



GEM DIAMOND

PhD POSITION IN **COMPARATIVE POLITICS & AREA STUDIES** (Europe/ Neighborhood / Eastern Partnership & Mediterranean)

Fellowship Call for Application

DEADLINE: July 3rd, 2022 – 17.00 CET

EARLY-STAGE RESEARCHER 15

**Impact of competing models on the EU's political
conditionality in a turbulent neighbourhood**



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°15 (**ESR15**) - the fellowship and individual project advertised in this call - 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 competing models on the EU's political conditionality in a turbulent neighbourhood*' the individual research project of **ESR15** is in the fields of **Comparative Politics** and **Area Studies** (Europe with a specific focus on the European Neighbourhood/Eastern and Southern European neighbourhoods).

ESR15 will assess the effectiveness of the EU's instruments to promote democracy within the context of the EU's enlargement and European Neighbourhood policies. The main starting assumption of the ESR15 is that diverging political values, foreign policy approaches and alternative governance models championed by autocratic regimes around the EU affect the EU's ability to engage with its neighbors. Based on this assumption, this IRP will explore how and to what extent competing power centres around the EU, which contest EU norms have constrained or altered the main tools used in the EU's external policies in relation to its neighbourhood. Neighbourhood is defined broadly to include both the candidate countries and those that are part of the formal neighborhood agenda, which include the Eastern and Southern neighborhoods.

More specifically, the research objective of the PhD project will be to analyse how the growing contestation surrounding democracy, the rule of law and foreign policy norms (international law and multilateralism) affects EU's toolbox to promote pro-democracy and/or foreign policy principles, and in particular its political conditionality. The project is expected to study the EU's foreign policy by focusing on the impact of autocratisation processes around the EU on the EU's instrument of conditionality vis-à-vis third states. Hence, the focus is expected to be on the authoritarian tendencies in the EU's neighborhood and the challenges these tendencies pose not only to the EU's norm promotion efforts, but also to its normative power claims. Therefore, the research project is expected to also address how these various forms of domestic norm contestation in the neighborhood affect the EU's role as an international actor and its foreign policy identity.

This doctoral project could employ qualitative and/or quantitative methods. Comparative research designs are encouraged to observe and assess the variation in EU's relationship with different neighborhood regions or within the same country over time.

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

ESR15 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. Seda Gurkan** (ULB) – Co-Supervisor
 - **Pr. Ece Özlem Atikcan** (UoW) – Co-supervisor
 - **Dr. Kristina Kausch** (GMF) – Non-Academic Mentor
- A second EU-based institution within the consortium will be designated to contribute to the supervisory environment
- Individually work towards a double doctoral degree in ‘Political Science’ under the joint supervision of Pr. **S. Gurkan** (ULB) and Pr. **E.Ö. Atikcan** (UoW)
- Contribute to WP4 effort to describe the processes by which exogenous competition shapes the EU’s capacity to act with insights on Turkey and the Mediterranean space
- Participate in all collective research and training activities and submit to the program’s regular joint evaluations

EXPECTED RESULTS

ESR15 will:

1. Complete the Scheduled Mobility Agenda:
 - a. Training & Research Stay @ ULB (Oct. 2022 – Aug. 2023)
 - b. Training @ UoW (Sept. 2023 - April. 2024)
 - c. *Research Stay @ ULB (May. 2024 - Aug. 2024)*
 - d. Non-Academic Secondment @ GMF (Sept. 2024 - Dec. 2024)
 - e. *Research Stay @ ULB (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 ULB
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 Journal of European Public Policy (JEPP)
7. Write an original PhD dissertation on ‘*Impact of competing models on the EU’s political conditionality in a turbulent neighbourhood*’

CO-SUPERVISORS

Pr. Seda Gurkan

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Pr. Ece Özlem Atikcan

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HOST INSTITUTIONS

ULB (BE)

UoW (UK)

TRAINING AND MOBILITY

MOBILITY PROGRAMME

- Oct. 2022 - Aug. 2023 @ ULB (Brussels, Belgium)
- Sept. 2023 - April. 2024 @ UoW (Coventry, United Kingdom)
- May. 2024 - Aug. 2024 @ ULB (Brussels, Belgium)
- Sept. 2024 - Dec. 2024 @ GMF (Brussels, Belgium)
- Jan. 2025 - 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 3 (Sept. 2024 - Dec. 2024)

Non-Academic Secondment at the Europe Office of the **German Mashall Fund of the United States** (Brussels, Belgium)

Non-Academic Mentor: **Kristina Kausch**

E-mail : KKausch@gmfus.org

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 science or a directly related field such as International Relations or European Studies.

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

Candidates are expected to demonstrate their ability to integrate well in a multi-cultural

environment; their expertise and/or interest in EU's foreign policy and EU's engagement with the neighborhood.

Each candidate is expected to explain clearly his/her interest for the project and how and why he/she can contribute to the development of our understanding of the EU's normative engagement with the neighborhood.

Specific skills:

- Acquaintance with qualitative research (interviews, discourse analysis, process-tracing or documentary analysis, etc.) and field work.
- Research or professional experience in working with/in authoritarian contexts
- Demonstrated interest in EU Studies, EU's neighborhood and in-depth knowledge of EU's conditionality policy and/or within case knowledge of a set of countries in the EU's neighborhood
- Excellent writing and oral skills in English. In case the candidate is willing to focus on a set of countries in the EU's neighborhood, the mastery of a foreign language related to the candidate's interested case study would be a strong asset
- Experience with working/studying in an international, multicultural environment
- Ability to work in a team and to meet deadlines

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, 2012

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:

1. A personal profile form (incl. CV overview)
2. A scientific profile form (incl. ESR's expression of interest, statement of motivation and personal interpretation of the research project)
3. A full academic CV
4. An academic record with scan of the degree qualifications
5. A proof of language proficiency
6. 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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