FULL-TIME ACADEMIC POSITION IN GLACIOLOGY

FACULTY OF SCIENCES

Reference : 2019/A004
Start date: 01/10/2019

Job description

The Department ‘Geosciences, Environment & Society’ (DGES) of the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB) invites applications for a full-time faculty position in experimental glaciology starting October 1st, 2019. The applicant must hold a PhD degree in Geosciences (or affiliated) and show an excellent scientific track-record. The vacant position is intended for candidates with a well-established expertise in experimental glaciology (ice core, sea ice, permafrost). It is expected that the successful candidate will develop a cutting-edge, innovative and interdisciplinary research in this field. The applicant shall show strong motivation and abilities with respect to teaching and mentoring.

The scientist will contribute to the teaching programme in Earth and Environmental Science and complement the research conducted in the newly founded Institute of Geoscience consisting of 3 research units. It is expected that the successful candidate will broaden the research expertise of the Laboratoire de Glaciologie and strengthen collaborations with the other research groups within the department.

The successful candidate will be invited to apply for a grant from the European Research Council (ERC) and for any sources of outside funding (FNRS, Europe, Regional funds, etc…), to develop his/her research. The ULB Research Department will assist with applications.

Area of Research:
Physical and chemical properties of ice (ice core, sea ice, permafrost).

Educational and scientific goals:
Research within the Laboratoire de Glaciologie aims at a better understanding of initial and boundary conditions of large ice masses (continental or marine), together with a comprehensive approach of the processes governing their interactions with the climate, more specifically in the framework of the potential impact of mankind on future climate at a global scale. This is currently done through ice sheet and glacier modelling, ice-core analysis and field studies. In the experimental field, the Laboratoire de Glaciologie has a long-standing experience in studying the physical and chemical properties of ice, especially at its interface with atmosphere, ocean and bedrock and intensely developed analytical techniques for the multi-parametric study of ice rich in solid or liquid impurities: texture and fabric, stable oxygen and hydrogen isotopes, total gas content and gas composition, bulk salinity, chemistry, etc. The laboratory is equipped with two cold rooms and analytical devices to serve this purpose and the candidate will be responsible for
maintaining and further developing these analytical devices. A full-time technician is present to assist in sample preparation and chemical analyses, and to keep the lab in good conditions.

The department would like to continue the development of such a strong interdisciplinary research focused on experimental glaciology and ice-core analysis. More specifically, we seek candidates who have developed a research of international stature in the field of ice analysis (ice core, sea ice, permafrost) to continue the tradition of excellence of ULB in this area. Quantitative analysis and experience in modelling is considered an added value to intensify the collaboration with the modelling group within the Laboratoire de Glaciologie.

The selected candidate will take part in teaching activities in the Bachelor and Master programs by ensuring both basic courses in Earth and Environmental Sciences. The candidate will contribute to excursions in glaciology in the bachelor of geography (Earth sciences) and courses on paleoclimatology and climate change in the Master of Environmental sciences. The candidate will be partly assisted for practical coursework by a teaching assistant. He/she should progressively increase his/her teaching activities to reach a level comparable to that of colleagues within the Faculty (about 120 hours/year). For candidates not fluent in French, a temporary period of teaching in English may be granted for 3 years.

Courses covered at the time of recruitment:

Bachelor level (second/third year): Excursion in glaciology (2019-20; 5 days)
Master level: Earth system and its interactions (2019-20; 24 hours) and Paleoclimatology (2019-20; 24 hours).

Qualifications required:

PhD Degree (with doctoral thesis) in Environmental Science.

Skills required:

- Applicants should have at least 4 years of research experience at the time of their recruitment.
- Post-doctoral experience and an excellent scientific record are a plus.
- Exchange periods outside of the applicants’ home institution (during or after their PhD) will be taken into consideration when evaluating applications.
- Applicants who do not speak French (level C1) may be granted a period of adaptation, but they must be able to teach in French at the end of the third year following their appointment.

Interested?

For more information, please contact Professor Vinciane Debaille, chair of the selection committee (telephone: +32 2 650.22.71 – E-mail: vdebaill@ulb.ac.be).

Applications must be sent by e-mail to the rectorate of the Université Libre de Bruxelles (recteur@ulb.ac.be) and to the faculty deanship (annick.gerlache@ulb.ac.be).

They must include the following:
- an application letter
- a Curriculum vitae including a list of publications (a template can be downloaded at http://www.ulb.ac.be/tools/CV-type.rtf)
- any relevant documents showing 4 years of research experience
- a 7,000-character report (4 pages) presenting the applicant’s research activities and a research project, including how these will integrate into ULB’s research teams
- a teaching dossier including a 7,000-character report (4 pages) on the applicant’s previous teaching activities and a teaching project for the first five years in this position; these must be relevant to the faculty and to the teaching profiles for the programmes to which the applicant is to contribute
- a note on the applicant’s international achievements and projects (no more than 4 pages)
- the names and e-mail addresses of five referees (respecting the gender balance) who may be contacted by those in charge of evaluating applications. These referees should not have conflicts of interest because of family or emotional ties.

The appointment to the academic staff of ULB is made at “Premier Assistant” level, if the candidate has had a PhD for less than eight years (on 1 October of the year of appointment). If the candidate has had a PhD for eight or more years, on 1 October of the year of appointment, then the appointment is made at “Chargé de Cours” level. As of their appointment, members of academic staff are authorised to use the honorary title of “Professeur”.

By sending in their application, applicants acknowledge they have read and understood the additional information and the regulations relevant to research staff, available at the following address http://www.ulb.ac.be/emploi/academique.html.