

Match of the vacancy within the Strategic Goals of the Department

Global Strategic Goals of the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture at Ghent University

New members of the Professorial Staff (i.e. Assistant Professors, Associate Professors, Full Professors and Senior Full Professors) are expected to develop (research) activities aimed at engineering applications or architecture and to join, as far as is possible, existing research groups rather than to separately create (very) small new and isolated research groups.

The research activities within the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture are only partially realized by employees that are funded directly by the government (Professorial Staff, Assisting Academic Personnel, and Administrative & Technical Personnel) or through research funds provided by the university itself. Indeed, a considerable share of research activities within the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture is realized by researchers that are funded through external national/Flemish or international resources (e.g., FWO-Flanders/Research Foundation-Flanders, VLAIO-Flanders/Flanders Innovation & Entrepreneurship, EU, contract research in cooperation with companies). While the latter concerns external funding, the research activities are in fact managed by internal Professorial Staff members that succeed in acquiring external funding based on their expertise and experience.

If the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture wants to safeguard its competitive position (internationally and nationally), it will continuously have to succeed in acquiring the necessary external funding. It is therefore the Faculty's strategy to preferably create vacancies in domains in which chances are high that such external funding can be acquired. This aspect is explicitly considered during the appointment procedure of Professorial Staff members within the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture.

Strategic Goals of the Department - match with the vacancy

IDLab performs fundamental and applied research on internet technologies and data science. Major research areas are machine learning and data mining; semantic intelligence; distributed intelligence for IoT; cloud and big data infrastructures; multimedia processing; wireless and fixed networking; electromagnetics, RF and high-speed circuits and systems. IDLab has a unique research infrastructure used in numerous national and international collaborations.

IDLab collaborates with many universities and research centers worldwide and jointly develops advanced technologies with industry (R&D centers from international companies, Flanders' top innovating large companies and SMEs, as well as numerous high-tech start-ups). IDLab is a core research group of imec and a large part of IDLab's research activities are embedded in Ghent University. IDLab has about 350 members and teaches a wide variety of courses. More information on IDLab's activities can be found on <https://idlab.ugent.be> and <https://idlab.technology>.

The current part-time (10%) position is intended to strengthen the activities of the Knowledge on Web Scale (KNoWS) group within IDLab, which investigates how data can be published, exchanged, and queried across decentralized environments. The position focuses on advancing original research and its effective application within use cases to enable trustworthy, efficient, and policy-aware data exchange. This involves exploring the interplay between interfaces, requests, and real-world constraints, and translating these insights into infrastructures that scale beyond isolated datasets and organizations. Candidates should demonstrate an ambitious vision, a strong international track record in Web and data technologies, and the ability to align a team and external stakeholders around innovative use cases that turn conceptual breakthroughs into practice.

Every Assistant or Associate Professor must join the current IDLab research domains and they are expected to supervise PhD researchers and to coordinate/manage research projects. Besides this, they will be given (limited) teaching tasks as well. Consequently, new Assistant or Associate Professors not only have to be very good researchers or research managers; they also have to possess the necessary didactic, organizational and communicative skills for teaching at an academic level. As IDLab is one of imec's core research groups, the present vacancy is also intended to strengthen IDLab's position by leveraging the long-term research into industrial collaboration projects within imec.