



Postdoctoral Research Associate in Political Science

(Proposed start date 1 January 2022)

The University of Glasgow seeks to appoint a full-time Postdoctoral Research Associate to work on an exciting new project studying the funding structures of international organizations, such as the United Nations, the World Bank, and regional organizations. The successful candidate will join a dynamic and interdisciplinary research environment, and collaborate with scholars in the fields of Political Science, Public Administration, Economics, and Development Studies. This role will be based at the School of Social and Political Sciences.

The Postdoctoral Research Associate will be responsible for designing and coordinating survey experiments conducted in partnership with the United Nations (UN) to understand recipient-country preferences for funding structures and their perceived impact on aid effectiveness. The researcher will be expected to develop their own research agenda in connection to the project.

The project

The 'Earmarked funding and the effectiveness of international organizations' (EF-IO) research program will examine how earmarked funding affects the effectiveness of international organizations (IOs) in addressing global development challenges. Earmarked funding refers to financial contributions from donor governments to IOs whose use is restricted to specific recipient countries, themes, or sectors. Following rapid growth of earmarked funding, concerns have grown about a declining focus of IOs on the needs of the poorest, increasing transaction costs of aid delivery, and unhealthy competition for funding among IOs. Our knowledge about the consequences of earmarked funding on IOs is limited though.

Against this background, EF-IO aims to understand whether and how earmarked funding affects development outcomes on the ground. To that end, the project first examines how earmarked funding and its sub-types affect the performance of IOs. In addition, the project examines how the availability of earmarked funding (directly) affects project outcomes. A key deliverable of the project is to extend available data on earmarked funding. Combined with other pertinent data on IO performance of IO effectiveness, the data allow for the first systematic inquiry of how earmarked funding and its various sub-types affect the effectiveness of IOs in addressing global development challenges. To complement these findings, the project will pilot a survey experiment to examine how IO funding structures

affect perceptions about IO performance and IO effectiveness. To that end, it will build on a UN-administered survey with recipient-country elites.

Aside from contributing to several strands of social-scientific research, findings from EF-IO will inform the policy debate on earmarked funding. By providing fresh evidence on how earmarked funding affects the effectiveness of IOs, it suggests avenues for reform of such funding in view of maximizing the potential of IOs to contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Candidate profile

The successful candidate must have or be close to completing a PhD in a relevant social science discipline, a strong command of social science research methods, and be proficient in both written and spoken English. A keen interest in the policies and politics of international organizations is an additional asset.

Essential qualifications

- Disciplinary background in Political Science (International Relations, Political Economy, Comparative Politics), Public Administration, Economics, or Development Studies, evidenced by an excellent PhD degree
- A track record of research experience, evidenced by an existing personal research agenda on international organizations or related issues
- Advanced knowledge of social science research methods and experience with survey design and survey experiments
- Good organizational skills and time management skills
- Ability to work in a team and to take on leadership roles
- Proficiency in both written and spoken English

Desirable qualifications

- Area expertise in at least one world region
- Experience in government, public administration, or international organizations
- Experience in project management

What we offer

A full-time research position for two years (preferred start date 1 January 2022), with the possibility of extension to three years.

The Postdoctoral Researcher will become an active member of the EF-IO project. The project is coordinated by Dr Bernhard Reinsberg. It offers a stimulating work environment in a dynamic research team and the opportunity to shape a large research program and engagement with policymakers.

The Postdoctoral Researcher will be based at the University of Glasgow, School of Social and Political Sciences, and will have the opportunity to develop their own wider research agenda in relation to the project theme. The researcher will have office space and administrative support as well as research funds for conferences. The position does not include teaching obligations, but teaching opportunities are available if desired. The Postdoctoral Researcher will be expected to contribute to the collective work on the project, and to present and publish research outputs.

In line with University salary scales, the Postdoctoral research is remunerated at Grade 7 (annual income approximately £36,000).

How to apply

The deadline for applications is **17 September 2021**.

Applications should include:

- A covering letter demonstrating how the candidate meets the requirements of the position and how they see their role within the project;
- A curriculum vitae (including degrees and relevant experience, a list of publications, and conference presentations);
- A writing sample (thesis or paper); and
- Contact details of two referees (name, affiliation, email, and phone number; no letters required).

Please follow this link to apply:

https://my.corehr.com/pls/uogrecruit/erq_jobspec_version_4.jobspec?p_id=064808

Notification of outcomes and interview invitations will be made two weeks after the application deadline. Interviews will take place in the second week of October. For any questions regarding the position, please contact the Principal Investigator, Dr Bernhard Reinsberg, bernhard.reinsberg@glasgow.ac.uk.

The University of Glasgow is an equal opportunity employer.