

Swiss Chair in Federalism and Democracy

Thanks to the generosity of the Swiss Government, SPS invites applications for the Swiss Chair in Federalism and Democracy. Candidates must show a record of academic excellence in the study of federalism* and democracy.

The successful candidate will have a strong record of research and a commitment to excellence in postgraduate teaching and supervision. Candidates at all career stages are invited to apply; we particularly encourage applications from mid-career candidates who demonstrate research excellence and leadership.

More information on the Swiss Chair can be found here:

<https://www.eui.eu/en/academic-units/political-and-social-sciences/swiss-chair>

The Institute is an equal opportunity employer, and is committed to balanced gender, geographical and minority representation.

The successful candidate will be expected to provide major input in research, teaching, supervision and administration, as follows:

Research:

- To promote the integration of their research with other research interests within the Department of Political and Social Sciences as well as research with the other Departments and Centres of the EUI;
- To maintain a high national and international profile of publications in books and in internationally recognised journals, with an interest in contributing to the intellectual and public life of the Institute;
- To acquire research funding on an individual basis and in collaboration with others
- To develop and lead research in the fields mentioned in the profile, also in collaboration between the EUI and the Swiss research institutions

Teaching and supervision:

- To provide high-quality doctoral supervision, serving as a dedicated and inspiring mentor to PhD researchers throughout their studies.
- To attract and support outstanding research students, fostering an intellectually stimulating and inclusive research environment at the EUI.
- To teach postgraduate students effectively through both introductory and advanced research seminars, integrating supervision and teaching in support of the Institute's academic mission.
- To mentor Max Weber Fellows and other postdoctoral researchers, contributing to their academic and professional development.

* understood as politics in multi-level systems

Administration:

- To make a significant contribution to the promotion of the EUI, and to contribute to the transition of EUI researchers into professional life, especially in academic careers;
- To make the best use of their research budget and try to supplement it with outside funding;
- To provide support for the Head of Department, amongst others by serving on appropriate Committees, and to contribute fully to the general life the Department and the Institute;
- To contribute to the promotion of cultural diversity in the Department and the EUI.

Working at the European University Institute

The European University Institute (EUI) is an international organization created by treaty in 1972; it opened its doors to its first 70 researchers in 1976. The EUI has grown to incorporate academics from across the globe, spanning borders and staying true to its mission of the 1970s: to 'foster the advancement of learning in fields which are of particular interest for the development of Europe'. The Institute has 23 Contracting States: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden. The EUI is funded by its 23 Contracting States, the European Union (Erasmus+), and its own revenue, drawn from competitive research funding, partnerships with public and private actors, and executive education.

The EUI consists of four academic departments - [Economics](#), [History and Civilisation](#), [Law](#), and [Political and Social Sciences](#) – and two academic units: [the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies](#); and [Florence School of Transnational Governance](#).

The Department of Political and Social Sciences

The Department of Political and Social Sciences (SPS) is one of Europe's leading centres for research and doctoral studies in comparative politics and public policy, political behaviour and political sociology, the sociology of inequality and social demography, analytic sociology, the welfare state and political economy, and international relations and security. We currently focus on contemporary challenges facing European politics and societies, with a meta-theoretical interest in the interplay of institutional dynamics with their behavioural context. Our faculty, doctoral researchers and postdocs come from a broad range of countries in Europe and beyond.

The Department favours a multi-faceted approach to research projects and theses, many of which cut across the conventional boundaries. The Department also encourages broader cross-disciplinary work. It has good working relations in both teaching and research with the departments of Law, History and Economics, with the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies and the Florence School of Transnational Governance, and is at the centre of extensive international networks. It hosts several large, collaborative projects financed by the European Commission Framework programmes or other external sources. The faculty also engages in many individual projects resulting in books and articles

Teaching and Supervision

Doctoral supervision and teaching are central to the EUI's Departmental activities and as such constitute a significant part of the professors' workload.

