



GEM DIAMOND

# PhD POSITION IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & EUROPEAN STUDIES

Fellowship Call for Application

DEADLINE: July 3rd, 2022 – 17.00 CET

EARLY-STAGE RESEARCHER 12

**Contesting European border regimes: challenging  
and remaking EU migration governance**



Doctoral Fellowships are funded as part of a European Joint Doctorate supported by the European Commission's Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action.

## RESEARCH PROJECT

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### ENVIRONMENT

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This 3-Year-long doctoral fellowship is offered as part of a specific collective project within a multiannual international research effort on **Globalisation, Europe, and Multilateralism (GEM)**. This project (2022-2026), coordinated by the Institut d'études européennes (IEE) at the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), will assess the EU's capacity to act given the challenges facing **Democratic Institutions**, the rise of **Alternative MOdels** and mounting **Normative Dissensus (DIAMOND)**.

**GEM-DIAMOND** is a *Marie Skłodowska Curie Action - Doctoral Network* (MSCA-DN) involving 7 European and 4 international degree-awarding Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) alongside 6 well-established non-academic institutions. The project will hire and train 16 doctoral fellows to help address knowledge gaps associated with the growing normative tensions undermining multilateral and democratic practice – for further information see [www.gem-diamond.eu](http://www.gem-diamond.eu).

GEM-DIAMOND's overall research program will collectively tackle three shared knowledge gaps regarding contemporary strains on liberal democracy:

- **Objective 1:** Conceptualising the seemingly mounting dissensus surrounding liberal democracy.
- **Objective 2:** Unpacking the ambiguous role different actors can play as both champions and challengers of liberal democratic norms, values and practices.
- **Objective 3:** Assessing the impact of increased dissensus regarding liberal democracy on the policy instruments of the EU and its capacity to act in its internal and external policies.

Early-Stage Researcher n°12 (**ESR12**) is part of **GEM-DIAMOND**'s 3<sup>rd</sup> Work Package (WP3) entitled '*Internal contestation and its impact on the EU*'. WP3 includes 5 individual doctoral projects that will each develop a detailed analysis of a given case study elucidating the processes by which contestation regarding liberal democracy shapes the EU's capacity to act.

Both individually and collectively, the 5 PhD fellows associated with WP3 will produce detailed analyses of a range of case studies. These will elucidate the processes by which contestation regarding liberal democracy shapes the EU's capacity to act. The five PhD fellows involved will adopt a process-centric approach, with each Researcher working on a different type of EU policy instrument. Ultimately, WP3 will **process-trace the institutional mechanisms connecting evolutions of the EU's regulatory, parliamentary, legal and trade instruments with the internal contestation** shaping these controversial policy fields.

## INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH PROJECT (IRP)

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Entitled '*Contesting European border regimes: challenging and remaking EU migration governance*' the individual research project of **ESR12** is in the fields of Border and Migration Studies, **International Relations, Mediterranean and Middle Eastern Studies** and **European Studies**

**ESR12** will focus on practices which sustain the EU's border regimes with third countries in the Mediterranean, including 'compacts', partnerships, and bilateral agreements. The ESR will examine how such practices (that comprise forms of detention, deportation, and pushbacks, as well as the use of surveillance technology) contest the EU's liberal values and norms.

Successful candidates can design a project of their own choosing focusing on new and on-going forms of externalisation of the EU's and Member States' border and migration policies in the Mediterranean and wider MENA region. Possible topics can include, though are not limited to migration and mobility partnerships, EU-wide as well as bilateral; practices which sustain border regimes; the role of NGOs, IOs or courts; datafication and digitalisation of migration governance; the contestation of these practices, including by migrants and from an intersectional perspective.

**As part of their application, candidates will be asked to submit a personal interpretation of the research project in the form a specific project proposal of 2-3 pages, including a research question, a theoretical framework, a methodological strategy, and a justification for the suggested empirical choices.**

## OBJECTIVES

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ESR12 will:

- Be hired for at least 36-months by UvA as a Doctoral Researcher
- Work under the direction of a Joint Supervisory Trio involving:
  - **Pr. Luiza Bialasiewicz** (UvA) – Co-Supervisor
  - **Pr. Julien Jeandesboz** (ULB) – Co-supervisor
  - **Dr. Daniela Huber** (IAI) – Non-Academic Mentor
- Individually work towards a double doctoral degree in 'Political and Social Sciences' under the joint supervision of Pr. **L. Bialasiewicz** (UvA) and Pr. **J. Jeandesboz** (ULB)
- Contribute to the collective work in WP3 seeking to describe the processes of contestation within the EU by focussing on contested practices
- Participate in all collective research and training activities and submit to the program's regular joint evaluations

## EXPECTED RESULTS

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ESR12 will:

