



Vrije Universiteit Brussel

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The Vrije Universiteit Brussel elementary particle physics group invites applications for PhD positions within the CMS collaboration at the LHC, working inside the Brussels Interuniversity Institute for High Energies (IIHE).

The IIHE combines the experimental particle physics, particle physics phenomenology and astroparticle physics research groups from two Brussels universities (Vrije Universiteit Brussel and Université Libre de Bruxelles). The IIHE is involved in frontier research in large international collaborations: CMS (at the Large Hadron Collider), IceCube (astroparticle physics at the South Pole), H1 (DESY, Hamburg) and OPERA (CERN-GranSasso), and in R&D in data acquisition systems. A local CMS Grid Tier2 computing center provides ample analysis resources. The working language is English. The gender balance is approximately 25%/75%.

The IIHE CMS group is one of the leading groups in CMS in top quark physics, searches for Z' bosons and searches in the top quark sector. In addition we are working on searches for SUSY and the Higgs boson. We contribute to the calibration and use of the CMS tracking and b-quark identification and worked on the construction of the CMS tracker, for which we still hold responsibilities in operation. The team consists of an international group of over 30 physicists, engineers and support staff, and combines researchers from three Belgian universities.

We are seeking outstanding individuals who have obtained (or are about to obtain) a Masters diploma in physics or equivalent. The stipend for the Belgian PhD programme is extremely competitive and includes social security benefits. The thesis will be written in English. The position is based Brussels, and frequent travel to CERN is expected. A long-term stay at CERN is possible upon mutual agreement.

Applications should be sent by email and should include: a detailed CV focusing on research experience, a scanned copy of the diploma and academic transcripts, a letter of motivation of maximum two pages A4, and the names of 2-3 referees. The list of attended courses at Master level, corresponding marks and ranking among students of the same class should also be provided.

Review of applications will begin early May 2012 and will continue until the positions are filled. The start date is flexible and can be agreed once a successful candidate is found. The application, just like formal inquiries and requests for further information, should be addressed to Prof. Dr. F. Blekman (freya.blekman@vub.ac.be).