Around 25 to 35 research students are admitted to the department's doctoral programme each year. EUI PhD researchers are drawn mainly from the graduates of universities in the Member States, with a small number of students from third countries globally. Faculty members are obliged, by contract, to continue supervision of their researchers after they have left the Institute

Faculty members are expected to provide high-quality doctoral supervision, serving as dedicated and inspiring mentors to PhD researchers throughout their studies. They play a vital role in attracting and supporting outstanding research students, fostering an intellectually stimulating and inclusive environment within the EUI. Effective teaching of postgraduate students—through both introductory and advanced research seminars—should be closely integrated with supervision, ensuring coherence with the Institute's broader academic mission. In addition, faculty are called upon to mentor Max Weber Fellows and other postdoctoral researchers, actively contributing to their academic growth and professional development.

At SPS Department, professors are expected to provide 60 hours of teaching each academic year, in addition to their supervision of individual PhD researchers. Doctoral teaching is organised over three terms: October to December; January to Easter; and Easter to June. During the first two terms teaching mainly takes the form of ten two-hour seminars. In the third term more use is made of day-long workshops and other innovative methods, designed to meet training needs of smaller groups of researchers.

Research

Alongside teaching and supervision, research is a key focus of professorial life at the EUI. Research at the EUI is innovative, international and interdisciplinary. We ask fundamental questions about human societies while tackling complex, real-world problems with a distinctly European perspective. Intellectual creativity thrives through collaborative projects, workshops and webinars, conferences and outreach events, as well as summer schools and executive training. Professors devote a major part of their time to research alongside teaching and supervision, cultivating comparative and contextual approaches that cut across law, economics, history, political and social sciences, and international relations. We also value sharing our work beyond academia, encouraging thoughtful engagement and clear communication so that ideas travel, inform debate, and support constructive dialogue with partners in policy, civil society, and the wider public.

This work is enabled by exceptional infrastructures and support. The Academic Library offers extensive print and digital collections, backed by expert information specialists who work closely with departments, the Robert Schuman Centre, the Florence School of Transnational Governance, and post-doctoral programmes. User-oriented ICT services and the Historical Archives of the European Union further expand the Institute's research capabilities. Each professor receives an annual research allocation, with additional competitive support available for innovative and cooperative projects, plus hands-on help from the Research Support Unit, DEXT, and dedicated officers. The EUI consistently secures substantial external funding, and incoming faculty present a five-

year research plan that anchors their contribution to our vibrant scholarly community. Alongside this, we quietly encourage responsible outreach, from open, accessible publications to public events, so that our research can be understood, questioned, and contribute to knowledge.

Administrative Duties

Departmental meetings are held monthly and are chaired by the Head of the Department, who is elected from one of the faculty members. All professors are required to be present in the Departmental meetings and in the plenary sessions of the Academic Council.

Professors also have the responsibility of screening applications for the doctoral programme and for post-doctoral fellowships. Professors are expected to participate in committees to select new colleagues. Some colleagues serve on Institute-level committees, dealing with Library and ICT issues, Admissions, etc. These committees represent a small part of professors' time.

Staff in the Department

In September 2025, the Faculty of the Department of Political and Social Sciences comprises 14 full-time Professors (three joint with the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies) and three full-time Assistant Professors, a departmental coordinator and 6 professional staff members. Details of the research and teaching interests of the professors are available on the Department's web page. Each year about five or six funded Fernand Braudel Fellows join the Department for limited periods, and a number of Visiting Fellows come for periods between half a year and a year. The Institute also hosts some fifty Max Weber postdoctoral fellows. This is a free-standing interdisciplinary training programme and around a dozen of these Max Weber Fellows are associated with the Department of Political and Social Sciences. In addition, a number of scholars visit the Department each year for shorter periods.

Conditions of employment – salary – benefits

The European University Institute is an equal opportunity employer.

Full-time professors at the EUI are appointed on a five-year contract with possibility of renewal for further three years.

The EUI offers a competitive salary and several benefits, including family allowance packages and generous severance grant.

