

Communication and Information Services officer

Profile

We are looking for a motivated employee for the Communication and Information Service of the Royal Observatory of Belgium (ROB, <https://www.astro.oma.be/nl/informatie/wetenschappelijke-inlichtingen/>). Initially, you will be engaged to organise and promote the wide range of activities planned in the context of the ROB's 200th anniversary and the 50th anniversary of our Planetarium, both of which fall in 2026. Afterwards, you will become a Dutch-speaking staff member on the service.

We are looking for a colleague with an interest in science who can approach communication initiatives creatively and innovatively to reach a wide range of target audiences. As a member of the service, you will be our link to the outside world, answering questions from the public, the press and the authorities. Furthermore, you actively seek out news within the institution by liaising with the various departments. You are involved in our many outreach activities and form an important bridge between the ROB (at the Uccle site) and the Planetarium (at the Heysel).

Duties:

- You actively participate in the communication and publicity of the institution's activities.
- You follow up on contemporary and social media and use them for the institution's objectives.
- You keep abreast of current developments in the observatory's research areas.
- You develop modern media such as podcasts and think along about the application of new technologies.
- You organise the interactive and dynamic flow of information and communication, both internally and externally.
- You manage the various communication channels thus shaping the institution's image.
- You draft texts and prepare them for publication through various channels. You provide support in the organisation and coordination of fairs or events.
- You carry out the editing of newsletters, annual reports, brochures and other publications.
- The position involves occasional weekend or evening work. Sometimes these activities will also take place on location (in Belgium).

Required expertise:

- You have a scientific background (at least Master's level) with a clear interest in communication.
- You have demonstrable experience in scientific research in one of the fields in which ROB is active.
- You have relevant experience in managing communication projects.

Not required, but an asset/desirable expertise:

- Experience in developing, editing and producing multimedia such as video, photo and sound.
- You have proven experience in writing diverse (scientific and popular) content.
- You can come up with creative and innovative solutions.
- You have a good knowledge of French and English. ROB is an international working environment where English is the working language among scientists. As a federal institution, we always communicate to the outside world in French and Dutch.
- Experience in a multilingual and multicultural environment.

About the ROB:

The Royal Observatory of Belgium (ROB, see <https://www.astro.oma.be/>) was founded in 1826, before Belgium's independence. It is a Federal Scientific Institution (FWI) that is part of the Federal Science Policy (Belspo). Researchers at the ROB study planet Earth, the sun and other objects in the near and distant universe, with a strong focus on space missions. ROB's scientific disciplines include astronomy, planetology, geophysics, seismology, space geodesy and solar physics. To this end, the ROB collaborates with numerous international centres. The Planetarium of the Royal Observatory of Belgium is a leading scientific public institution, welcoming both schools and the general public. The Planetarium houses the educational service of the Observatory and offers lessons and educational performances on astronomy and space travel.

We offer the opportunity to add real value to our organisation's communication at a competitive salary according to the federal government's salary scales for scientific staff. We also offer flexible working conditions (possibility to work from home up to 3 days a week) and additional benefits such as free commuting and/or bicycle allowance.

This is a full-time position in the SW1 category. To get a salary estimate, a simulator is available at <https://salsim.fedweb.belgium.be/mod2-q1.php>. The contract is initially for one year, renewable based on mutual satisfaction. The selected candidate will be recruited in activity group II (science services).

How to apply:

Send your CV and an accompanying cover letter to René Oudmaijer (r.oudmaijer@oma.be) and dir-rob@oma.be. Candidates can contact René Oudmaijer for more information. Applications are welcome until November 8, 2024.