

Tenure-track professor of Applied Linguistics with a focus on English (Faculty of Arts, KU Leuven)

Ref. ZAP-2024-136

The Linguistics Research Unit of the Faculty of Arts at KU Leuven is seeking a full-time (tenure-track) professor (ZAP) in the field of Applied Linguistics with a focus on English. The professorship will commence on 1 September 2025.

KU Leuven is the largest university in Belgium and is consistently ranked within the top 10 universities in Europe. The University belongs to the League of European Research Universities (LERU). At the Faculty of Arts, research is conducted in the fields of archaeology, art history, musicology, history, linguistics, literary and cultural studies, Arabic and Islamic studies, Japanese studies, Chinese studies, and translation and interpretation studies. The Faculty employs over 800 junior and senior researchers, and teaches around 4,500 students in various study programmes at its campuses in Antwerp, Brussels, Kortrijk and Leuven. The Faculty strives to be an open and inclusive environment, with a focus on dialogue, social safety, sustainability and a healthy work-life balance.

We are looking for a passionate teacher and researcher to join the staff of the Department (Research Unit) of Linguistics. This research unit, which comprises 50 senior and 100 junior researchers, has a strong international reputation in synchronic and diachronic linguistic research on a wide range of languages through quantitative and qualitative methods. The research unit is active within the Leuven Interdisciplinary Language Institute, founded in 2024. The members of the research unit on the Leuven campus have teaching duties primarily in the Bachelor's and Master's programmes in Language and Literature and in the Master's programme in Linguistics.

Duties

Research

You are a motivated, internationally-oriented researcher in the field of Applied Linguistics, with an emphasis on English and one of the following two disciplines: (1) multilingualism and language acquisition, or (2) multilingual communication. Your research enhances the profile of the Linguistics Research Group.

You strive for excellence in your academic research and develop your own research plan. You publish at the highest academic level, initiate national and international collaborations and help promote and develop such collaborations.

You succeed in securing competitive funding and attracting and supervising PhD students. The Faculty will help you find suitable funding opportunities and provide advice on applications. The Faculty attaches great importance to qualitative and correct supervision of PhD students.

You focus on science communication and contribute to public debate whenever possible.

Teaching

You provide high-quality teaching in the bachelor's and master's programme(s) Applied language studies and Multilingual communication and are committed to the quality of the study programmes as a whole. These are Dutch-medium programmes, with language-specific courses taught in the target language. You develop your teaching activities in line with the teaching philosophy of KU Leuven based on activating, research-based teaching and you use the opportunities provided by the Faculty and the University to further your teaching (for more information: www.kuleuven.be/english/education/education-at-ku-leuven).

Your teaching assignment comprises 21 to 24 credits and includes the following or similar courses:

In the Bachelor of Applied Language Studies (campus Antwerp), 12 ECTS)
YL0081 English proficiency 1 (BA1 | 2 van de 8 ECTS)
YL0147 Research project applied linguistics (BA3 | 6 ECTS)
YL0086 English: text analysis and production (BA3 | 4 ECTS)

In the Master of Multilingual Communication (campus Antwerp), 12 ECTS)
YL0205 Research methodology (6 ECTS)
YL0028 Cases in multilingual communication English A (6 ECTS)

Your teaching assignment also includes the supervision of bachelor's papers and master's theses.

Your teaching assignment is initially linked to the Antwerp Campus, but may include teaching assignments at other Faculty campuses in the future.

Together with the colleagues of your study programme you work on the development and improvement of the curriculum, including shaping learning sequences across individual courses, rethinking academic education in light of future societal challenges, and strengthening relationships with the work field.

Service

You are willing to take up academic service tasks and positions within the Faculty and contribute to the visibility and promotion of the education and research of the Research Unit or study programme that you are a part of (e.g. through participation in teacher days, information events and student recruitment events). You also actively contribute to the wider academic community, e.g. through services to academic societies and journals.

