

Id 3919 – RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP CALL: **Engaging with the Eastern Neighborhood in a context of war** **and geopolitical tensions**

Position and grant

The Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna announces a call to assign one Research Fellowships to perform research activities related to the scientific field of SPS/04 – Political Science at the Institute of Law, Politics and Development. The net amount of the fellowship is 30,000€ per year. The present fellowship cannot be cumulated with other fellowships and grants except those aimed at financing a period of stay abroad necessary within the research activity. The duration of the research fellowship is 24 months, renewable in case of positive evaluation of the research activities performed.

Research Activity

- **Research title** “Engaging with the Eastern Neighborhood in a context of war and geopolitical tensions”

- **Research description**

The researcher will contribute to research activities conducted under the supervision of the scientific coordinator Prof. Francesco Strazzari, focusing on democracy promotion in the Eastern Neighborhood of the EU, with specific reference to exploring the dynamics of the enlargement process, also vis-à-vis the policies of international actors. The researcher will assist in coordinating research within a team with other partners and will be responsible for studying political dynamics in the Eastern Neighborhood, particularly with reference to the candidate states Moldova and Ukraine, and Georgia, whose candidacy has been recommended by the EU Commission. The primary focus will be on analyzing the hybrid characteristics of these political regimes. The researcher will examine historical trends, political cultures, informal networks, and challenges related to daily livelihood, as well as how these factors influence widespread opinions on legality, rulers, and political configurations. Additionally, the researcher will investigate EU democracy promotion efforts, comparing them with the interaction and initiatives of other actors with competing agendas (Russia, China, Turkey). Finally, they will critically reflect on the implications for democracy of the war in Ukraine and the growing geopolitical tensions in the region. Special attention is given to the role of local actors, requiring the researcher to have an in-depth knowledge of local dynamics.

The candidate should also have familiarity with at least two of the following areas of scientific literature, both in the local/national and transnational/international dimensions: political processes of democracy promotion, democratization, Europeanization, hybrid regimes, foreign policy analysis, political radicalism and nationalism, violent extremism, informal politics, and corruption.

Research activities prepare and initiate the HORIZON EUROPE project "RE-ENGAGE: Re-Engaging with Neighbours in a State of War and Geopolitical Tensions." Therefore, the candidate should have previous experience in project management (both European and non-European projects) and research in a team. The grant holder must be able to work according to the safety protocols established at the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, interact with local partners, coordinate with other Horizon project partners, and have the ability to travel due to

field research missions. Practical experience with field research techniques and survey administration/analysis is required. Specifically, the employed methodology (analysis of primary and secondary sources – interviews, focus groups, documentary analysis) aims to produce research on the impacts of governance and democratization solutions in the neighborhood.

Admission Requirements

The requested professional scientific curriculum includes a Master's Degree (Laurea Magistrale) in Social Service and Social Policy, International Relations, Political Science, Sociology and Social Research, Philosophical Sciences, or Historical Sciences. Equivalent degrees from the previous regulations before the introduction of Legislative Decree no. 509/99 are also accepted, or titles deemed equivalent as specified in Article 3 of the competition notice.

Application and attachments

The candidate is requested to apply online at <https://www.santannapisa.it/it/assegni-di-ricerca-e-selezioni-incarichi-esterni/istituto-dirpolis-dialogare-con-il-vicinato> by writing his/her email address in the field “Procedi alla selezione”; the candidate will be redirected to the registration page and have the possibility to apply following an English form after selecting “Read this page in English”.

In case of difficulties, please contact the Administration Office (Tel. +39-050-883.254/258/576, e-mail assegniricerca@santannapisa.it).

Attachments (pdf format):

- copy of a valid identity document (Passport)
- copy of the scientific-professional Curriculum Vitae, signed and dated (please use the EU format)
- copy of all academic titles (MSc/MA Degree, PhD ...) and copy of the MSc and or PhD thesis and of all publications and other elements which can be useful for the evaluation (these documents must be saved in a zip folder)(if you don't attach titles or publications, they cannot be evaluated).
- Substitute declarations (attachment B and C) to be downloaded during online application, filled, signed and uploaded
- a list of all the attached documents, signed and dated

The candidate must indicate his/her status, personal information and qualities in the curriculum vitae. Particularly, he/she must also analytically indicate studies completed, qualifications earned, publications and/or patents, services provided, functions performed, the positions held and any other scientific, professional and educational activities that may have been performed, listing exact references for each qualification indicated.

Academic and professional qualifications must be self-certified by the form at Attachment B or submitted in copy accompanied by a declaration of conformity to the original, pursuant to Presidential Decree no. 445 of 28 December 2000, using the form at Attachment C. Other qualifications, theses and/or publications may be submitted in their original form or in copy accompanied by the declaration in lieu of notarized affidavit using the form at Attachment C.

Selection method and ranking list

The selection is based on the assessment of qualifications and an interview for a total of 100 points, of which **70** points are for the assessment of qualifications and **30** points are for the interview.

Assessment of qualifications:

- 1) **Academic qualifications: 25** points

- Achievement and / or attendance of a PhD in a subject relevant to the research topics of the present call: **15** points
- Attendance of post-graduate courses or training courses in subjects related to the research topics of this call: **5** points
- Other qualifications: short courses (summer schools, training, and certified seminars) or specialization in doctoral research activity: **5** points.

2) **Publications** and original works according to their relevance and importance: **25** points

3) **Professional qualifications** for documented research activities at Public Entities, private companies, and NGOs with employment contracts, scholarships, internships, or other types of assignments, both in Italy and abroad; work experience in international contexts, according to their relevance to the activity to be carried out, at the discretion of the Evaluation Commission. **Proficiency in one or more foreign languages: 20** points

The candidate will be admitted to the interview if he/she obtains at least 55 points in the evaluation of the titles and will pass the interview obtaining at least 20 points.

A ranking list of eligible candidates will be drawn up by the examination committee at the end of the selection with a cumulative minimum score of 75/100 (evaluation of titles and interview).

Deadline for applications: 12.12.2023

Date of admission to interviews: 13.12.2023

Interview: 15.12.2023, 11:00 a.m. (CET)

Resident abroad applicants may also ask to hold their interview in their country of residence via conference call. In this case the candidate is asked to contact Italian Embassies or his/her local University, arranging the interview for the date scheduled and considering that he/she will be previously identified by an employee or a Professor.

Formalization of the fellowship and contract termination

Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna will contact the winner at the email address provided for the selection, offering him/her the fellowship and asking to reply before the beginning of the fellowship.

In case you need information or help in submitting your application, please contact the Personnel Office, +39.050.883.254/258, email assegniricerca@santannapisa.it.

The official version of this Call is available only on the Italian page:

https://gbc.sssup.it/UploadDocs/49831_bando_90982_3919.pdf