

# A PhD student for a joint thesis project between UNamur and UHasselt (BE)

We are currently building a recruitment pool for a joint PhD scholarship between UNamur and UHasselt. The selected candidate, chosen on the basis of academic excellence and interview, will be invited to apply for a FRIA doctoral grant (2026 call).

## Tasks

Conduct a 4-yr research program leading to a doctoral thesis in Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences at the NARILIS Institute (UNamur) and the BIOMED Institute (UHasselt), under the joint supervision of Prof. Charles Nicaise and Prof. Judith Fraussen, respectively. The project will investigate the pathophysiology of Long COVID through the identification and characterization of circulating autoantibodies using an unbiased phage-display library approach. This work builds on recent findings from our group and others demonstrating that pathogenic serum IgG mediates pain-related symptomatology in Long COVID patients: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2025.11.20.689423>

## Profile

Hold a Master's degree in biomedical, biological, biochemical, pharmaceutical sciences, or medicine (or conditional to its delivery in September 2026 at the latest).

Required skills and qualities:

- High-quality academic background
- Good knowledge of cellular and molecular biology and related laboratory techniques
- Willingness for mobility (approx. 2 years at Namur University + 2 years at Hasselt University)
- Fluency in English (reading, writing, speaking)
- Proficiency in office and statistical softwares
- Interest and motivation for translational neuro-immunology research
- Eager to quickly achieve autonomy in planning and executing experiments

The following will be considered as additional assets:

- Experience in phage-display library
- Experience in culture of induced pluripotent stem cell-derived neurons
- Possession of a driver's license to facilitate commutation between Namur, Hasselt Universities, and university hospitals

## Additional information

Charles Nicaise, [charles.nicaise@unamur.be](mailto:charles.nicaise@unamur.be); Judith Fraussen, [judith.fraussen@uhasselt.be](mailto:judith.fraussen@uhasselt.be)

## How to apply ?

Application form must be downloaded from the following address: <https://www.unamur.be/en/university/work/forms> (for scientific staff) and returned to [charles.nicaise@unamur.be](mailto:charles.nicaise@unamur.be), together with a full CV, a copy of diploma, and rankings by May 24.