Profile

You hold a PhD in (applied) linguistics with a focus on English (or equivalent) and have successfully defended your dissertation at the time of submitting your application. You have a proven expertise in (1) Multilingualism and language acquisition or (2) multilingual communication. You have strong quantitative methodological skills, e.g., R, experimental methods, psycho- or neurolinguistic methods, quantitative (applied) linguistics. You have excellent teaching skills and an affinity with designing and delivering multi-faceted university education.

You have a strong and validated, international academic portfolio with highly regarded publications in your field. You also have a clear vision of how your research can develop further in relation to the available research expertise.

You openly and enthusiastically contribute to the Applied language studies and Multilingual communication university study programmes of the future, in a spirit of open collaboration. Organisational skills, leadership qualities and good social skills are a must. Experience with scientific outreach or collaboration with the work field is a plus.

Excellent knowledge of English is required. The official administrative language used at KU Leuven is Dutch. If you do not speak Dutch (or do not speak it well) at the start of employment, KU Leuven will provide language training to enable you to take part in administrative meetings. Before teaching courses in Dutch, you will be given the opportunity to learn Dutch to the required standard.

Offer

We offer a full-time tenure-track professorship (ZAP) in a dynamic faculty with diverse disciplines. You will be part of an intellectually challenging and international environment, with plenty of space and opportunity to grow as a lecturer and researcher, thus making a significant contribution to society. KU Leuven provides support and benefits for starting professors who have a partner and/or family, cf. www.kuleuven.be/english/life-at-ku-leuven/partner-and-family.

You will be appointed as tenure-track professor for a period of five years. After a positive assessment following the five-year term, you will receive a permanent professorship at the level of 'hoofddocent' (associate professor). Within this function promotions to higher academic degrees are possible. All academic degrees have the ius promovendi.

You will work at the Antwerp campus of KU Leuven, which reflects the cultural richness and diversity of the city of Antwerp.

The start date for this position is 1 September 2025. To facilitate scientific integration and the start-up of research, KU Leuven provides start-up funding of 110,000 euros for new professors, provided they do not have substantial other funding (e.g. ERC) and have an appointment of at least 50%.

KU Leuven is well equipped to welcome foreign professors and their families and offers practical support with immigration and administration, housing, childcare and career coaching for the partner.

Interested?

Your application includes the following documents:

- a motivation letter
- a biosketch summarising your most important academic achievements (in various fields: teaching, research, services to society, outreach, etc.). You may also mention personal factors that have played a role in your career here (e.g. pregnancy, illness, care) so that these can be taken into account when assessing your submission. (max. 2 pages)
- a curriculum vitae, including a full publication list
- an annotated description of your five most important publications (or other academic achievements)
- a vision statement on how you want to fulfil your teaching assignment in the future (max. 2 pages)
- a research plan for the next five years (max. 2 pages)

Candidates who are shortlisted by the Faculty Assessment Committee (BeCo) will be invited for an interview and a trial lecture.

For more information about this vacancy, please contact the Dean of the Faculty, Prof. Dr. Liesbet Heyvaert (tel. +32 56 26 61 45, email: liesbet.heyvaert@kuleuven.be) or the campus dean of the Antwerp campus, prof. Elke Peters (tel. +32 3 502 15 51 ; e- mail: elke.peters@kuleuven.be).

Do you have a question about the online application system? Please email us at apply@kuleuven.be

You can apply for this job no later than February 13, 2025 via the online application tool :

<http://www.kuleuven.be/eapplyingforjobs/60415468>

KU Leuven strives for an inclusive, respectful and socially safe environment. We embrace diversity among individuals and groups as an asset. Open dialogue and differences in perspective are essential for an ambitious research and educational environment. In our commitment to equal opportunity, we recognize the consequences of historical inequalities. We do not accept any form of discrimination based on, but not limited to, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, age, ethnic or national background, skin colour, religious and philosophical diversity, neurodivergence, employment disability, health, or socioeconomic status. For questions about accessibility or support offered, we are happy to assist you at <[a href="https://www.kuleuven.be/wieiswie/en/person/ue715673" style="text-decoration: none;">https://www.kuleuven.be/wieiswie/en/person/ue715673](https://www.kuleuven.be/wieiswie/en/person/ue715673)>this email address.