



About I-Challenge

We are a passionate team building an ambitious early-stage start up specializing in shelf-life solutions for the food industry. Our unique combination of software and laboratory tools enables food companies to accurately determine the shelf-life of their products. At I-Challenge, we are committed to advancing sustainability and resilience in food systems through cutting-edge technology and strong collaboration with industry partners.

Job Description

We are looking for an **entrepreneurial mind** with hands-on skills as a **Data scientist/ Data engineer to join our founding team**. We are looking for someone who brings **data science expertise**, and just as importantly, a genuine **curiosity for biology or microbiology**. This is a unique opportunity to work across the data pipeline – from ingestion and preprocessing to model deployment and directly shape the product and company's direction.

Key Responsibilities:

- Implement, design and build predictive models to estimate product shelf-life using diverse data sources
- Collaborate with lab experts, software engineers and customers to translate business needs into data solutions
- Develop and maintain scalable data pipelines, experiment with model architectures (regression, time-series, deeplearning) and evaluate performance
- Define our technology strategy including model deployment, model monitoring, and continuous improvement processes as we scale
- Deploy models to production and monitor their performance over time
- Help shape the product and company culture from day one

Profile Requirements:

- 2+ years of experience in **data science/engineering** with an emphasis on ML (supervised/unsupervised), neural networks, and predictive modeling
- Strong proficiency in **Python (with shown expertise in ML/neural networks)** and hands-on experience with **cloud platforms**
- Comfortable building systems end-to-end, from data to product
- **Bias to action** – you build fast, learn fast and iterate
- Strong understanding of predictive mathematical modelling and model evaluation techniques
- Affinity for a **startup environment** is a must
- Experience with laboratory data is a strong bonus
- The candidate must be fluent in **English, both written and oral**, as it is the primary language used for communication within our team and with our international partners.

We Offer:

- **Impactful Work:** A unique opportunity to **blend biology and data science** in a high-impact, real-world setting.
- **Innovative Tech:** Work on cutting-edge AI technologies, from predictive modeling to conversational interfaces.
- **Startup Culture:** Be part of a fast-paced, dynamic startup environment where your work directly influences the company's growth.
- **High Ownership:** You'll have the chance to take full ownership of your projects and make a significant impact on our platform.



- **Flexible Working:** We support hybrid working arrangements.
- Located at the VIB HQ, Suzanne Tassierstraat 1, 9052 Gent, Belgium.

How to apply?

Send your CV, a short note about why you're excited about this opportunity, and any relevant project links (GitHub, portfolio, etc.) to **hr@i-challenge.be**

We will start reviewing applications as soon as possible and will continue until the position is filled.