



INSTITUTE FOR
EUROPEAN
STUDIES

*Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence
at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel*

www.ies.be



Vacancy: PhD researcher (100%)

Environment and Sustainable Development

The Institute for European Studies (IES), a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), is calling for one full-time doctoral researcher in Environment and Sustainable Development. Prospective PhD candidates are hereby invited to submit project proposals addressing the European and International Governance of the Climate and Energy Transition. The deadline for submitting applications is 30 April 2017.

Project description

The climate and energy transition constitutes a key governance challenge and opportunity in a changing Europe and worldwide. The climate imperative requires private and public decision-makers to steer our societies towards decarbonisation and the phase-out of greenhouse gas emissions within a few decades. A unique and evolving set of intersecting features and trends shape the contemporary challenge and opportunity of governing the transition in Europe and globally, including: ongoing global societal and technological changes, a changing context and understanding of governance as well as the multiple EU crises and a broader trend toward populism and the questioning of established democratic governance systems.

Research proposals are invited that explore the European and International Governance of the Climate and Energy Transition under these challenging circumstances. We in particular encourage proposals that:

- investigate the conditions and prospects of democratic governance of the transition,
- analyse European external (climate and energy) relations and diplomacy,
- explore the techno-economic transition or
- zoom in on innovative policy approaches and frameworks.

Proposals that link or relate to on-going research in the IES environment cluster or the IES at large are particularly welcome.

Profile

The successful candidate is required to:

- Hold a Master's degree, with excellent results, in a relevant field such as Political Science, European Studies, International Studies, International Relations, Law, Economics, other Social Sciences, Environmental Science.
- Be fluent in English.
- Be open to inter-disciplinary research and have excellent analytical skills.

Offer

We offer employment as a full time doctoral researcher. The PhD degree will be awarded in political science or law.

Contract: full-time research grant for one year, renewable on an annual basis for a maximum of four years. Extension of the contract is subject to the agreement of the doctoral committee. Remuneration is at the level of a full-time research assistant at a Flemish university (i.e. approximately €1,900 net per month) and includes contributions for social security. Secondary employment is not allowed.

The IES requires that at least a (co)promoter of the project be from the IES. Successful candidates are expected to work at the IES premises in Brussels. Office space and equipment will be provided along with a budget for travelling and other research-related expenses.

The PhD researcher will be expected to devote the majority of his/her time to research, with contributions expected for occasional teaching activities, to event organisation and to the overall development of the institute. The researcher will prepare papers, attend conferences and produce research publications as she/he carries out the PhD.

How to apply?

The PhD candidate will be selected on the basis of the quality of the project proposal, her/his expertise, work experience and qualifications. The following application documents are to be consolidated into a single PDF file sent by email to jobs@ies.be (subject heading: 'ESD PhD call 2017').

- Completed application form (to download the application form please visit: http://www.ies.be/files/Application_Form.doc)
- A one-page motivation letter explaining the candidate's interest in pursuing a PhD on the chosen topic.
- A curriculum vitae listing all academic qualifications, relevant research experience and previous publications.
- A project proposal featuring a literature review, a research question and proposed hypotheses, a methodological outline and an indicative planning, condensed into no more than 3,000 words.
- A copy of the highest obtained diploma and transcript of academic grades.
- The contact details of at least two references

The deadline for applications is 30 April 2017. Short-listed candidates will be informed in the course of May and interviews with top-listed candidates are expected to take place June. The successful candidate can start as of 1 October or as soon as possible thereafter.

Further information

Please visit

<http://www.ies.be/research/EnvironmentandSustainableDevelopment> for more information. Queries can be emailed to sebastian.oberthuer@vub.be.

The IES is committed to creating and supporting a diverse work environment and is an equal opportunity employer.

