

PHD POSITION

GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING

UNIVERSITÉ CATHOLIQUE DE LOUVAIN
LOUVAIN-LA-NEUVE, BELGIUM

The Civil and Environmental Engineering department of the Université catholique de Louvain, Belgium, is looking for a PhD candidate. The PhD subject focuses on the capacity of piles assessed by dynamic load tests and is under supervision of Professor Alain Holeyman.

In the past decades, the primary design approach of onshore piles in Western Europe has shifted towards the exclusive use of semi-empirical methods making use of cone penetration tests. The aim of this doctoral research is to reduce uncertainties related to the use of dynamic load tests to qualify constructed piles with reference to their initial design.

The PhD candidate will join an ongoing effort to rationalise dynamic load test results by tackling this problem experimentally and theoretically. The experimental side of the research features a unique dynamic loading test module developed at the university to perform on site load tests (see picture). The gathered data will help reinforce the database compiled so far and will steer the candidate towards the numerical side of the research.

We are looking for a candidate:

- recently graduated with honours in Civil or Mechanical Engineering,
- with an notable enthusiasm for soil mechanics, and ready to help with its transmittal to younger generations,
- fluent in English and in French (for French, at the very least an initial elementary proficiency and the determination to progress are required),
- willing to go in the field (i.e. get his or her hands dirty), and
- familiar with Plaxis, Matlab and/or Abaqus.

We offer:

- a pleasant and intellectually challenging work environment,
- a competitive salary, alongside with a comfortable office space,
- access to the dynamic loading test module, and
- access to a range of laboratory equipment.



If interested, please submit:

- a letter of motivation,
- your CV,
- the PDF file of your Master thesis, and
- 3 letters of reference.

Deadline: 20 September 2016

Anticipated start date: October 2016

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