

Fiesole, 15th October 2011

Dear prospective applicant,

I am pleased that you are interested in the PhD programme in social sciences at the EUI. Its four departments - Economics, History and Civilization, Law and Political and Social Sciences - offer not only excellent academic training and facilities but also an opportunity of conducting high-level research in a stimulating and unique academic environment in the beautiful hills of Fiesole.

What distinguishes the EUI is its unique European and international character, where no single national culture or approach dominates. Here, you will work alongside peers who represent some 50 different nationalities. There are very few PhD-schools, if at all, in the world that can make a claim of offering more than a “national PhD”.

The EUI is not an EU institution, but an international organisation created as part of the European integration process and as such a reference point for research on European issues and a forum for debate on European questions. The 1972 Convention creating the EUI clearly states that the Institute should develop interdisciplinary research programmes on the major issues confronting contemporary European society whereby exploiting its European character and contributing to the study of Europe’s historical and cultural development, its institutions and its integration processes.

In our vibrant academic environment you will receive not only the best professional academic training and research opportunities but you will also have the possibility of meeting and mixing with leading international scholars through the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies and the post-doctoral Max Weber Programme. You will also be invited to engage in debates with leading scholars, top policymakers and European leaders visiting our institution and participating in our activities.

While our research focus certainly goes beyond European affairs, I hope that one of your reasons for applying to the EUI would be your interest in the fields of study for which the EUI was created.

Overall, if an excellent academic environment and training in a specialist university of international recognition and European in character is what you seek for the next step in your academic career, then do apply to the EUI.

We look forward to receiving your application.

Yours sincerely,



Josep Borrell