



## Call for Applications

### Maria Curie Early-Research Fellows (2 positions)

The Centre for Social Studies (CES) – Associate Laboratory – of the University of Coimbra, opens a call for applications for 2 PhD fellowships in the field of Caspian Studies (International Relations or Peace and Conflict Studies), according to the following terms:

**a) Deadline:** 10 april 2015

**b) In the frame of the project:**

**CASPIAN - Around the Caspian: a Doctoral Training for Future Experts in Development and Cooperation with Focus on the Caspian Region** (Funded by the Research Executive Agency of the European Commission, with the Grant Agreement number 642709 – CASPIAN – H2020-MSCA-ITN-2014)

**c) Description of the project:**

The main goal of this project is to train the next generation of experts on the Caspian region in order to establish, and make sustainable, a network of excellence. This will be achieved through an integrated PhD programme on the Caspian that boosts the researchers' theoretical, empirical and administrative skills, a thing that will make them extremely competitive for employment in both academic and non-academic sectors but also confident and knowledgeable enough to start their own projects. The training will enhance the research skills of the ESRs while also giving them a first-hand experience with a partner operating in a different environment, thus learning how to apply their skills to different fields and sectors. We expect our network and training to become a leading voice on issues related to the Caspian region both in academia and other sectors.

**d) Description of the PhD and training programme**

CASPIAN (2015-2019) is an Innovative Training Network that has received 3.8 Million Euro under a Marie Skłodowska Curie Scheme funded by the Research Executive Agency of the European Commission with the goal of training the next generation of experts on the Caspian region.



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The training will have three main components:

**Academic training:** the students will have to undergo an extensive academic training, in the framework of the PhD Programme in International Politics and Conflict Resolution, offered by the Faculty of Economics, in collaboration with the Centre for Social Studies, of the University of Coimbra. Based at the Centre for Social Studies of the University of Coimbra they will also attend regular network events and will have access to a network of excellent universities where to receive complementary training.

**Private sector training:** in the course of their fellowship, our fellows will have the chance to spend a period in one of our partners to get a work experience and learn how to use academic skills for non-academic sectors.

**Worldwide vision on the Caspian region:** fellows will be encouraged to spend a research period in one of our non-EU university to gain an alternative, and non-Eurocentric, vision on the Caspian region.

## e) Partners of this project are:

### Full partners (beneficiaries):

1. Dublin City University (Coordinator)
2. Forschungstelle Osteuropa
3. University of St Andrews
4. University of Gent
5. Oxford Brookes University
6. Tallinn University of Technology
7. Centre for Social Studies of the University of Coimbra

### Non-academic partners:

1. Finnish Institute of International Affairs
2. Centre for Social Sciences
3. Eastern Partnership Advancement Centre
4. Kimmage Development Studies Centre
5. Levada Centre
6. Ainouras Research
7. Transitions online

### Academic non-EU partners:

1. Renmin University of China
2. Jawahral Nehru University
3. Harvard University
4. Moscow Higher School of Economics
5. Marmara University



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## 6. Hanyang University

### f) Profile of the candidates:

The Centre for Social Studies of the University of Coimbra is recruiting two promising young researchers to participate in this four year project (2015-2019). We are looking for two candidates with a background in International Relations or Peace and Conflict Studies and with an interest in the Caspian region (Russia, Caucasus, Central Asia, Iran). The candidates are expected to enroll on the 4-year Doctoral Programme "International Politics and Conflict Resolution", offered by the Faculty of Economics, in collaboration with the Centre for Social Studies, of the University of Coimbra.

### g) Rationale of the research projects

The fellows will have to complete a PhD thesis related to one of the following topics:

#### **Topic 1: Foreign policy dynamics in the Caspian: security and energy at center stage of stability building in the wide regional context**

This thesis focuses on intersecting dynamics of a security-related nature, building on a foreign policy theoretical approach, where framing, decision-shaping and making and the internal-external relationship are central to the analysis. Also, the theoretical approach departs from a combination of objective readings of foreign policy with security alignments, drawing on neorealism, with subjective dealings linked to identity formation and discursive interpretations, drawing on a constructivist-based analysis. The case study of the Caspian, where the intersection of energy interests, both as complementary and competitive, serves as a basis for the study of stability-building dynamics. These are the result of dealings with regard to foreign policy/internal politics options and how these are pursued, at both these levels. The main lines of action/reaction in this geostrategic area regarding security issues, with a particular focus on energy seeks to bring an innovative look at traditional dealings, particularly through the theoretical frame that informs this study and where agency in foreign policy theory gains a multidimensional look.

