



GEM DIAMOND

PhD POSITION IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & AREA STUDIES

Fellowship Call for Application

DEADLINE: July 3rd, 2022 – 17.00 CET

EARLY-STAGE RESEARCHER 13

Impact of dissensus driven by external competition
on EU peace support & stability instruments
and mechanisms



UNIVERSITATEA BABES-BOLYAI
BABES-BOLYAI TUDOMÁNYEGYETEM
BABES-BOLYAI UNIVERSITAT
TRADITIO ET EXCELLENTIA



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

RESEARCH PROJECT

ENVIRONMENT

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.

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°13 (**ESR13**) is part of **GEM-DIAMOND's** 4th Work Package (WP4) entitled '*External competition and its impact on the EU*'. WP4 includes 3 individual doctoral projects that will offer detailed analysis of selected case studies elucidating the processes by which exogenous competition shapes the EU's capacity to act. Both individually and collectively, the 3 PhD fellows associated with WP4 will provide a detailed analysis of a range of case studies elucidating the processes by which exogenous competition shapes the EU's capacity to act. The three PhD fellows involved will adopt a *process-centric approach*, with each Researcher working on a specific constellation of competing authoritarian centres of gravity. Ultimately, WP4 will **process-trace the adaptation of EU instruments in response to geopolitical, institutional, and policy-bound external competition** in its neighbourhood

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH PROJECT (IRP)

Entitled '*Impact of dissensus driven by external competition on EU peace support & stability instruments and mechanisms*' the individual research project of **ESR13** is in the fields of **International Relations** and **Area Studies** (Europe/Russia).

ESR13 will analyse the impact of geopolitical competition on EU democracy and resilience promotion instruments in third countries. This IRP will assess whether the EU's current models, instruments and capabilities for mediation, crisis management and peace support enable it to engage as an effective actor in areas of intersectional conflicts. It will assess whether EU instruments contribute to a liberal peace model able to resolve crises despite competition from illiberal actors.

A PhD empirically dedicated to the Ukrainian case would be most welcome. Against the backdrop of Ukraine's invasion by Russia in February 2022, we emphasize the emergency of having PhD projects addressing the relevancy and impact of the EU peace support and stability instruments and mechanisms at play in Ukraine and the wider eastern European region.

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

ESR13 will:

- Be hired for at least 36-months by ULB as a Doctoral Researcher
- Work under the direction of a Joint Supervisory Trio involving:
 - **Pr. Aude Merlin** (ULB) – Co-Supervisor
 - **Pr. Valentin Naumescu** (UBB) – Co-supervisor
 - **Dr. Kai Brand-Jacobsen** (PATRIR) – Non-Academic Mentor
- Individually work towards a double doctoral degree in 'Social Sciences' under the joint supervision of Pr. **A. Merlin** (ULB) and Pr. **V. Naumescu** (UBB)
- Contribute to WP4 effort to describe the processes by which exogenous competition shapes the EU's capacity to act with insights on Russia and the former Soviet space
- Participate in all collective research and training activities and submit to the program's regular joint evaluations

EXPECTED RESULTS

ESR13 will:

1. Complete the Scheduled Mobility Agenda:
 - a. Training & Research Stay @ ULB (Oct. 2022 - Aug. 2023)
 - b. Non-Academic Secondment @ PATRIR (Sept. 2023 - Dec. 2023)

- c. Research Stay @ UBB (Jan. 2024 – Aug. 2024)
- d. Research Stay @ ULB (Sept. 2024 - Sept. 2025)
2. Successfully accomplish the doctoral training scheduled both at the local and GEM-DIAMOND levels.
3. Secure a doctoral training certificate from ULB & UBB
4. Contribute to a WP4 '**Joint framing paper on Competition**'
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 the International Studies Review (ISR)
7. Write an original PhD dissertation on '*Impact of dissensus driven by external competition on EU peace support & stability instruments and mechanisms*'

CO-SUPERVISORS

Pr. Aude Merlin
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Pr. Valentin Naumescu
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HOST INSTITUTIONS

ULB (BE)

UBB (RO)

PhD PROGRAMME

PhD in Political & Social Sciences

PhD in International Relations &
European Studies

TRAINING AND MOBILITY

MOBILITY PROGRAMME

- Oct. 2022 - Aug. 2023 @ ULB (Brussels, Belgium)
- Sept. 2023 - Dec. 2023 @ PATRIR (Cluj-Napoca, Romania)
- Jan. 2024 – Aug. 2024 @ UBB (Cluj-Napoca, Romania)
- Sept. 2024 - Sept. 2025 @ ULB (Brussels, Belgium)

TRAINING PROGRAMME

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

NON-ACADEMIC SECONDMENT

Year 2 (Sept. 2023 – Dec 2023)

Non-Academic Secondment at the **Peace Action, Training and Research Institute of Romania** (Cluj-Napoca, Romania)

Non-Academic Mentor: **Kai Brand-Jacobsen**

E-mail: jacobsen@patrir.eu

POST DESCRIPTION

TITLE

Marie Curie Doctoral Fellow

HIRING INSTITUTION

ULB (Brussels, Belgium)

DURATION

36 Months (1 October 2022 – 30 September 2025)

INCOME

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

Full Social Coverage

Travel & Research Funds

Family Allowance per month - *When applicable*

REQUIREMENTS

DEGREE

Top level graduate degree (Master or equivalent providing access to PhD programs in Political or Social Sciences).

MINIMAL CREDITS

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

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

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

Knowledge of Ukraine and Ukrainian will be considered an asset

MOBILITY

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., Belgium) for more than 12 months cumulatively in the 3 years prior to October 2022

NON-DISCRIMINATION

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

APPLICATION

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

HOW TO APPLY

MAY 20th, 2022 TILL JULY 3rd, 2022

Online application system open and accessible through the GEM-DIAMOND website (www.gem-diamond.eu)

BY JULY 3rd, 2022 17.00 CET

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

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

BY JULY 21st 2022

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

BY OCTOBER 31st 2022

Selected candidate to arrive at the ULB (Brussels, Belgium) to start his/her training and research.

Project Management Office (PMO)

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