

PhD student position in Operations Research – Ghent University

Application deadline: April 11th 2022

Topic: Increasing fairness and welfare in allocation problems.

Supervisor: prof. Dries Goossens

Starting date: September 2022

We are looking for a full-time PhD student to do research in the field of Operations Research under the supervision of prof. Dries Goossens, at the Department of Business Informatics and Operations Management (Faculty of Economics and Business Administration) of Ghent University. We offer a fully funded position for a period of 4 years (upon yearly positive evaluation); this work should lead to a PhD degree. He/she will find a dynamic and pleasant working environment, in a group that is actively involved in scientific research at the highest international level.

The PhD researcher will work primarily on (resource) assignment/allocation problems, and focus on fairness and welfare issues. Deciding how indivisible units of a scarce resource should be assigned to people is a common problem in our society. We can make a distinction between settings where it is inappropriate to use monetary transfers to settle this, and settings where a payment is used to acquire the resource or compensate those who get nothing. Examples of the former are assigning students to schools, deciding which patients can receive an organ transplant, allocating internships, exchange destinations, or campus housing to students, assigning work rosters to staff or playing schedules to sports teams. In the latter set of problems, an auction or an exchange can be organized. The objective is to publish excellent research papers on this topic, but at the same time, to have practical relevance and/or an impact on society. Students that are currently in the final year of their Masters are especially encouraged to apply.

For this position, we are looking for someone with the following characteristics and assets:

- A completed Master's degree (MA or MSc) in a relevant field of study (e.g., business engineering, industrial engineering, mathematics, informatics, engineering, computer science). Good study results throughout the entire educational trajectory are an important asset.
- A strong interest in scientific research in general, and optimization in particular, combined with a flexible and creative mindset.
- Strong analytic skills and experience with programming.
- Clear scientific and communicative skills (e.g., critical thinking, scientific writing, presentation skills, project management, methodological skills).
- A profound knowledge of the English language is a prerequisite, as the successful candidate will have to present during international conferences and publish in international scientific journals. Knowledge of Dutch is an asset, but not a requirement.
- Ability to work independently (yet with guidance and mentoring) on subprojects.
- A responsible personality who values ethics, both in social contacts as well in relation to scientific research.

- Motivation to assist in teaching support (e.g. guiding master thesis, supporting case studies and exam grading).

What do we offer?

- A fulltime PhD position of maximum four years (upon successful yearly evaluations).
- An interesting and diverse job.
- A correct and beneficial salary (conform the official university scales). [Click here for more information about our salary scales.](#)
- The possibility to contribute to societally relevant research, with flexibility for a personal approach, and possible collaborations with industry/practice.
- Numerous opportunities for personal growth, illustrated by e.g., conference participation, “doctoral schools” courses on transferable skills, participation in educational initiatives, and publication opportunities.
- A social, tolerant, and constructive working environment that offers many and diverse opportunities for personal development.

More information: Prof. Dries Goossens (dries.goossens@ugent.be).

Interested? Please apply before April 11th 2022, by means of sending an email to dries.goossens@ugent.be, including your resume, a motivation letter, a copy of your degree and study results.