1. Complete the Scheduled Mobility Agenda:

- a. Training & Research Stay @ UvA (Oct. 2022 - Aug. 2023)
  - b. Non-Academic Secondment @ IAI (Sept. 2023 - Dec. 2024)
  - c. Research Stay @ ULB (Jan. 2024 – Dec. 2024)
  - d. Research Stay @ UvA (Jan. 2025 – Sept. 2025)
2. Successfully accomplish the doctoral training scheduled both at the local and GEM-DIAMOND levels.
  3. Secure a doctoral training certificate from UvA & ULB
  4. Contribute to a WP3 '**Joint framing paper on Contestation**'
  5. Contribute to two-project wide manuscripts:
    - a. A Handbook on 'Rethinking Impact in Political & Social Sciences'
    - b. An Edited Volume reflecting the shared conclusions of the project
  6. Submit an article to a high-impact journal in the relevant field
  7. Write an original PhD dissertation on '*Contesting European border regimes: challenging and remaking EU migration governance*'

## CO-SUPERVISORS

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**Pr. Luiza Bialasiewicz**

E-mail : [L.A.Bialasiewicz@uva.nl](mailto:L.A.Bialasiewicz@uva.nl)

**Pr. Julien Jeandesboz**

E-mail : [Julien.Jeandesboz@ulb.be](mailto:Julien.Jeandesboz@ulb.be)

## HOST INSTITUTIONS

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UvA (NL)

ULB (BE)

## PhD PROGRAMME

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PhD in European Studies

PhD in Political Science

## TRAINING AND MOBILITY

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### MOBILITY PROGRAMME

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- Oct. 2022 - Aug. 2023 @ UvA (Amsterdam, Netherlands)
- Sept. 2023 - Dec. 2024 @ IAI (Rome, Italy)
- Jan. 2024 – Dec. 2024 @ ULB (Brussels, Belgium)
- Jan. 2025 – Sept. 2025 @ UvA (Amsterdam, Netherlands)

### TRAINING PROGRAMME

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- 2022-2023 (Y1): Methodological training @ UvA + GEM-DIAMOND Joint activities
- 2023-2024 (Y2): GEM-DIAMOND Joint activities
- 2024-2025 (Y3): GEM-DIAMOND Joint activities

## NON-ACADEMIC SECONDMENT

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Year 2 (Sept. 2023 – Dec. 2024)

Non-Academic Secondment at **Istituto Affari Internazionali** (Rome, Italy)

Non-Academic Mentor: Dr. **Daniela Huber**

E-mail: [d.huber@iai.it](mailto:d.huber@iai.it)

## POST DESCRIPTION

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### TITLE

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Marie Curie Doctoral Fellow

### HIRING INSTITUTION

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UvA (Amsterdam, Netherlands)

### DURATION

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36 Months (1 October 2022 – 30 September 2025)

### INCOME

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4000€ Gross per month (48.000€ / year).

*NB: this is a gross EU contribution to the salary cost of the researcher. The net salary will result from deducting all compulsory (employer/employee) social security contributions as well as direct taxes.*

### ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

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Full Social Coverage

Travel & Research Funds

Family Allowance per month - *When applicable*

## REQUIREMENTS

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### DEGREE

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Top level graduate degree (Master or equivalent providing access to PhD programs in Political or Social Sciences, Area Studies or Border and Migration Studies).

## MINIMAL CREDITS

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Applicants must submit at least one diploma meeting one of the following requirements: (1) a two-year master program (120 ECTS) or equivalent, (2) a one-year graduate program following a prior undergraduate degree if both diplomas total at least 300 ECTS or equivalent; (3) a single four-year higher education program offering 300 ECTS or more.

## LANGUAGE

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English proficiency must be attested either through a previous English language diploma, or an internationally recognised proficiency test (i.e. IELTS, IBT, TOEFL or Cambridge).

## CAREER

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The researcher should be in the first four years of their research careers at the time of recruitment and have not been awarded a doctoral degree so far.

## SPECIFIC SKILLS

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Successful candidates should possess the necessary language skills to carry out research in the country/countries in question. Some familiarity with field work research methods and qualitative methodologies will also be considered a plus.

## MOBILITY

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At the time of recruitment, the researcher must not have resided, or carried out his/her activity in the country of the first host institution (i.e., Netherlands) for more than 12 months cumulatively in the 3 years prior to October 2022

## NON-DISCRIMINATION

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No discrimination will be made on the base of nationality, gender, race, religion, or disability.

## APPLICATION

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Complete and timely submission via the on-line application system.

## HOW TO APPLY

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### MAY 20th, 2022 TILL JULY 3rd, 2022

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Online application system open and accessible through the GEM-DIAMOND website ([www.gem-diamond.eu](http://www.gem-diamond.eu))

**BY JULY 3rd, 2022 17.00 CET**

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Candidates must apply through the GEM-DIAMOND online application system, which will request the following information:

- A personal profile form (incl. CV overview)
- A scientific profile form (incl. ESR's expression of interest, statement of motivation and personal interpretation of the research project)
- A full academic CV
- An academic record with scan of the degree qualifications
- A proof of language proficiency
- Two academic recommendation letters

**BETWEEN JULY 11th & JULY 20th 2022**

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Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an online interview with their supervisory trio (two academic supervisors + internship mentor).

**BY JULY 21st 2022**

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Shortlisted candidates will be informed about final decision.  
This offer is conditional to the signature of the Grant Agreement.

**BY OCTOBER 31st 2022**

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Selected candidate to arrive at the UvA (Amsterdam, Netherlands) to start his/her training and research.

**Project Management Office (PMO)**

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