

Call for applications: one year postdoctoral 'Solidarity Fellowship' for researchers at risk

The **Université libre de Bruxelles** has created a Solidarity Fund in order to provide support for researchers who no longer have the freedom to pursue their research in their home country, where they are threatened due to the content of their scientific work or to the opinions they have freely expressed.

The Solidarity Fund will offer postdoctoral fellowships to enable threatened academics to continue their work at ULB in a climate of academic freedom.

Conditions

The solidarity fellowship consists in a **one-year** (12 months) **postdoctoral position**, amounting to 43,000 euros gross (28,000 euros net), plus a relocation allowance of 5,000 euros net (payable after arrival in Belgium should the researcher have to move from another country).

The recipients will carry out research in a ULB laboratory, supervised by a member of the University's academic staff. They may, if they so wish, take part in teaching activities or any other scientific activities organised on campus.

To be eligible for the position, applicants must:

- hold a PhD and occupy (or have occupied) a full time position in a university in their home country;
- be currently at risk in their home country due to the content of their work or to the ideas they have openly expressed;
- not have resided or carried out their main activity in Belgium (work, studies etc.) for more than 24 months during the 3 years immediately preceding the fellowship start date (mobility rule);
- not have obtained their PhD more than 8 years before the fellowship start date;
- hold a valid passport/travel document and be able to travel to Belgium;
- have a good knowledge of English or French.

Researchers who have been identified as persons at risk by **Scholars at Risk** or the **Scholar Rescue Fund** will be given priority.

Applications (in English or French) must be supported by a member of ULB's academic staff and must include:

- a confidential application letter describing the researcher's situation (the letter must clearly mention the applicant's administrative situation, whether it is possible for him/her to travel and his/her current location);
- the applicant's CV, including a list of publications;
- a brief description of the research project that the applicant will work on at ULB;
- a letter of acceptance from a member of ULB academic staff confirming that the candidate, if successful, will be welcome in their group and be offered the appropriate scientific environment;
- a copy of the applicant's PhD diploma;
- a copy of the applicant's passport;
- two reference letters from scientists working in the same field, including, if possible, one from their PhD supervisor, plus any other document deemed useful to support the application.
- Proof of affiliation to Scholars at Risk or the Scholar Rescue Fund (if applicable).

All documents will be handled with the utmost confidentiality by the selection committee.

Calendar

- 30 April 2017: application deadline
- Mid June 2017: meeting of selection committee
- 30 June 2017: notification by the selection committee
- 1-30 September 2017: fellowship start date

Procedure

Applications should be sent to solidarityfund@ulb.ac.be