In particular,

- The amount of take-home salary varies and depends on seniority, eligibility to expatriation, household, dependent children and other allowances.
- Under the terms of the Convention establishing the Institute, EUI professors are exempt from income tax on their salary paid by the Institute anywhere in the Contracting States. In lieu of national taxes, a deduction is carried out by the Institute.

Summary of Conditions of Employment and Benefits

- Expatriation or foreign residence allowance of 16% or 4%, depending on circumstances;
- Household allowance;
- Dependent child allowance;
- Pre-school allowance (for children aged less than 6);
- Education allowance (for children up to the age of 26 in educational or vocational training);
- Possibility to opt for the Institute's social security scheme for the risks of sickness, maternity, accident and occupational disease, invalidity. The health insurance administered by the EU Joint Sickness Insurance Scheme (JSIS) for the contract holder and dependent family. An average of 80% of medical or dental expenses may be reimbursed upon presentation of invoices and/or upon prior authorisation;
- Possibility either to opt for the Institute's social security scheme for the risks of invalidity, death and old age/severance, or for a payment to be made into a national or private social security fund. In the former case, 10,25% of an EUI professor's salary is withheld monthly; twice this amount is contributed by the Institute. Upon departure a generous severance grant, corresponding to approx. 30% of the aggregate of the basic salary is paid.
- Installation (and reinstallation) allowance;
- Reimbursement of removal costs upon entry/termination of service, if applicable, up to a maximum equivalent of a monthly basic salary;
- Travel expenses upon entry/termination of service and annual flat-rate payment of travel expenses based on distance from Florence to the place of origin, if entitled to expatriation or foreign residence allowance;
- Other benefits which may apply.

There are no citizenship requirements for faculty members. Professors are expected to be fluent in English and have a working knowledge of at least one other EU language. Teaching is mostly done in English. PhD theses and seminar papers are mainly written in English, but may also be written in French, German, Spanish, Italian or other European languages.

The Human Resources Service is available to provide more information based on the actual family situation of the short-listed candidates.

The recruitment procedure at the EUI

The rules governing the selection procedure of full-time Professors are laid down in Annex III the Conditions of Employment of the Teaching Staff of the EUI ([CETS](#)).

When a chair is vacant, the Department submits a profile for the chair to be filled to the Academic Council, which sets up the Selection Committee.

The selection committee is composed of professors from the EUI, external experts, the President of the EUI or their delegate (consultative voice) and a representative of the researcher students (consultative voice). The Academic Service is in charge of the secretariat.

According to the Annex III of Conditions of Employment of the Teaching Staff of the EUI, the Selection Board shall:

- assess how well the academic curriculum and experience of candidates fit the profile of the post to be filled;
- take candidates' publications into consideration;
- assess candidates' suitability to fit in the Department's and the Institute's work programme in consultation with the Department;
- assess the interest to the Institute of research planned by candidates.

In the shortlisting process, the committee members first assess the eligibility and the suitability to the advertised profile of the applications submitted. In a second step, after consensus has been reached among the Committee regarding the first step, the Committee discusses the candidates that fulfil the criteria, and in a comparative evaluation, taking into account the needs of the hosting academic unit regarding the position, sets up the final shortlist.

Having set up a shortlist the Committee subsequently interviews the shortlisted candidates and submits a recommendation of one or more candidates to be appointed.

The Committee's recommendation is transmitted to the Academic Council, which acts as a sovereign body for appointments.

Tentative schedule for the present procedure

The schedule we would like to adhere to is the following:

- shortlisting decisions should be made by 20 December;
- interviews and departmental presentations will take place 26 and 27 January 2026;
- the Selection Committee proposal will be submitted to the first available Academic Council;
- the successful candidate is expected to commence in September 2026 or as soon thereafter as can be satisfactorily arranged.

Application file

Your file should contain the following elements.