#### **Topic 2: Main causes, dynamics and actors of peace and violence in the Caspian region**

This thesis focuses on the dynamics of peace and violence developing around the Caspian region. Besides geopolitical considerations, these dynamics are very much interlinked with issues of natural resources' governance, identities, economic interests and political tensions within and among these neighboring countries. This project will focus in particular on the structural causes of violence in the region, such as social, economic and political inequality of particular groups. It will further analyze possible alternatives to tackle these structural dynamics, in order to positively transform regional violent conflicts.



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## h) Eligibility and technical information

Candidates of any nationality and residence are eligible to apply as long as they meet the following criteria:

- Minimal qualifications: candidates must be eligible for doctoral studies in Portugal and have a Master in a relevant topic completed by Spring 2015.
- Maximum seniority allowed: candidates must have less than 4 years (full-time equivalent) of research experience after their Master's degree. This means that, from the moment they have completed their Master's, they may have held research position but for a total of less than 48 months.
- Mobility clause: candidates must not have been resident or carried out activities (work, studies) in Portugal for more than 12 months in the past three years.
- Candidates must be available to assume these fellowships as a full-time position, in a regime of exclusivity, and be available to move to Portugal and set up residence in Coimbra.

## i) Work place:

The tasks will be performed in the Centre for Social Studies' facilities or in other locations when necessary for the good implementation of the Career Development plan, under the scientific supervision of the Team Coordinator and the Main Supervisor.

## j) Requirements:

1. Master's degree in any field of Social Sciences or Humanities (preferably in Political Sciences or International Relations) (20%);
2. Professional or research experience in Peace and Conflict Studies. The additional knowledge of the regions involved in the project (Russia, Caucasus, Central Asia, Iran) will be considered. (20%);
3. Documented training and experience in using qualitative methodologies in the social sciences, and legal and documental analysis (20%);
4. Proficiency in English (reading capacities in some language spoken in Caspian region will be an additional factor taken into consideration) (15%);
5. Quality of the project proposal, based on one of the 2 topics indicated (15%);
6. Independent thinking, critical awareness and enthusiasm in integrating multidisciplinary teams, and availability for frequent travelling (10%);

## k) Benefits:

**Employment type:** Fixed Term (3 years) – Full time, in regime of exclusivity

**Duration:** 12 months, renewed automatically up to 2 times, depending on the good performance of



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the ERS fellows and their developed activities as defined in their Career Development Plan, and on the Team Coordinator's assessment

**Period:** Available from 1 September 2015 to 31 August 2018

**Salary:** Living Allowance, Mobility Allowance and Family Allowance, in line with Marie Skłodowska Curie Scheme Regulations, subject to statutory income tax and social security contributions and other charges applicable.

**Other Benefits:** additional funds for research and training expenses, including the payment of the PhD Fees; travel costs for the participation in meetings, summer schools and other project's activities; attendance of international conferences; fieldwork trips and travel and accommodation costs during the Secondment

## **l) Selection process:**

CV evaluation. Should the selection committee so decide, an interview in English will be made with the best candidates, through Skype. All candidates will receive the results by email.

## **m) Applicable legislation:**

Portuguese Labour Code, law no. 7/2009, of February 12th and successive changes.

## **n) Application process:**

**To apply** send an application package containing:

- i. A letter of intent/motivation (in English; 2 pages maximum)
- ii. Detailed Academic Curriculum Vitae
- iii. PhD project proposal, indicating clearly the topic it is applying to (2 pages maximum)
- iv. Two letters of recommendation
- v. Copies of degree certificates and of other relevant documents for eligibility purposes
- vi. Two publications (max.) in English language, one of which might be a chapter from the Master's thesis.

Applications can be handed in personally at CES' facilities, or sent by postal mail, with stamp due until the final deadline, to the following address, with clear indication of call and name of the applicant):

Centro de Estudos Sociais  
Ref.: CES-CASPIAN/1/2015  
Colégio de S. Jerónimo, Apartado 3087  
3000-995 Coimbra  
Portugal



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CES promotes equal opportunities.

