

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: PHD POSITION ON

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE APPLICATIONS IN PRIVATE LAW

FOCUSING ON THEORIES OF LEGAL ARGUMENTATION, AUTOMATED DECISION-MAKING SYSTEMS AND MACHINE LEARNING

The multidisciplinary Research Group on Law, Science, Technology & Society (LSTS) at the Faculty of Law and Criminology at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), established in 2003, has become a prominent European research institute in the area of technology and regulation. The team is led, both administratively and academically, by Prof. Dr. Mireille Hildebrandt and Prof. Dr. Gloria González Fuster. The staff comprises around 50 researchers: professors as well as senior and post-doctoral-, doctoral- and associated researchers. Research staff at the VUB-LSTS have background in a number of areas, including law, ethics, philosophy, political science, sociology, criminology and others. Great emphasis is placed on incorporating a multidisciplinary perspective in all their work.

LSTS is looking for a motivated researcher who will focus on the application of the Artificial Intelligence in private law.

As part of his or her duties, the candidate, will be working on different research projects co-funded by the European Union and concerning the private international law, the use of technology and artificial intelligence and their implementation at both national and international levels.

In particular, the researcher is expected to:

- gather data through questionnaires and interviews;
- compare EU Regulations and their applications, by the analysis of regional system and contribute to the development of guidelines;
- research and discuss other aspects related to Artificial Intelligence, in particular Online Dispute Resolution, and EU Private International Law
- research and discuss other aspect related to and Artificial Intelligence, EU Private International Law and EU Civil Procedural Law.
- provide legal advice to project partners

While working on the project, the researcher is expected to develop a proposal for a doctoral thesis (PhD). In addition, the researcher will have the opportunity to take an active role in LSTS contributing to its research agenda, attending and presenting in seminars, assisting in organizing conferences and workshops, and helping the Centre in competing in national and European funding opportunities.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Candidates are expected to possess the following qualifications:

- a joint master's degree in computer science and law, preferably with the proved expertise in the area of artificial intelligence and law, awarded by the deadline for applications;
- relevant working experience (includes internships and traineeships); acquaintance with EU Horizon 2020 projects is welcome but not required;
- good writing skills (published papers are appreciated)
- demonstrate enthusiasm by contributing to ongoing research activities and attracting external funding for research projects;
- fluency in English, and the ability to conduct research in at least one other language;
- excellent organisational and communicative skills;
- the ability to work independently, under pressure, respect deadlines, and produce quality work.

Interdisciplinary experience (for example, in an area such as law and economics or computer science) would be an added bonus.

A FEW SKILLS REQUIRED

The researcher is expected to:

- Develop an original PhD thesis on topics related to the Artificial Intelligence application in private law;
- Coordinate and manage the execution and implementation of LSTS projects and activities
- Participate in international seminars and conferences;
- Publish in peer reviewed journals;
- Draft project proposals for external funding in collaboration with other researchers;
- Contribute to the existing research activities of LSTS;
- Represent LSTS at third party events.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

The successful candidate will be integrated in a dynamic team, composed of both experienced and early career researchers, working under the guidance of Prof. Paul De Hert and Dr. Marco Giacalone. The candidate will collaborate closely with the other members of LSTS and will have access to doctoral training offered by the VUB, as well as to all facilities of the university. Successful candidates are expected to work at the VUB premises in Brussels. Office space and equipment will be provided along with a budget for travelling and other research-related expenses.

We offer employment as a full-time doctoral researcher. The PhD degree will be awarded in law. For more information about facilities and benefits of employment at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, please visit <http://www.vub.ac.be> under the heading 'future employees'.

Contract: full-time research grant for one year, renewable on an annual basis for a maximum of four years. Extension of the contract is subject to the agreement of the doctoral committee. Remuneration is at the level of a full-time research assistant at a Flemish university (i.e. approximately €1900 net per month) and includes contributions for social security. Secondary employment is not allowed.

APPLICATION

The candidate will be selected on the basis of the quality of the application, expertise, work experience and qualifications. The following application documents are to be consolidated into a single PDF file sent by email to marco.giacalone@vub.be.

Applications (in English) should include the following:

- a curriculum vitae;
- a cover letter which explains the motivation and qualifications of the candidate;
- two recent works: essay or excerpt from recent research or article written by the candidate;
- a letter of recommendation.

Deadline for the submission of applications is 31 July 2020, 12:00 CET. It is currently envisioned that the successful candidate will be notified by the end of August 2020 and the position will start on 1 October 2020 (the start date is subject to change).

If you are interested in learning more about the project on which you will be working, its content, team, consortium, or about working as researcher at LSTS, please visit the LSTS [website](#) or send us an email.