Chair in International Politics

The Department of Political and Social Sciences seeks candidates for a **Chair in International Politics.**

Candidates should have a strong scholarly record in international relations theory and have substantial original empirical work in one or more sub-fields of the discipline that contributes to the department's innovative intellectual agenda.

The position is to be filled by 1 January 2028 or as soon thereafter as can be satisfactorily arranged.

The EUI is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to descriptive, intellectual, and institutional diversity. We find such diversity to be a source of enrichment and strongly encourage applications from the most diverse pool of candidates.

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 field mentioned in the profile;
- 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. Candidates are invited to take into consideration the EUI research priorities, as outlined in the EUI Strategy, and existing research projects of the Department of Political and Social Sciences (eui.eu);
- To maintain a high national and international profile of publications in books and in internationally recognised journals;
- 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 Institute'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 alumni 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 serve on appropriate institutional committees, and to contribute fully to the general life of SPS Department and the EUI;
- To contribute to an inclusive and diverse institutional culture at 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, 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 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. 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. 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.

Teaching and Supervision

At SPS Department, the teaching contract requires Institute professors to conduct not less than 60 hours of teaching in the course of the academic year, in addition to their supervision of individual researchers. The teaching is organised in three terms: the first runs from October to December, the second from January to Easter, and the third from Easter to June. During the first and the second term, teaching mainly takes the form of ten two-hour graduate seminars. In the third term, a workshop or equivalent activity is organised, designed to meet particular training needs of small groups of researchers.

Typically, some 25 to 35 researchers are admitted to the department's doctoral programme each year.

Faculty members are obliged, by contract, to continue supervision of their researchers even after they have left the Institute.

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

In November 2026, the Faculty of the Department of Political and Social Sciences comprises 12 full-time Professors (two joint with the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies), one part-time Professor and two full-time Assistant Professors, a Head of Departmental Administration and seven 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. 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 mid-February 2027;
- Departmental presentations and interviews will take place in April 2027 respectively. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an interview, and asked to present their recent research;
- The Selection Board's proposal on the selected candidate(s) will be submitted to the next available Academic Council;
- The successful candidate is expected to commence in January 2028 or as soon thereafter as can be satisfactorily arranged.

Application file

Your file should contain the following elements.

- **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 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 may consult other external experts for its deliberations.

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

- **Cover letter**;

- **CV:** Please present a **short** CV of maximum 5 pages including education, professional experience, prizes and other major achievements;

- **List of publications:** Please present a list of your books, contributions to books, journal articles, and other relevant publications;

- **Teaching and supervision statement:** The statement should detail the teaching and supervision philosophy and experience of the candidate.

- **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 **27 January 2027** 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 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).

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 Human Resources Service (applypro@eui.eu).

Please note that the EUI will be closed from 21 December 2026 to 6 January 2027 (inclusive). Any queries received during this period will be addressed upon the Institute's reopening.