

Chair in Private Law, Power, and the Economy

The [Department of Law](#) seeks to attract candidates with a distinguished record in private law, with a particular focus on the interplay between legal frameworks, socio-economic structures, and power dynamics at all political levels, local, national, European and global. The position emphasises scholarly excellence and the ability to engage with the transnational dimensions of private law in a changing socio, economic, and technological landscape. The Department values diversity and sophistication in methodology. We encourage applications from scholars who examine private law through original perspectives and diverse analytical lenses, including but not limited to: comparative private law, socio-legal studies, legal theory, doctrinal analysis, political economy, law and economics, empirical methods, normative, critical, historical, and cultural approaches.

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

The successful candidate will demonstrate a strong commitment to interdisciplinary engagement and the ability to provide rigorous supervision and teach methods seminars to PhD researchers. Particular consideration will be given to candidates whose research interests and expertise complement those of current [members of the Department](#).

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

Research:

- To develop and lead research in the fields mentioned in the profile;
- To promote the integration of their research with other research interests within the Department of Law as well as interdisciplinary research with the other Departments and Centres of the EUI; candidates are invited to take into consideration the research priorities and existing research projects of the [Department of Law](#);
- 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 EUI;
- To acquire research funding on an individual basis and in collaboration with others.

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 EUI's academic mission.
- To mentor Max Weber Fellows and other postdoctoral researchers, contributing to their academic and professional development.

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 external 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 EUI;
- 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 organisation 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 EUI has 24 Contracting States: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, 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 24 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](#).

In line with the EUI's [2026–2031 Strategy](#), the EUI fosters academic excellence, interdisciplinary collaboration and engagement with major societal and European challenges across all its departments and academic units.

The Department of Law

The Department of Law provides a stimulating and supportive environment bringing together LLM researchers (*LLM programme currently suspended*), doctoral researchers, post-doctoral researchers, professors and visitors from more than 35 countries. In broad terms, members of the Department focus on what can be termed Transnational Law. This includes Public International Law, European Public and Private Law and Comparative Law, but also more amorphous forms of legal ordering that transcend the state in multiple and evolving ways. The Department is methodologically diverse, and professors and researchers adopt many different approaches, including doctrinal, critical, law-in-context, normative, empirical, socio-legal, historical and mixed methods. They frequently draw insights from other disciplines, and many researchers undertake research which is theoretical in its orientation.

The PhD and LLM (*currently suspended*) experience in the Law Department is characterized by autonomy in the selection of research topics combined with close and empathetic supervision. The presence of a critical mass of early-career researchers means that peer-to-peer interactions and support networks are of enormous importance. Strong bonds grow up within the annual LLM/PhD cohorts. As an international organisation by nature, the EUI, including the Department, has no dominant research or legal culture. Rather, it provides an open, multilingual, and welcoming international environment while sitting within the broader context of the surrounding Tuscan and Italian society.

The Department is committed to the promotion of innovative methodologies and practices related to the study of law. Through its connections with the other departments of the EUI, the Florence School of Transnational Governance and the Robert Schuman Centre, the Department also works to promote interdisciplinary dialogue. The Department aims at full integration of all professors, researchers, postdoctoral fellows, and visiting scholars in its programme. Coming from a many different intellectual traditions, they all contribute to the rich diversity. The Department also includes the

Academy of European Law which offers annual summer schools in Human Rights Law and European Union Law, and hosts a variety of research projects. A wide variety of Working Groups are hosted in the Department under the leadership of the Law researchers. Details are available at [Research projects](#).

A list of current professors in the Department of Law can be found at [People](#).

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 30 to 35 research students are admitted to the department's doctoral programme each year, and around 10 to 15 join the LLM programme (*currently suspended*), which is a one-year research-based degree programme examined by a thesis. As PhD researchers stay at the EUI for four years, each faculty member may expect to supervise, on average, 10 to 15 researchers – that is, typically 2 to 4 new researchers per academic year. Faculty members are obliged, by contract, to continue supervision of their researchers even after they have left the EUI.

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 EUI'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.