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**Information about the Marie Skłodowska Curie actions is available at:**

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/>

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/about-msca/quick-guide/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/about-msca/quick-guide/index_en.htm)

**Financial and other technical information is available at:**

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/about-msca/actions/itn/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/about-msca/actions/itn/index_en.htm)

**The European Charter for Researchers and in the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers**

Documents available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/pdf/brochure\\_rights/am509774CEE\\_EN\\_E4.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/pdf/brochure_rights/am509774CEE_EN_E4.pdf)

**About the Centre for Social Studies (CES):**

The Centre for Social Studies (CES) of the University of Coimbra ([http://www.ces.uc.pt/index.php?id\\_lingua=2](http://www.ces.uc.pt/index.php?id_lingua=2)), founded in 1978, is a scientific institution devoted to research and advanced training in the area of the social sciences and humanities. CES now numbers 127 researchers, 51 associate researchers, 98 post-doctoral researchers, nearly 400 PhD students, 34 junior researchers and 31 staff members. CES was awarded the status of Associate Laboratory by the Ministry for Science and has been evaluated as Excellent in international evaluations.

The Centre's research activities, conducted within five Research Groups, are structured along four main axes: International research, partnerships and networks; National public policies assessment projects; Observatories - public assessment through systematic evaluation and data collection; and National research projects. At present, there are more than 50 research projects being carried out, national and international, of different nature and size. Our current activities also include 12 PhD



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Programmes, in partnership with the University of Coimbra, advanced training courses, seminars, conferences, colloquia, among other activities.

CES is situated at the heart of the University of Coimbra's main campus and provides working spaces, seminar rooms and equipment, library access and IT support to research fellows. Currently, CES is involved in a total of 53 projects, of which 24 are international. To support research, dissemination strategies and advanced training, CES structure includes: a project management office; a financial office; an events and communications office, a publications office and an academic secretariat.

The North-South library offers a specialized collection of 18.131 monographs and 844 periodicals.

More information available at:

<http://www.ces.uc.pt/>

## About the University of Coimbra:

The University of Coimbra (UC) is an indisputable reference in higher education and research in Portugal, due to the quality of the courses taught at its eight Faculties (Arts and Humanities, Law, Medicine, Sciences & Technology, Pharmacy, Economics, Psychology & Education Sciences and Sports Sciences & Physical Education) and to the advances achieved in research in several fields of knowledge.

This University, dating back to the 13th century, pursues a policy of constant improvement in various fields, which allow it to reassert the high quality of research and teaching, as well as an active role in the development of businesses and industry, being among the major science and technology hubs for applied and fundamental research in Portugal. Over the years UC has received national and international funding for hundreds of research projects, having been created 43 spin-offs. Currently, there are more than three hundred research projects being carried out, some of which are directly financed by EC and in which the university is the coordinator, and 32 active national patents and 67 active international patents, were registered.

The University of Coimbra numbers 23.656 undergraduates and graduated students (from 83 different nationalities, of which 1693 are incoming exchange students and 55% are female), 1 482 Academic/Research staff members and 1359 non-academic staff members, what gives an impression of the University's dimension.

More information available at:



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<http://www.uc.pt/en>

## About the Faculty of Economics:

The Faculty of Economics (FEUC), created in 1972, is one of the eight faculties of the University of Coimbra, dating from 1290, one of the oldest in Europe and the oldest in Portugal. Its first courses in Economics, launched in the 1973-74 academic year, were followed by three other first degrees, all four currently available: Sociology, Management, and International Relations. FEUC has approximately 2,500 students, 130 teaching staff and 40 administrative staff. These, combined with excellent facilities, offer a very high quality educational service in an environment that is both very friendly, and academically stimulating.

More information available at:

<http://www.uc.pt/en/feuc>

## About the Doctoral Programme "International Politics and Conflict Resolution:

The Faculty of Economics, in collaboration with the Centre for Social Studies, offer a Doctoral Programme in International Politics and Conflict Resolution, oriented towards advanced competence training in reading contemporary international politics, with special emphasis on studying the dynamics of international strife, be it from the viewpoint of causes and signs of emerging conflicts, or from the viewpoint of theoretical and technical instruments for conflict resolution, thus endeavouring to combine the agendas of research in *conflict studies* and those of *peace studies*.

More information available at:

<http://www.ces.uc.pt/doutoramentos/polint/indexen.php>



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