



INSTITUT FÜR HÖHERE STUDIEN
INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES
Vienna

Call for Application

PhD position on EU post-crisis legitimacy (PhD network PLATO – ESR7 and ESR15)

The Institute for Advanced Studies in Vienna (IHS) invites applications for two PhD fellowships on legitimacy crisis and parliamentary representation and European elections, respectively, as part of the PhD network 'The Post-Crisis Legitimacy of the European Union' (PLATO).

Applicants should hold a master degree in political science, media studies, sociology, political (democratic) theory or a related social science discipline.

The position is announced for a period of 3 years with no teaching obligations. The starting date for the fellowships is **1 October 2017**.

The **Institute for Advanced Studies** (IHS) is an independent, non-profit research institute in Vienna (Austria). It brings together high-level expertise from various disciplines (economics, sociology, and political science, among others) to address fundamental economic and social problems and policy choices. There are 11 research groups established at the Institute; they provide the basis for interdisciplinary research on topics such as economics, politics, health, labor market and education. In total, the research groups cover a wide span of topics, methods, and disciplines. Currently the Institute counts approximately 100 employees. The PhD fellowships will be appointed to the research group "European Integration". The working language in this research group is English. More information about the Institute is available at www.ihs.ac.at.

PLATO PhD network

PLATO is an EU-funded PhD network coordinated by Prof. Chris Lord at ARENA Centre for European Studies, University of Oslo. It [unites nine university partners across Europe](#) in recruiting a group of 15 excellent young researchers to do a common multi-disciplinary investigation of the EU's post-crisis legitimacy, together with leading senior researchers.

PLATO will be a fully integrated, thematic research school with its own research question. The aim is to go beyond the state-of-the-art by building a theory of legitimacy crisis in the EU from a uniquely interdisciplinary understanding of how democracy, power, law, economies and societies all fit together with institutions within and beyond the state to affect the legitimacy of contemporary political order. [What you need to know about PLATO's research in preparing applications for a PhD position](#) (pdf).

PLATO will offer state-of-the-art academic training as well as training in core professional skills, research leadership and entrepreneurship, and dissemination; a quality framework of supervision; work experience from the policy-advice, consulting or civil society sectors at European level; and professional individual career development. For more on PLATO's research and training program as well as the common call for 15 PhD candidates (Early Stage Researchers, ESRs), please see: www.plato.uio.no.

Job description

PhD project I: 'Legitimacy crisis and Parliamentary Representation' (ESR7)

Since legitimacy crises occur where political orders struggle to respond to crises in ways that also maintain core standards of legitimacy, the European semester is a key test of whether the financial crisis has also occasioned a legitimacy crisis in the EU. Given its role in ensuring consistency between large areas of economic policy – including taxation, spending and borrowing – the semester is critical to the Union's response to the crisis. Yet, the Semester alters one of the main procedures by which publics scrutinise and control their own governments: namely, decisions on annual budgets. This research will investigate how far parliaments have adapted to the Semester in ways that meet standards of public control. It will develop indicators of parliamentary scrutiny of decisions, and of the role of parliaments in securing justifications for decisions and communicating choices to the public. It will use those indicators to assess the role of the European Parliament and selected national parliaments in the semester, as well as inter-parliamentary co-operation such as 'Article 13' Conferences. It will use media content analysis to assess the salience and impact of parliamentary scrutiny of the semester in public debate, and focus groups to assess the quality of parliamentary communication to the public on the semester. For this project, a possible primary discipline is political science; a secondary discipline could be media studies.

Mandatory secondments for the PhD project I:

- ▶ Four-week internship at the Jacques Delors Institute, Berlin to gain practical experience from the policy advice sector (February 2020)
- ▶ Co-supervision will be offered by senior scholar at another PLATO partner university, to be selected by the network based on the submitted proposal.
- ▶ A three-month academic secondment will be undertaken at this university to cooperate with co-supervisor and other PLATO ESRs (in the period September 2018 to February 2019)

PhD project II: 'Legitimacy crisis and European Elections' (ESR15)

It has long been argued that European elections are mainly contested on national issues and, therefore, have little to do with the EU. If, however, the financial crisis has created legitimacy problems for the EU we might expect the policies and institutions of the Union itself to have become more contested in European elections. This research will investigate this possibility through a mixed methods analysis of quantitative data from the 2014 election survey and quantitative/qualitative content analysis of media coverage of European elections. The election survey will provide data on the relative salience of European and national issues. The media content analysis will provide further evidence of how far any change in the salience of EU issues can be attributed to increased contestation of Union policies and questioning of its legitimacy. Together the two data sources will be used to test the hypothesis that the financial crisis may even have had the paradoxical effect of democratising the EU. Evidence that the financial crisis has encouraged greater public debate in European elections on EU issues voter will be taken as supporting that hypothesis. Evidence that the financial crisis has only encouraged voter participation and media debate based on outright rejection of the Union polity as democratically legitimate will be taken as refuting it. For this project, a possible primary discipline is political science; a secondary discipline could be sociology, political (democratic) theory.