- 1) **Application form** (to be filled in [online](#)) in which you are invited to provide your personal data, and to indicate two “**signature publications**” which you consider most representative of your work, one of them an article and the other one either a monograph or an article. Normally they should be single-authored. If you submit jointly authored work please specify the contribution of each co-author. Please provide the full bibliographic citation and if available, also a link to the publication.
Please submit four names of possible **referees** whom the EUI may contact. The referees should not include members of the professorial staff of the EUI. Please give us the names and e-mail addresses of referees who know you in both your teaching and research functions.
The Selection Committee may consult other external experts if it considers that helpful to its deliberations.

Attach the following documents as PDF files to the online application form:

2) Cover letter

- 3) CV:** Please present a **short** CV of maximum 5 pages including education, professional experience, prizes and other major achievements.
- 4) List of publications:** Please present a list of your books, contributions to books, journal articles, and other relevant publications.
- 5) Research project:** The research project should be designed to cover a five year contract and correspond to the profile. It should specify the objectives and scope of the project and give indications on the background, especially how it relates to work you have already undertaken and published. It should also give some preliminary indications about the methodology you intend to follow in exploring the proposed hypotheses or theories; indications as to the empirical components and sources; management of the research especially its organisation and the possible running of a research team. It should also include some preliminary indications on the type of outcome you have in mind. The project should preferably be written in English, and have a length of up to 2000 words.

The proposal should also meet the requirements established by the [EUI Guidelines for the Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence for Research](#). In particular, candidates should refrain from having Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) autonomously write substantial or integral parts of the documents. When using AI to produce novel content, they must acknowledge and reference the parts of the content that have been AI-generated.

Formal applications should be submitted [online](#) by **24 November 2025** at midnight (CET). For any queries about the application procedure you may contact applypro@eui.eu.

Practical information about life in Florence

Learning Italian

The Institute's Language Centre offers intensive Italian courses in September and less intensive courses throughout the year. Some other European languages are also taught. [Language Centre \(eui.eu\)](http://eui.eu)

There are several private language schools in Florence.

Housing

Rents are very variable, likely figures for Florence and its immediate surroundings are € 600-800 for a studio, € 800-1000 for a one-bedroom flat, and from € 1000 for a two-bedroom flat. Larger flats with three or four bedrooms run from € 2000, depending on size and location.

The Real Estate and Facilities Service has a Housing Office through which you can be offered accommodation at the EUI flats
[EUI Residential Accommodation • European University Institute.](#)

Accommodations on the private market are instead offered by Florence Housing Service - the Real Estate Agency which offers free service exclusively for the EUI members.

For more information you may consult [EUI4U Housing Service • European University Institute.](#)

Daycare and Schools

The EUI has a Crèche which provides preschool childcare.

In addition to private and public Italian schools there is a French, an International School and a Canadian School in Florence:

The French school offers a programme that goes from Maternelle to Terminale, a good programme that many at the Institute take advantage of. Further information is available at [Lycée Victor Hugo - Un établissement de la Mission laïque française \(vhugo.eu\)](http://vhugo.eu).

The International School of Florence (ISF) offers an elementary through to high-school programme in English. Places should be reserved as soon as possible and are expensive. The high school offers the International Baccalaureate, which is recognised for university entrance throughout the world. Its American high school diploma is also recognised by the Italian government as equivalent to that of a *liceo linguistico*. Further information: [The International School of Florence \(isfitaly.org\)](http://isfitaly.org).

The Canadian School of Florence is an international school that promotes global education in an international environment, and offers programmes from Kindergarten to Senior School: [Home - Canadian School of Florence \(csflorence.it\)](http://csflorence.it).

More detailed information about day care and schools is available in our website at [About the Crèche • European University Institute \(eui.eu\)](http://eui.eu)
[Nurseries, Preschools, Schools • European University Institute \(eui.eu\)](http://eui.eu).

Potential applicants requiring information beyond that contained in these further particulars are welcome to contact the Provost for Education and Academic Staff Development, Prof. Josephine van Zeben (e-mail: provosts.office@eui.eu)