within two years of taking up your position. Knowledge of other languages is an asset.

You are able to communicate (oral and written) in English. Knowledge of French and/or Dutch

is an asset.

If the master's and/or PhD degree were awarded outside of Belgium, the Netherlands and the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg, a certificate to demonstrate the diploma equivalence will be needed during the procedure of the contract elaboration (see [https://www.belgium.be/en/education/equivalence\\_of\\_diplomas](https://www.belgium.be/en/education/equivalence_of_diplomas)).

## What we offer

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### **At UCLouvain:**

- ▶ Tenure after positive assessment of the probationary period – typically four years. This type of career entitles you to a public sector pension.
- ▶ Appointment as lecturer or professor according to your previous academic experience, as determined by the Rectoral Council.
- ▶ Teaching load capped at 90 hours for a full-time tenure-track position, and 150 hours once tenured. Attractive and progressive remuneration according to seniority and the promotion process.
- ▶ A start date of 1 September 2024 at the earliest.
- ▶ An integrated leadership and management training programme and a range of pedagogical, linguistic and other training courses.
- ▶ Benefits: transport, family, culture, commercial, etc.
- ▶ Official policy that supports equal opportunities and promotes diversity within academic and all other staff categories of staff (lien).
- ▶ Specific emphasis on work-life balance.



**At the Royal Observatory of Belgium:**

- ▶ A half-time research contract, with remuneration in the SW2 scale, depending on your scientific seniority;
- ▶ A start date of 1 September 2024 at the earliest;
- ▶ Various benefits: transport, family, culture, etc.;
- ▶ A green working environment, with the possibility of teleworking and flexible working hours.

### Interested?

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To be valid, your application must reach both partner institutions **before 13 November 2023**:

**For UCLouvain**, please only apply via the Success Factors recruitment tool (<https://jobs.uclouvain.be/PersonnelAcademique/job/Joint-Academic-position-in-Gravitational-Wave-Physics/977831801/>).

**For the Royal Observatory of Belgium**, please send your application by email to [p.defraigne@oma.be](mailto:p.defraigne@oma.be) with a copy to [hrrrob@oma.be](mailto:hrrrob@oma.be).

To be admissible, your application must contain, in a single pdf file:

- motivation letter;
- detailed curriculum vitae;
- full publication list and summary of three most significant recent publications;
- research strategy: your five-year research programme **AND** a PhD thesis proposal for hiring a PhD student;
- teaching programme;
- copy of PhD diploma;
- names and contact details of three to five persons who can recommend your application according to the mandatory current procedure.



## Need more information?

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Questions about the **position at UCLouvain**?

Prof. Pascal Lambrechts, Dean SC– [doyen-sc@uclouvain.be](mailto:doyen-sc@uclouvain.be)

Prof. Marino Gran, President IRMP– [president-irmp@uclouvain.be](mailto:president-irmp@uclouvain.be)

Questions about **working at the Royal Observatory of Belgium**?

Mrs Pascale Defraigne - [p.defraigne@oma.be](mailto:p.defraigne@oma.be)

Questions about the **procedure**?

Cécile Lion, Rector's Office, [cecile.lion@uclouvain.be](mailto:cecile.lion@uclouvain.be)

Questions about **online application**? (Success Factors) Andreea Chiriac, Rector's Office, [secretariat-vrpp@uclouvain.be](mailto:secretariat-vrpp@uclouvain.be)