Mandatory secondments for the PhD project II:

- ▶ 4-weeks non-academic secondment at Democracy International, Berlin to gain practical experience from the civil society sector (February 2020).
- ▶ Co-supervision will be offered by senior scholar at another PLATO partner university, to be selected by the network based on the submitted proposal.
- ▶ A three-month academic secondment will be undertaken at this university to cooperate with co-supervisor and other PLATO ESRs (in the period September 2018 to February 2019)

Supervision of both projects:

The PhD fellow will be part of a research group led by Johannes Pollak, Head of the Research Group 'European Integration' at IHS. The successful candidate will be supervised by the senior scholar Katrin Auel or Guido Tiemann, depending on the proposal.

Phd Program:

The successful candidates will have to enroll in the PhD program Social Sciences at the University of Vienna. The work will result in a doctorate in political science.

For a detailed curriculum of the PhD Program at the University of Vienna please visit: https://doktorat.univie.ac.at/fileadmin/user_upload/doktorat/Gesetzestexte/Sozialwissenschaften_English.pdf

Qualifications:

Two important eligibility conditions apply to Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action (MSCA) Innovative Training Networks (ITN):

- ▶ Candidates cannot have resided and carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in Austria for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to 1 September 2017. If it is not evident from the application that this criterion is met, please include an explanation as part of your application.
- ▶ Candidates must be in the first four years (full-time equivalent) of her/his research career and not already be in the possession of a doctoral degree.

Further qualifications for the position:

- ▶ Master's degree in political science, media studies, sociology, political (democratic) theory or a related social science discipline which includes at least two years of study at MA level and an MA thesis. The master's thesis must have been submitted before the application deadline. A prerequisite for taking up the position is the successful completion of a master's degree.
- ▶ Strong academic record
- ▶ English language proficiency. If you are not a native English speaker, or if the language of instruction at your previous university was not English, we will ask you to provide evidence of strong English language skills. Please include English language test results in your application if this applies to you. Such tests should not be older than two years at the time of application.

We offer

In addition to the benefits of taking a team PhD as part of PLATO, the IHS offers:

- ▶ Salary **2.052 Euro gross / month** (14 times per year) plus 600 Euros mobility allowance
- ▶ In case the successful candidate comes with family (spouse and/or children), an additional family allowance will be offered.
- ▶ Academically stimulating working environment
- ▶ Vibrant, integrated and international research community
- ▶ Excellent pension benefits under the Austrian Public Service Pension Fund scheme
- ▶ Welfare benefits

Assessment

In assessing the candidates, particular emphasis will be placed on the quality and originality of the project proposal as well as the individual project's fit within the overall research programme. Academic qualifications, writing skills, language proficiency and other qualifying experience will also be of key importance.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for interviews in the period 6–17 March 2017. Job offers will be made by the end of April 2017.

Application procedure

Applications must be submitted by e-mail to Verena Karlsson (karlsson@ihs.ac.at).

The application must include the following documents:

- ▶ Letter of motivation
- ▶ Research proposal (2,000-3,000 words) ([Guidelines for the project proposal](#))
- ▶ Two letters of recommendation
- ▶ Copy of MA degree diploma(s)
- ▶ Copies of academic transcripts
- ▶ CV with full summary of education, practice, academic and non-academic work experience, language proficiency, positions of trust, and other qualifying/extra-curricular activities. The period of enrolment (admission-completion) in the Master's study program must be specified

The application and all supporting documents must be provided in English.

Application deadline

31 January 2017

Location

Vienna, Austria

Contact

Prof. Johannes Pollak, Head of Research Group 'European Integration'

Institute for Advanced Studies, Vienna, Austria

E-mail: pollak@ihs.ac.at

Verena Karlsson, Administrative Manager

Institute for Advanced Studies, Vienna, Austria

Phone: +43 1 59991 166

E-mail: karlsson@ihs.ac.at