

The Humanities and Social Sciences Group; Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences; Research Group on Health Psychology are looking for:

Assistant/Research assistant (f/m) - ABV2010139

Our offer

We offer an employment as full-time assistant or research assistant (PhD student), starting 2010, October 1st for 4 or 6 years, depending of the contract.

The Leuven Research Group on Health Psychology aims at unraveling how psychological and somatic variables interact in health and disease from a biopsychosocial perspective. We conduct both, fundamental and applied research to understand how interoceptive sensations are psycho(physio)logically processed and how cognitive, emotional and learning processes contribute to the initiation and maintenance of chronic somatic symptoms, illness and disability. Key words characterizing our group are chronic pain, pain-related fear, dyspnea, respiratory psychophysiology, and symptom perception. The prevailing research paradigm is the controlled experiment. Measurements often include both, self-reports and psychophysiological responses, sometimes in combination with behavioral data.

Collaborative, interdisciplinary research is performed in a network of experienced researchers, clinicians and students who are fascinated by the behavioural science of health and disease. The ultimate goal is to apply the gathered knowledge in the assessment and early identification of people at risk, and in the development of customized cognitive-behavioral interventions in the pursuit of prevention and treatment of chronic somatic complaints.

Your opportunities

You will do research allowing you to obtaining a PhD in the domain of Health Psychology.

You will, when appointed in an AAP-contract, devote approximately 2/3 of your time to research (run experimental studies in humans (mostly healthy persons), to analyze data, and to the scientific reporting of the findings. Possible research themes include (1) the modulating role of breathing behavior in pain, (2) breathing and relaxation, or (3) conditioning of relaxation responses. These research activities will aim at obtaining a PhD). The remaining 1/3 will be devoted to teaching activities. When appointed in an FLOF-statute you will devote 1/9 of your time to teaching and supervising and the rest to research.

Your profile

- You obtained/will obtain a Master's Degree in (preferably) Psychological, Biological or (Bio) medical Sciences before 01/10/2010 (other backgrounds are not a priori excluded)
- You have a strong interest in the psychophysiology of stress and relaxation, in in pain, and/or in conditioning. Working in these disciplines also requires an excellent data-analytic basis.
- You possess excellent communicative skills in English (both verbally and academic writing)

Interested?

Please visit <http://www.kuleuven.be/vacatures> and apply online.

For more information about the job description, please contact Prof. Dr. I. Van Diest, Ilse.VanDiest@psy.kuleuven.be, phone: +32 16 326029

Applications must be received no later than 14/07/2010.

K.U.Leuven carries out an equal opportunity and diversity policy.