

## **Assistant Professor in the area of Theoretical Biophysics in the Institute for Theoretical Physics (1.0 FTE)**

### **Job description**

We invite applications for a faculty position in the Department of Physics of Utrecht University to strengthen and broaden the research program of the Institute for Theoretical Physics (ITP) in the area of theoretical biophysics. A strong commitment to teaching is imperative. In view of the gender balance we encourage qualified female scientists to apply.

The successful candidate will join the ITP of the Department of Physics of Utrecht University. In the ITP research is conducted in areas that range from quantum and soft condensed-matter physics to particle physics, string theory, and cosmology, often in direct collaboration with experimental physicists, chemists, and mathematicians. The new staff is expected to develop a new research line in the direction of theoretical biophysics, in particular bio-inspired materials and devices, an area in which a full professor is concurrently being recruited to lead experiments in the Debye Institute for Nanomaterials Science (DINS) in the Department of Physics. The new research line is expected to be complementary to the existing theoretical and experimental biophysics and soft-matter research activities at the ITP and DINS, and could possibly form connections with other biophysical research activities on the UU campus, for instance, in the Department of Biology, the University Medical Center Utrecht, or the Hubrecht Institute.

The ITP also shapes a vibrant and internationally oriented MSc programme *Theoretical Physics* and strongly contributes to the UU Bachelor programme *Physics and Astronomy*. The successful candidate is expected to actively contribute to these teaching activities on general physics. This includes developing and lecturing courses on biophysics, possibly also in the international BSc-programme *Molecular and Biophysical Life Sciences* that will start in 2021 in the Faculty of Science and in the minor *Biophysics* in the BSc-programme *Physics & Astronomy*. Moreover, the successful candidate is also expected to supervise BSc and MSc students with research thesis

projects. On top of this we expect an enthusiastic attitude towards fund acquisition and outreach.

### **Research environment**

The ITP fosters close ties with other research groups in the Faculty of Science. In the context of condensed-matter research strong connections already exist with the research groups within the Debye Institute for Nanomaterials Science active in areas including soft-condensed matter, physical and colloid chemistry, biophysics, cold atoms, and nanophotonics. Joint grants, seminars, group meetings, and PhD- and MSc-projects shape mutual collaborations. The successful candidate is invited to strengthen and/or extend these collaborations, for instance also in the context of the Utrecht Focus Area *Foundations of Complex Systems* or the UU strategic themes *Life Sciences* and *Sustainability*, e.g. with the Department of Biology or other departments and institutes at the Utrecht Science Park.

The ITP is also part of the Delta-ITP, a consortium that joins theoretical physicists from the Universities of Amsterdam, Leiden and Utrecht. The primary aim of the D-ITP is to deepen the collaborations between the associated researchers, and the new staff is expected to actively contribute to this aim.

### **Qualifications**

The successful candidate holds a PhD in theoretical physics (or a closely related field) and has a proven track record in the area of theoretical biophysics. The new staff is expected to start and lead a vigorous and independent research group largely based on external funding, and to be able to initiate and foster local, national, and international collaborations. Moreover, a strong commitment to high-quality teaching at BSc, MSc, and PhD level is required and the candidate is therefore expected to acquire a basic teaching qualification (BKO).

### **Offer**

The ITP of the Department of Physics of Utrecht University is looking for an Assistant Professor (0.8-1.0 FTE).

The successful candidate is offered a tenure track position, which will be subject to a mid-term evaluation after approximately 2,5 years and a final evaluation after four years. If the evaluations are positive the position becomes permanent. The criteria to be met and the details of the track will be mutually agreed upon before the start of the appointment; the criteria will include success in research and education. Starting date of the appointment is envisaged to be as soon as possible but no later than September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. The starting date will be determined by mutual agreement.

The gross salary, depending on the candidate's qualifications and work experience, is in the range between €3,255 and maximum €5,656 (scale 10/11/12 Collective Labour Agreement Dutch Universities) gross per month for a full-time employment. The salary is supplemented with a holiday bonus of 8% and an end-of-year bonus of 8,3% per year. We offer flexible employment conditions (according to a multiple choice model), working-from-home facilities, partially paid parental leave, a pension scheme, and collective insurance schemes. Facilities for sports and child care are available on our campus, which is only 15 minutes away from the historical city centre of Utrecht. For further information: [working at Utrecht University](#).

### **About the organization**

A better future for everyone. This ambition motivates our scientists in executing their leading research and inspiring teaching. At Utrecht University, the various disciplines collaborate intensively towards major societal themes. Our focus is on Dynamics of Youth, Institutions for Open Societies, Life Sciences, and Sustainability.

The city of Utrecht is one of the oldest cities in the Netherlands, with a charming historical center and an internationally oriented culture that is strongly influenced by its century-old university. Utrecht city has been consistently ranked as one of the most livable cities in the Netherlands.

The Faculty of Science consists of six departments: Biology, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Information and Computing Sciences, Physics and Astronomy, Chemistry, and Mathematics. The faculty is home to 5600 students and

nearly 1500 staff and is internationally renowned for the quality of its research. The faculty's academic programmes reflect developments in today's society.

### **Additional information**

For further information please contact the chair of the selection committee, Prof. R. van Roij, [r.vanroij@uu.nl](mailto:r.vanroij@uu.nl)

### **Apply**

All applications should include a cover letter, a detailed curriculum vitae with a list of publications, a research statement, a teaching statement, and three names and contact details of referees who may be approached by the selection committee. Please attach all material in a single pdf file. As part of the selection procedure, invited candidates are expected to give an outline of their research plans in a written report and an oral presentation.

The application deadline is **November 15, 2019**, although invitations for an interview may be sent out prior to this date and the position remains open until it is filled.

To apply, please click the application button of [this website](#).

### **The application deadline is**

15/11/2019