

Tenure-track professor in Applied Linguistics with a focus on Intercultural Communication (Faculty of Arts, KU Leuven Brussels)

Ref. ZAP-2025-166

The Linguistics Research Unit of the Faculty of Arts at KU Leuven is seeking a full-time tenure-track professor (ZAP) in Applied Linguistics: Intercultural Communication. The professorship will commence on 1 September 2026.

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) and attaches great importance to attracting and appreciating talent. At the Faculty of Arts, research is conducted in the fields of Arabic and Islamic studies, archaeology, art history, Chinese studies, history, Japanese studies, musicology, linguistics, literary and cultural 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.

For this position, KU Leuven Brussels will be your home base. This campus combines the strength of KU Leuven with the closeness of a vibrant academic community and an educational approach that puts people at the heart of its programs. KU Leuven Brussels has a strong applied, international, and interdisciplinary research profile and actively fosters both regional and international collaboration. At KU Leuven Brussels, you will have the opportunity to develop innovative ideas and make a real impact in research and education.

We are looking for a motivated lecturer and researcher (m/f/x) to be part of the Linguistics Research Unit and the Faculty of Arts at KU Leuven Brussels. The Linguistics Research Unit, which counts 50 senior and 100 junior researchers, is renowned for its internationally oriented synchronic and diachronic linguistic research across a wide range of languages, using both quantitative and qualitative methods. Members of the research unit at the Brussels campus teach in the Bachelor of Applied Linguistics, the Master in Journalism, and the Master of Multilingual Communication: Cross-Cultural Communication Management. The researcher will contribute to the research profile of this latter master's program, which focuses on the complex interaction between language, culture, and communication in international and multilingual contexts.

<https://www.arts.kuleuven.be/ling>

Duties

Research

You are a motivated, internationally-oriented researcher in the field of Applied Linguistics. You can bridge theories and methods from linguistics with applied linguistic research. Possible research themes include language use and identity in professional settings—particularly in contexts where cultural differences play a role—as well as intercultural pragmatics. Your research enhances the profile of the Master of Multilingual Communication: Cross-Cultural Communication Management, while also connecting to one or more of the research priorities within the Linguistics Research Unit.

You strive for excellence in your academic research and develop an independent and innovative research program within the domain of Applied Linguistics, with a clear link to intercultural communication and/or communication in multilingual environments. You publish at the highest academic level, initiate national and international collaborations and help promote and develop such agreements.

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.

You actively seek to engage with the metropolitan context of Brussels, both in your research and in your outreach activities.

Teaching

You provide high-quality teaching in the bachelor's and master's programmes Applied Linguistics and Cross-Cultural Communication Management and you are committed to the quality of the study programmes as a whole. 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 amounts to approximately 18 ECTS credits. Over time, this may increase to 21–24 ECTS credits. It includes the following or similar courses:

Master of Multilingual Communication: Cross-Cultural Communication Management

- Theories and Models of Cross-Cultural Communication & Globalization (6 ECTS)
- Introduction to Global Regions, where you will be responsible for 2 ECTS for the coordination and organization of the multilingual forum

Bachelor in Applied Linguistics (Brussels)

- Pragmatics & Intercultural Communication (6 ECTS)
- Language, Discourse and Identity (4 ECTS)

Your teaching assignment also includes the supervision of approximately 15 master's theses per year.

Your teaching assignment is initially linked to the Brussels 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 Linguistics or equivalent and have successfully defended your dissertation at the time of submitting your application. You have a proven expertise in the linguistic aspects of cross-cultural/inter-cultural/multilingual communication and/or professional communication. 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 Linguistics 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.

A good knowledge of English (C1) 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 in Brussels, the capital of Belgium and the European Union, twenty minutes from Leuven, the heart of KU Leuven, and less than two hours from Paris, London and Amsterdam.

The start date for this position is 1 September 2026. To facilitate scientific integration and the start-up of research, KU Leuven provides start-up funding of 110,000 euros for new professors.

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.

More information

Interested?

To enable review by international experts, we kindly ask you to submit your application in English.

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 document describing 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.

KU Leuven attaches great importance to research integrity and ethical conduct and will therefore ask you to sign an integrity statement upon appointment.

For more information about this vacancy, please contact the Dean of the Faculty, Prof. Dr. Liesbet Heyvaert (liesbet.heyvaert@kuleuven.be) or the Campus Dean Brussels, Prof. Dr. Hedwig de Smaele (Hedwig.desmaele@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 19, 2026 via the online application tool :

<http://www.kuleuven.be/eapplyingforjobs/60590181>

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>">this email address.