



The EUI has an open vacancy for a

## Research Fellow in the

# Department of Political and Social Sciences

Florence, 05 November 2025

Reference: **V/RF/SPS/6/2025**

### Who we are

The **European University Institute** (EUI) at a glance:

- an **international organisation** set up in 1972;
- a research university focusing exclusively on **postgraduate, doctoral and post-doctoral studies**, and advanced research;
- located in the hills overlooking the city of Florence, Italy.

The Institute also hosts the Historical Archives of the European Union.

The [Department of Political and Social Sciences](#) (SPS) is one of Europe's leading centres for research on comparative politics, political behaviour and political sociology, the sociology of inequality, analytic sociology, and international relations and security and is European and international in character.

### Employment details

<b>Contract type</b>	Full-time (30/30, 40 hours/week)
<b>Length of contract</b>	13 months, start date 16 January 2026 (negotiable)  This contract may be further renewed (several times and conditional to the availability of funds), leading to an extension of the period of service up to a total of 5 years, including the first contract period.
<b>Salary indication and grade</b>	Grade: CDR3 step 1  The basic net monthly salary after taxes is approximately 3.670 Euro, plus allowances if applicable.  More information about conditions of employment is available <a href="#">here</a> .
<b>Place of work</b>	Florence, Italy, or the Netherlands, to be agreed with Project Director (salary

simulation based on place of work Florence, Italy)

## About the project

### Project Directors

Prof Herman Van De Werfhorst and Prof Carla Haelermans (Maastricht University)

### Project details

[LEARN](#) is a Horizon Europe project on studying inequalities in educational careers, aiming to understand policies that work to reduce inequalities. Within the framework of the project, we conduct research on school careers of students in the Netherlands, using register data of the National Cohort Study of Education and other registers. We furthermore study policy reforms that have taken place in the Netherlands, reviews the evidence of how such reforms have affected school careers, and study reform effects ourselves, mostly on policies related to school financing. The main focus of the project is on inequalities by socioeconomic and migration background. One part of the project is also comparative: in which we study the study of the impact of school funding on (inequalities in) student achievements using large scale student assessment data. Within the comparative focus of the LEARN network, we contribute expertise on the Netherlands.

### Job description

The research fellow will carry out research work in an independent manner and collaborate on the research work of the project.

Main tasks include:

- Co-authoring a sociological research paper on school funding effects using comparative student assessment data (PIRLS, PISA, TIMSS);
- Co-authoring a paper on school funding effects on learning outcomes with other project researchers;
- Contributing to review on educational reforms in the Netherlands;
- Contributing to activities with policy makers;
- Collaborating with network partners across Europe to provide input for joint reports, a.o. on Dutch education policy and datasets;
- Attending consortium meetings;
- Taking part in activities (such as attending seminars) of the Comparative Life Course and Inequality Centre CLIC, at the EUI.

## Qualifications and experience

### Qualifications and Experience

#### Essential:

- PhD in Sociology or related field (PhD students about to defend their thesis are eligible conditional on the successful thesis defence by the contract start date);
- At least 2 years of experience with advanced quantitative research methods demonstrated by research papers/articles;
- Demonstrated relevant expertise in the area of the project, including using register data, and studying stratification processes with longitudinal data using advanced statistical methods;

- Proven ability to collaborate within a team, gathered through previous experience.

**Desirable:**

- Proven knowledge of the Dutch education policy landscape.

**Languages**

Excellent knowledge of English and Dutch, both spoken and written ([CEFR](#) level: C1 or above). Knowledge of other languages constitutes an advantage.

## How to apply

**Deadline**

The closing date for applications is ~~24 November 2025~~ **1 December 2025** at midnight (Florence time)

**Contact details**

For more information contact Manuela Corsini ([manuela.corsini@eui.eu](mailto:manuela.corsini@eui.eu))

**How to apply**

Fill in the [online application form](#) and upload documents as requested

**Data Protection**

The purpose of processing the data submitted by candidates is to manage their application in view of a possible pre-selection and recruitment by the EUI. The information candidates provide in their application form is collected for the purpose of the selection procedure. The EUI will ensure that candidates' personal data are processed as required by its Data Protection Policy ([President's Decision No. 10/2019 of 18 February 2019 regarding Data Protection at the EUI](#)).

**Equal opportunities**

The European University Institute applies a policy of equal opportunities, which, in accordance with Article 1d of its Staff Regulations, prohibits discrimination on any grounds such as sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation. Any reference in this notice to a person of the male sex must be deemed also to constitute a reference to a person of the female sex.