



GEM DIAMOND

# PhD POSITION IN INTERNATIONAL & EUROPEAN LAW

Fellowship Call for Application

DEADLINE: July 3rd, 2022 – 17.00 CET

EARLY-STAGE RESEARCHER 3

Law and practice of the rule of law within the  
European Union



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°3 (**ESR3**) is part of **GEM-DIAMOND's** 1<sup>st</sup> Work Package (WP1) entitled '*Conceptualising Growing Dissensus over Liberal Democracy*'. WP1 includes 4 individual doctoral projects that will each unpack a key strand of dissensus facing liberal democratic norms, principles and values from a distinct disciplinary point of view.

Both individually and collectively, the 4 PhD fellows associated with WP1 will provide the conceptual clarification of dissensus needed to understand how it affects EU policy instruments. WP1 will neither review the normative underpinnings of the theory of democracy nor revisit existing work on deliberative democracy in Europe, it will rather seek to explain how present-day dissensus erodes institutional trust and existing democratic practices. Each of the four individual research projects will lead up to a Double Doctoral Manuscript which will contribute to this effort from a specific discipline. Ultimately, WP1 will **combine four disciplinary theory-building efforts to sketch an interdisciplinary understanding of contemporary dissensus** surrounding liberal democracy in Europe.

## INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH PROJECT (IRP)

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Entitled '*Law and practice of the rule of law within the European Union*' the individual research project of **ESR3** is in the fields of **International** and **European Law**.

**ESR3** will approach the concept of dissensus from a legal perspective. This research project will assess how EU law and the European fundamental rights system have been at the forefront of several legal conflicts within Europe regarding liberal democracy.

The Court of Justice of the European Union, the European Court of Human Rights, and several national courts have ruled on politically salient issues creating legal narratives on and shaping our understanding of dissensus in Europe. National, European and international legal norms have been relied upon to bring political and legal disputes before courts, who are expected to provide a forum for contestation in a system of liberal democracy and separation of powers. The research project will focus on how these rulings have formalised and legalised disagreements about the meaning of democracy, the rule of law and separation of powers, as well as substantive policies, such as migration, climate change, or gender-related issues. It may also engage with different ways of circumventing dissensus and upholding regional rule of law and human rights standards in the face of national challenges.

**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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ESR3 will:

- Be hired for at least 36-months by the UvA as a Doctoral Researcher
- Work under the direction of a Joint Supervisory Trio involving:
  - **Pr. Christina Eckes** (UvA) – Co-Supervisor
  - **Pr. Nicolas Levrat** (UNIGE) – Co-supervisor
  - **Dr. Elena Crespi** (FIDH) – 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 'Law' under the joint supervision of Pr. **C. Eckes** (UvA) and Pr. **N. Levrat** (UNIGE)
- Provide a legal perspective to the collective work in WP1 geared towards clarifying the concept of 'Dissensus', notably through a shared typology
- Participate in all collective research and training activities and submit to the

program's regular joint evaluations

- Participate and contribute through research to rule of law related documentation and advocacy, particularly at the EU level, and to building capacity for civil society organisations in the target countries.

## EXPECTED RESULTS

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ESR 3 will:

1. Complete the Scheduled Mobility Agenda:
  - a. Training & Research Stay @ UvA (Oct. 2022-Nov. 2023)
  - b. Non-Academic Secondment @ FIDH (Dec. 2023 – March 2024)
  - c. Training & Research Stay @ UNIGE (April 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 the UvA and UNIGE
4. Contribute to a joint WP1 'Framing paper on Dissensus'
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 European Constitutional Law Review (ECLR).
7. Write an original PhD dissertation on *Law and practice of the rule of law within the European Union*.
8. Contribute to at least 1 research and/or advocacy and/or training activity during the non-academic secondment.

## CO-SUPERVISORS

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**Pr. Christina Eckes**  
E-mail: [C.Eckes@uva.be](mailto:C.Eckes@uva.be)

**Pr. Nicolas Levrat**  
[nicolas.levrat@unige.ch](mailto:nicolas.levrat@unige.ch)

## HOST INSTITUTIONS

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UvA (NL)

UNIGE (CH)

## TRAINING AND MOBILITY

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### MOBILITY PROGRAMME

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- Oct 2022 – Nov 2023 @ UvA (Amsterdam, Netherlands)
- Dec. 2023 – March 2024 @ FIDH (Brussels, BE)
- Avril. 2024 - Dec. 2024 @ UNIGE (Geneva, Switzerland)
- 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 (Dec. 2023 – March 2024)

Non-Academic Secondment at the Brussels office of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) (Brussels, Belgium)

Non-Academic Mentor: **Elena Crespi**

E-mail: [ecrespi@fidh.org](mailto:ecrespi@fidh.org)

## 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 Law).

### 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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Proficiency in English writing attested through a writing sample (*i.e.*, a master thesis, university assignment). Language skills specific to the project (*e.g.*, proficiency in other European languages, particularly Hungarian, Polish, Romanian, and an intermediate knowledge of French) will be an asset.

### 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:

1. A personal profile form (incl. CV overview)
2. A scientific profile form (incl. ESR's expression of interest, statement of motivation and a personal research project fitting with the description of the individual PhD project above)
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

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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)**

c/o Institut d'Études Européennes Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB CP172)  
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