**PhD Position**

**Research on Affordable Access to Medicine**

**Institute for Interdisciplinary Innovation in Healthcare (I3H)**

**Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB)**

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**Context of the I³h Institute**

Our vision is to bridge competencies and expertise from various disciplines and foster collaboration to contribute to patient-centered healthcare advances. I³h is located on both Campus Solbosch and Erasme of the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), Brussels, Belgium. Multidisciplinary by nature, I³h is organized as a virtual institute, that is a collaborative research and education environment, linking complementary expertise to elaborate and educate on innovation in healthcare.

**Job description**

The Institute for Interdisciplinary Innovation in healthcare (I3h) at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) is looking for an enthusiastic PhD candidate to perform research on affordable access to medicine.

You will conduct interdisciplinary research to identify –or even define new– policies and regulatory framework conditions that both stimulate medical innovations and make them affordable to the broad public and our governments. For instance, you may consider new models of Intellectual Property (IP), or innovative financing and collaborative schemes that benefit both the innovator and social security systems. A particular area of focus should be the development of new drugs for under-researched (among which: rare) diseases.

Expected societal impact: Access to modern health technologies is an important social problem. New medical treatments have huge potential to improve health and life expectancy but letting their cost spiral as they currently do would make them accessible only to the richest fringes of the population. Conversely, some treatments lose their patent protection and may be repurposed to existing diseases. But lack of profitability may undermine research with potentially high-yielding social impact. Preliminary research points to collaborative partnerships, new incentive schemes, joint EU procurement organization for multiple countries (like for COVID vaccines). More broadly, this project aims at shedding a light on (a)
the role of Intellectual Property (IP) as a mechanism to promote innovation by providing incentives to invest in (collaborative) R&D, (b) pricing models to promote healthcare delivery, and (c) how to broaden access to innovative health technologies. The project may focus either on advanced economies, or on low- and middle-income countries, depending on your interest.

You will benefit from the supervision of renowned researchers as well as from the extensive international network of i3h. You will collaborate with, and build upon the expertise of, the Faculties of Medicine and the Solvay Brussels School of Economics & Management. As a doctoral researcher, you will be responsible for the organisation, implementation, analysis and reporting of this work. Your research results will contribute to the preparation and submission of a research grant and, upon succeeding, the defence of a PhD thesis in the field of economics and management.

Profile of the candidate
- You have recently finalized university education with, for example, a Master in Economics and Management, Master in Biomedical Sciences, Master in Public Health, Master in Health Care Management and Policy, Master in (Intellectual Property or Health) Law, or equivalent
- You have a keen interest in Public Health, science, technology and innovation;
- You are motivated to obtain a PhD degree
- You have distinguished yourself as a promising researcher during your master thesis
- You are self-motivated, able to work independently
- You have very good writing and presentation skills in English (and Dutch or French)
- You have a critical attitude, you are always looking for challenges and are eager to learn
- You have good knowledge of qualitative and quantitative research methods

Possible tasks to be performed by the selected candidate
- Conduct literature reviews;
- Conduct desk research;
- Qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis;
- Data collection strategies and the collection process of data; data treatment and analysis;
- Design and management of databases;
- Developing and implementing surveys;
- Conduct interviews with various stakeholders (industry, agencies, public sector, etc.);
- Drafting case studies;
- Synthesis of information regarding case studies.
- Assistance of master thesis students that work on related topics;
Our offer

A 1-year full time contract with a salary based on university rates:

- A PhD scholarship of 12 months
- An individual research training trajectory (including a wide range of courses)
- A challenging and inspiring work environment
- An ambitious project with important societal consequences
- Supervision of experienced scientists

We will actively help apply for a multi-year grant from institutions such as the Fonds National de la Recherche Scientifique (FNRS).

Interested?

Applications should be addressed to Prof. Hilde Stevens and sent to Naomi Friedlaender (nfriedlaender@i3health.eu) by 15 November 2022 and should include:

- A short motivation statement explaining your interest in this position
- A C.V. including a list of courses followed and grades obtained
- The full text of published manuscripts (including the master thesis)