

PhD scholarship within the BABots project University of Namur, Namur, Belgium

The Faculty of Computer Science at the University of Namur invites applications for a **PhD position** working on the European project BABots “The design and control of small swarming biological animal robots”, an interdisciplinary collaborative project that promotes an innovative, disruptive technology based on Biological Animal robots (BABots). BABots are small animals (worms) whose nervous system will be reprogrammed to execute new and useful behaviours. BABots will be designed to perform delicate tasks within miniature complex biological environments. The BABOTS project, funded by the European Innovation Council (EIC), will be run by an international consortium of experts in neurobiology, synthetic biology, robotics and ethics, together with a commercial partner from the agrotech industry. More information on the project can be found at <https://babots.eu/>

The position is open to candidate of any nationality who intend to obtain a PhD degree in Science at the University of Namur. The scholarship will be for four years, and is based in Namur, Belgium. The candidate will join the Faculty of Computer Science at University of Namur and the Namur Institute for Complex Systems, naXys (www.naxys.be), which is active in the field of complex systems, with a broad expertise in the analysis of real-world phenomena, their modelling through mathematics and numerical simulations, and their control and optimisation. The PhD candidate will work under the supervision of prof E. Tuci. (<https://www.naxys.be/robotics/>).

The candidate should have a Master degree (equivalent to 120 ETCS credits) in sciences (or in a field judged equivalent by the selection committee) with solid programming skills. Any further experience in mathematical modelling of biological phenomena will be positively evaluated. The candidate should also have an excellent oral/written communication skills in English. French is the official language of the University of Namur. However, knowledge of French is not required to carry out the activities of this project. The candidate should have some experience or interest in modelling collective behaviour and/or network systems. It is also important that the candidate can translate ideas between disciplines, taking ideas from biology and implementing them in collective and swarm robotics systems.

The selected candidate will be offered a competitive fellowship covering a monthly salary. PhD degrees in Belgium are generally affordable with low tuition fees. However, this can increase substantially for some international students and for some areas of research. For more information on tuition fees we suggest to contact admission.international@unamur.be

To apply for this position, please send by email a CV, a motivation letter (max length one page), and the names of three referees to Prof Elio Tuci elio.tuci@unamur.be

The short-listed candidates will be contacted for an interview by videoconference. We will keep on processing applications as soon as we receive them and until a suitable candidate is found. The project starting date is the 01-10-2023.

UNamur’s personnel management policy is geared towards diversity and equal opportunities. We recruit candidates on the basis of their skills, irrespective of age, gender, sexual orientation, origin, nationality, beliefs, disability, etc.

For further information on the project, you can contact the project coordinators:

Prof Elio Tuci – elio.tuci@unamur.be