



PUBERT-HEAR

Effect of puberty on the development of speech perception in noise
in children with normal hearing and children with hearing loss

Project – Speech perception in noise only reaches maturity at adolescence in children with normal hearing. The project PUBERT-HEAR will explore the possibility that puberty-induced brain changes contribute to the protracted development of speech perception in noise. A first goal of this project will be to develop a battery aimed at evaluating intelligibility and neurophysiology of speech in noise, in children with normal hearing. Neuroendocrine measures will be taken to characterize the relationship between auditory development and puberty. A second goal of PUBERT-HEAR will be to evaluate the impact of hearing loss on the development of speech perception (in noise) at adolescence. This project is funded by the [FNRS](#)

Environment – PUBERT-HEAR will be conducted within the Center for Research in Cognition & Neurosciences ([CRCN](#)), within the Faculty of Psychology at ULB. The experimental work will take place at the Laboratoire de Neurophysiologie Sensorielle & Cognitive at Hopital Brugmann, which is equipped with audiological and (auditory) neurophysiological facilities. The successful candidate will be working under the supervision of Dr Axelle Calcus.

Candidate – The successful candidate will hold a Master's degree in Psychology, Neuroscience, Cognitive Science, Hearing Science or any related discipline at the starting time of the project. Previous experience in (auditory) neurophysiology is particularly appreciated, as well as good programming skills (Matlab, Python, R). Candidates will demonstrate excellent communication skills (French and/or English), ability and willingness to work independently as well as in a larger team. The PhD position is funded for 2-years, with good prospects to obtain an additional 2-year funding. The net salary will be in line with the Belgian legislation (~2000€/month, full time) and includes social and medical benefits. Minorities are strongly encouraged to apply.

Job description – The candidate will be enrolled in the ULB doctoral school and complete a PhD thesis as part of the project. The successful candidate is expected to participate in research, publication and communication activities within PUBERT-HEAR. As such, they will design experiments, collect and analyse and interpret data, and disseminate results as appropriate to the project. They will closely collaborate with members of the research team.

Application – To apply for this position, please send a CV and a cover letter (in English) as well as the names and contact information of 2 referees to Dr Axelle Calcus (axelle.calcus@ulb.be). If possible, consider submitting an academic writing sample (e.g., chapter of master thesis, publication or essay). Deadline to apply is **15th February 2022**. (Remote) interviews will be organized early March. Ideal start date is 1st May 2022, although some flexibility can be allowed. Feel free to get in touch informally to discuss this position.