PhD position on the new era of central banking at University of Louvain La Neuve (Université catholique de Louvain) (2x2 years)

The Institute of Political Science Louvain-Europe (ISPOLE) of Université catholique de Louvain (UcL) is hiring a doctoral researcher for a research project on the new era of central banking.

The position is for two years, with the possibility to renew for another two years (1905 €/month after taxes, including retirement and health benefits). The PhD researcher will work under the supervision of Clément Fontan, Professor of European Economic Policies (UcL) and will be part of the ISPOLE PhD programme. The deadline for application is July 15 2018. The scholarship will start between September 1st and October 1st 2018.

Profile

- Holder of a Master degree in Political Science or related field (Public Administration, Political Economy, International Relations…). Last year students are encouraged to apply, on the condition that they obtain their MA-degree before the start of the scholarship; i.e. October 1st, 2018.
- Good knowledge of the political governance of economic and financial systems
- Demonstrable research interests on at least one of the following issues : central banking, financial crises, financial regulation and supervision, comparative study of international organisations
- A very strong command of English, both in writing and speaking. Basic command of French language is not compulsory but desirable
- Experience of academic research is compulsory (Master thesis, Research assistance, academic article…). Experience of discursive analysis and/or semi-conducted interviews is not compulsory but desirable.
- Self-motivated, pro-active, critical thinking and willingness to participate to the laboratory activities on a very regular basis.
- Willingness to conduct field studies and spend a study period abroad.

Research project

Because central banks play an interface role between financial markets and democratic states, they are crucial regulatory authorities that are located at the heart of capitalist systems. When the Global Financial Crisis erupted, central banks radically moved beyond the role they were playing since the beginning of the 1990s’ as they became the lenders of last resort of both states and financial markets, in addition of gaining numerous additional competences.

The starting point of this research project is to consider whether democratic controls over central banks’ activities have evolved in line with the extension of their role within the political realm. The PhD researcher will consider three forms of democratic controls over central banks: legal control (judicial review and treaty change), political control (politics of nomination of central bank governors) and parliamentary control (hearings of central bankers). In order to understand the explaining factors driving the evolution of democratic controls, the PhD researcher will conduct a comparative study on the following central banks: the ECB, the Fed,
the BoE and the BoJ. He or she will adopt a mixed method research design including discursive analysis and semi-structured interviews.

Applications should be sent in one PDF file including:

1. A letter of motivation (max 4 pages) explaining how your profile fits the research project and how you would conduct your research during 4 years
2. A full CV (including degrees obtained for each study year, the title of your MA-thesis, and, when applicable, a list of publications, relevant courses taken, and conference presentations)
3. Contacts and details of two academic referees
4. The MA thesis (completed or in progress) or another relevant research output.

Additional informations

Women, disabled people and minorities are especially encouraged to apply. Applications should be sent to element.fontan@uclouvain.be. Short-listed candidates will be contacted on August 26. Short-listed candidates will be interviewed by Prof Clément Fontan by Skype or at Louvain-La-Neuve (depending on the mobility of the candidate) during the first week of September. The selected applicant will start his or her PhD before October 1st. The selected applicant will have to apply for the FNRS-PhD funding at the end of the first year. Candidates who want more information about the research project or the recruitment process should contact prof. Clément Fontan before July 15. More information about the PhD training at Ispole here: https://uclouvain.be/en/research/phd-training.html