Teaching takes the form of advanced courses and seminars (about one two-hour session a week for each professor). Apart from our annual methodology programme for first year researchers, we do not have a regular curriculum, as we have to take account of variations in student intake; instead, we offer a number of regular advanced courses (again, at post-graduate level) as well as research seminars in the fields covered by the department's work where the students' ongoing work may be discussed, as well as our own research projects. No difference is made in teaching between first year students in the doctoral programme and LLM students (LLM programme currently suspended). A major part of our activity with students is thesis supervision, both in the doctoral programme (normally four years) and in the LLM (one year) programme (*currently suspended*). This is why residence in Florence is compulsory even outside the teaching periods.

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 EUI'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 [Development and External Relationships Service](#), 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 and professors serve on EUI-level committees, dealing with Library and ICT issues, Admissions, etc. These committees represent a small part of professors' time.

Staff in the Department

The Department of Law comprises 12 full-time professors (two hold a joint appointment with the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies), a departmental coordinator and professional staff members. The Max Weber Programme attracts around 50 post-doctoral scholars, approximately ten with a PhD in Law. The Department collaborates in mentoring the fellows. In addition, a number of scholars visit the Department each year for shorter periods, offering workshops or seminar presentations in their fields of interest.

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. Under certain conditions, a professorial contract may be extended up to a maximum of twelve years.

In addition to a competitive salary, the EUI offers an attractive benefits package, including family allowances and a 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 EUI, professors are exempt from income tax on their salary paid by the EUI anywhere in the Contracting States. In lieu of national taxes, a deduction is carried out by the EUI. It might be taxed if you are not a national of an EUI contracting state.

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 EUI'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 EUI'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 EUI. Upon departure a generous severance grant, corresponding to approx. 30% of the aggregate of the basic salary is paid.
- Installation and reinstallation allowance upon entry and termination of service;
- 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;
- 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 Board.

The Selection Board is composed of professors from the EUI, external experts, the President of the EUI or their delegate (consultative voice with no vote) and a representative of the researcher students (consultative voice with no vote). The Human Resources Service is in charge of administering the recruitment process.

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 EUI's work programme in consultation with the Department;
- assess the interest to the EUI of research planned by candidates.

In the shortlisting process, the Board 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 in the Selection Board regarding the first step, the Selection Board 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 Selection Board subsequently interviews the shortlisted candidates and submits a recommendation of one or more candidates to be appointed.

The Selection Board'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 end of June 2026;
- departmental presentations and interviews will take place on 28 and 29 September 2026 respectively. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an interview, and asked to present an original piece of scholarship that can be a work in progress
- the Selection Board's proposal will be submitted to the first available Academic Council;
- the successful candidate is expected to commence in March 2027 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 contacts. The referees should not include members of the EUI professorial staff. Please provide the names and e-mail addresses of referees who know you in both your teaching and research functions.

The Selection Board consult other external experts for 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 duration 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 **3 June 2026** at midnight (CEST). For any queries about the application procedure, you may contact applypro@eui.eu.

Practical information about life in Florence

Learning Italian

The EUI's [Centre for Academic Literacies and Languages \(CALL\)](#) offers intensive Italian courses in September and less intensive courses throughout the year. Some other European languages are also taught.

There are several private language schools in Florence as well.

Housing

Rents are very variable, likely figures for Florence and its immediate surroundings are € 700-900 for a studio, € 900-1200 for a one-bedroom flat, and from € 1200/1300 for a two-bedroom flat. Larger flats with three or four bedrooms run from € 2500, 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 are amongst others 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 EUI take advantage of. Further information is available at [Lycée Victor Hugo - Un établissement de la Mission laïque française \(vhugo.eu\).](#)

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 \(isfitaly.org\).](#)

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](#)
[Nurseries, Preschools, Schools • European University Institute](#).

Potential applicants requiring information beyond that contained in these further particulars are welcome to contact the Provosts' Office (e-mail: provosts.office@eui.eu) and the Human Resources Service for recruitment process and working conditions detailed information (applypro@eui.eu).