

Profile text Special Research Fund Tenure Track Academic Position 'Couple and Family Psychology' (PP05) in the Faculty of Psychology & Educational Sciences

1. Situation

Couple and family relationships are a universal phenomenon and their quality has a significant impact on involved individuals, their environment, and society as a whole. Supporting and promoting high-quality couple and family relationships, as well as addressing relationship and family difficulties requires scientific insights into the (dys)functioning of intimate and family relationships and the development of evidence-based (clinical) interventions and policies. This translates into the field of Couple and Family Psychology, as a sub-discipline of psychology (APA, DIV 43). Also within the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, this field has been represented for over 25 years by the Department of Experimental-Clinical and Health Psychology, particularly within the Clinical Psychology teaching program as well as within the research program and services of the Familylab (as a research group within the Department). The faculty and department endorses the importance of research, training, and clinical practice within this internationally recognized field and wishes to support its further development and representation by opening an additional academic staff position (tenure track) within the field of Couple and Family Psychology.

2. Strategic goals of department and match with ZAP profile

The department of Experimental-Clinical and Health Psychology (<https://www.ugent.be/pp/ekgp/nl>) consists of 9 research groups and is responsible for a wide range of course units in bachelor and master programs within the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences. In addition, the department is involved in various postgraduate courses and service education.

The strategic goals of the department are anchored in the faculty mission and vision (add link). Regarding its core tasks, the department aims at (1) high-quality fundamental and applied scientific research, starting from clinically relevant questions and with attention to integrity, diversity and sustainability; (2) evidence-based and high-quality education, supported by motivated lecturers and well-functioning teaching teams; and (3) scientific, social and institutional services. Additionally, the department is strongly committed to monitoring individual well-being of its staff and promoting open dialogue and collaboration at various levels within the department and faculty. The current profile is consistent with these strategic goals of the department.

3. Job content and ZAP profile.

This vacancy is a 100% academic position with a mission of scientific research, academic teaching, and service. The position, funded by the Special Research Fund, is granted the privilege of focusing primarily on research for a period of 5 years. During that period the teaching load will be limited to no more than 8 ECTS credits per semester on average over a period of 3 years.

The position is located within the field of Couple and Family Psychology and is -in terms of job profile and job content- in line with the Familylab, which as a research group represents the specified field within the department (<https://www.ugent.be/pp/ekgp/en/research/research-groups/family-lab>).

Scientific research

The candidate is expected to have conducted and to conduct high-level scientific research within the specified field of study on topics as (not limitative): interpersonal behavioral/emotional/cognitive processes and dynamics (e.g., conflict management, social support, empathy, emotion regulation, interdependence, responsiveness) within couple and

family relationships; specific problems within couples and families (e.g., violence); the impact of context (e.g., stressors, cultural and social factors); the role of individual characteristics (e.g., personality, attachment, psychiatric problems, health) within couple and family relationships; clinical interventions with couples and families (e.g., psychoeducation, training, therapy). Candidates have a broad knowledge of research designs appropriate for the specified field (e.g., experiments, longitudinal studies), qualitative/quantitative research methods (e.g., meta-analysis/systematic review, observational couple-family research, couple-family interviews, survey, focus groups, EMA in couples-families), and data analysis (e.g., APIM, SRM, MFMIA). Within this framework, the candidate is also responsible for quality supervision of master's thesis and doctoral students.

This vacancy concerns a position with primarily research assignment. Candidates must therefore demonstrate scientific excellence in the specified field, as evidenced by, among other things: their future scientific research program/plan, high-level research output in (inter)national peer-reviewed publications, applied/granted research funding, experience in research coordination, experience in supervising doctoral students, active participation in (inter)national scientific meetings, (inter)national mobility, (inter)national scientific recognition, experience in sustainable research practices and attention to scientific integrity.

Academic teaching

In terms of teaching assignment, the new lecturer is expected to contribute to one or more course units. For the teaching assignment of this vacancy, it is required to demonstrate the required proficiency level of Dutch at CEFR-level C1 no later than 3 years after appointment.

Interpersonal Models in Psychology: 3rd bachelor's course that zooms in on models that help understand, explain and predict interpersonal processes and the interaction between individuals and their contexts.

Assessment Interpersonal Processes: 1st master's course that zooms in on assessment (content, methods, process) based on theoretical models and fundamental research within couple and family psychology.

Systemic Therapy: 1st master's course that zooms in on intervention (content, methods, process) based on theoretical models and intervention research within couple and family psychology .

These course units should enable students to achieve -as clinical psychologists- an integrated application of science and practice of couples and family psychology with individuals, couples, families and their contexts, this within different mental health services, and within various multidisciplinary/multi-perspective collaborations. The content of these courses is always linked to recent scientific insights (from one's own or other research groups). Students are encouraged to participate and think critically through activating forms of work. The new lecturer endorses these goals and actively monitors the quality of his/her course components.

Candidates must possess didactic skills aimed at developing and realizing academic competencies in clinical psychology students; this with respect to both theoretical knowledge and practical skills. To this end, expertise (knowledge & skills) within clinical psychology is considered essential. Additional clinical education/training in the field of couple and family psychology and experience with clinical practice within the field of couple and family psychology are recommended. Furthermore, teaching professionalism and experience with provided and/or organized teaching at the academic level (bachelor/master) to large groups (>150) is seen as added value.

Services

The candidate is expected to commit himself/herself to sharing his/her expertise with regard to the discipline by means of scientific services: e.g., reviewing scientific articles and project applications, participating in doctoral examination and guidance committees, participating in editorial boards of peer-reviewed journals, organizing conferences/scientific meetings. In the area of community service, the candidate will play an active role in disseminating easily accessible information (e.g., via social media, faculty's knowledge centre), providing training (e.g., via lectures, workshops, podcasts), writing practically useful articles and engaging stakeholders. Experience in scholarly and community service within the specified field is therefore highly recommended. Furthermore, limited institutional service (e.g., participation in faculty committees) is also expected.

People management and leadership

The candidate will be committed to result-oriented and people-oriented supervision of doctoral students and other employees, with an eye for well-being. He/she is expected to have excellent communication and networking skills, to be open to collaboration within and outside his/her own department and faculty, and to take a coordinating and leading role within teamwork. Experience with any of the above is recommended and willingness to professionalize (e.g., education/training) is expected.