



CALL FOR A 4-YEAR DOCTORAL RESEARCHER AT THE ACTE RESEARCH CENTER, AT THE ULB  
NEUROSCIENCE INSTITUTE  
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

**Belgian Language in Autism Cohort : Sleep & Language Acquisition**

**PROJECT** – Sleep plays an active role in language learning by promoting, inter alia, lexical consolidation and integration. In ASD, sleep disturbances, including atypically short sleep time and irregular sleep-wake rhythms, are atypically frequent and likely to persist across time. This project aims at investigating whether early sleep phenotyping in ASD will predict distinct profiles of language development. To do so, EEG and actigraphic measures will be taken in a large sample of 3- to 7-year-old autistic children, using a longitudinal approach. This project is funded by an [EOS](#) grant.

**JOB DESCRIPTION** – The successful candidate will be awarded a four-year PhD grant at the ACTE lab (<https://acte.ulb.be>) at the Université libre de Bruxelles. S/he will be writing a PhD dissertation under the supervision of **Prof. Gaétane Deliens** on the association between sleep-wake consolidation and language growth in autistic children. This PhD dissertation is part of **Belgian Language in Autism Cohort**, a large multicentric and multilingual longitudinal project on the linguistic trajectories in autism, led by [ACTE](#), at Université libre de Bruxelles, [LAURES](#), at KU Leuven, and [RIDD](#), at Gent University. The successful candidate's main tasks will be to set up the experimental paradigms in light of the most recent advances in the field, contribute to data collection, analyze and interpret the data, and draft the papers. All PhD students working within the project will have the opportunity to receive training in all the experimental tools used in the project (such as the administration of standardized cognitive, linguistic and autism-specific psychometric tools and questionnaires, EEG or measures of statistical learning), and to spend time in the other labs involved in the project. The monthly net salary is expected to be around 2100 € the first two years, and 2170 € the third and the fourth years.

**CANDIDATE** – Eligible applicants are currently enrolled in, or hold, a master's degree in Psychology, Speech therapy, Neuroscience or Cognitive Sciences (no later than August 1st 2022). They show an excellent academic track and are willing to pursue a PhD. They will be native or native-like French speaker and will demonstrate excellent mastery of academic English. They will be prepared to collect data across Belgium with flexible working hours. Prior experience with electroencephalography (EEG), actimetry and other sleep measures or in autism or other neuro-developmental conditions, is particularly appreciated. Driving license, knowledge of Dutch, experience in quantitative data analysis and programming skills (Matlab, Python, or R) are a plus.

**Application** – The applications will be assessed on a rolling base until the position is filled, but no later than **August 10, 2022**. The application file should consist in a single pdf document, combining the following:

- A one-page motivation letter;
- The names and the contact details of two referees who can be contacted during the selection process;
- A CV;
- A copy of the relevant diplomas and grade records;
- A recent sample of academic writing in English or in French (e.g., articles or working papers, chapter of Master thesis).

Applications and inquiries about this position should be sent to [Gaetane.Deliens@ulb.be](mailto:Gaetane.Deliens@ulb.be) with the following object: *EOS PhD application - Sleep*. We specifically encourage applications from candidates who are neuro-diverse, disabled or come from ethnic groups underrepresented in academia. Ideal start date is October 1, 2022.