

Job Description

FATIGUE Early Stage Researcher

UCL School of Slavonic and East European Studies

The UCL School of Slavonic and East European Studies is seeking to appoint three high-calibre Early Stage Researchers (ESR) to join the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Network on 'Delayed Transformational Fatigue in Central and Eastern Europe: Responding to the Rise of Illiberalism/Populism' (FATIGUE).

Position	Early Stage Researcher 1: Illiberal trends in political parties and comparative democratic development in Central Europe
Location:	UCL, London (Years 1 and 3) and Jagiellonian University, Krakow (Year 2)
Working Time:	Full Time (36.5 hours per week)
Duration:	Fixed-Term – 36 months (1st August 2018 – 31th July 2021)
Salary:	Between £30,219 and £38,189 gross per annum at the current rate of exchange. These figures are before employer and employee deductions, including tax, national insurance and pension contributions, subject to the pension choices of the appointee. The level of salary is also subject to the family status of the appointee as to whether they qualify for a family allowance. Due to potential future changes in the Euro/Pound Sterling exchange rate over the period of the appointment, where amendments are required, corrective payments will be made. Salaries are not subject to either cost-of-living adjustments or increment progression, and are inclusive of London Allowance.

About FATIGUE

Following the collapse of state socialism, the liberalisation of public life, democratisation of politics, abolition of state-run economies and the introduction of markets commenced in the states of the former Soviet bloc. These necessary yet socially costly transformations never ran smoothly and in the same direction in all the post-communist states but by the mid-2000s the most successful countries, clustered in Central Europe and the Baltic, seemed to have managed to consolidate liberal democracy. Then something snapped. The political trajectory veered off in new directions as populist parties started gaining more support. All populists engage in delegitimising the democratic system in the name of unconstrained majoritarianism. Now we have two cases (Hungary and Poland) where right-wing populists are in power and dismantling the institutions of checks and balances, and cases where the dominance of technocratic or left populists (Czechia, Slovakia) seems to risk democratic erosion. FATIGUE aims to explain and interpret this puzzling U-turn, reflect on its delayed emergence, diagnose its consequences and propose viable policy solutions. 15 ESRs will be appointed at six partner universities.

For further information about the Programme visit www.ucl.ac.uk/ssees/fatigue.

The Role

ESR1 will be employed by UCL and enrolled on the PhD programme at the UCL School of Slavonic and East European Studies and will write their thesis on a topic related to **Illiberal trends in political parties and comparative democratic development in Central Europe**, supervised by Prof. Jan Kubik and Dr

Seán Hanley at UCL and by Prof. Zdzislaw Mach at Jagiellonian. Further information about the PhD project is below:

<p>Title: Illiberal trends in political parties and comparative democratic development in Central Europe</p>
<p>Objectives: ESR1 will investigate Illiberal trends in political parties and comparative democratic development in Central Europe. The research will investigate the development in illiberal directions of parties which play or have played a leading role in government and deal both with political formations that present themselves as being on the (centre-) right and, where relevant, the (centre-) left. The researcher may choose to narrow the topic through the choice of country, parties, period or sectors.</p>
<p>Expected results: The research will demonstrate how political parties' illiberalism has intersected with and fed social demands and frustrations - broadly conceived as delayed transformation fatigue – and how such parties' development and institutionalisation relate to processes of 'backsliding' and democratic regression.</p>
<p>Planned secondment(s): In Year 2 ESR1 will spend 10 months at Jagiellonian University (JU) and at the Foundation Institute for Strategic Studies, Krakow (FISS).</p>

The ESR's PhD must be designed and conceived as an integral part of the overall FATIGUE project. The successful candidate will be a team player, prepared to work closely with the Project's senior staff and other ESRs. By the end of the third year the ESR will be expected to complete a publishable chapter for the volume constituting one of the major deliverables of FATIGUE. This chapter can be a part of the PhD dissertation, which, most likely, will be completed at a later date.

This is an outstanding opportunity to be part of a network of leading scholars working on one of the most pressing political issues of the contemporary period. In addition to PhD supervision, the successful candidate will benefit from a wide-ranging training programme, which will encompass:

- a) An introductory workshop on the current state-of-the-art with regard to delayed transformational fatigue in Central and Eastern Europe and the rise of populism and anti-establishment politics;
- b) Two workshops on interdisciplinary Area Studies methods;
- c) An overseas research trip to one of the partner universities in the FATIGUE consortium;
- d) A secondment to a non-academic training partner; and
- e) A research-to-policy/stakeholder engagement workshop.

The ESR will help organise and present their research at a major international conference on the themes of the FATIGUE research programme.

Duties & Responsibilities

1. Undertake postgraduate research in support of the agreed doctoral research project.
2. Work closely with the academic supervisors to ensure the compatibility of the individual project with the overall goals of FATIGUE.
3. Present and publish research to both academic and non-academic audiences.
4. Attend and participate in academic and non-academic conferences, events and seminars.
5. Attend and participate in all training events and supervisory meetings.
6. Be seconded to other network partners as necessary to fulfil the grant obligations.
7. Prepare progress reports and similar documents on research for funding bodies, as required.
8. Contribute to the delivery and management of the wider Programme, including attending and participating in programme committee meetings.
9. Undertake any other relevant duties as directed by the Programme Director.
10. Follow UCL policies including Equal Opportunities and Race Equality policies.
11. Maintain an awareness and observation of Fire and Health & Safety Regulations.

Person Specification

1. A good Undergraduate degree and a postgraduate Master's degree (or equivalent) in social science or history.
2. Excellent written and verbal communication, including presentation skills.
3. Highly proficient English language skills.
4. Excellent organisational skills, attention to detail and the ability to meet deadlines.
5. Ability to think logically, create solutions and make informed decisions.
6. Willingness to work collaboratively in a research environment.
7. A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development.
8. Ability to travel and work across Europe.

Eligibility Requirements

All candidates must meet the following requirements to be considered for this post:

- a) Early-Stage Researchers (ESRs) shall at the time of recruitment by the host organisation be in the first four years (full-time equivalent research experience) of their research careers and not yet have been awarded a doctoral degree. Full-time equivalent research experience is measured from the date when a researcher obtained the degree which would formally entitle him or her to embark on a doctorate, either in the country in which the degree was obtained or in the country in which the researcher is recruited.
- b) At the time of recruitment by the host organisation, researchers must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of their host organisation for more than 12 months in the three years immediately prior to the recruitment date. Compulsory national service and/or short stays such as holidays are not taken into account.

How to apply

Application must be must submitted online via the [UCL HR system](#)

The application must include:

- a) A cover letter explaining your motivation for applying.
- b) A Curriculum Vitae setting out your educational qualifications as well as any additional scientific achievements and publications.
- c) Evidence of Advanced-level English – IELTS (or equivalent) overall grade of 7.5 with a minimum of 6.5 in each of the subtests. See also: www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/graduate/life/international.
- d) A research proposal on the theme of 'Illiberal trends in political parties and comparative democratic development in Central Europe'. The proposal should be no longer than 2,000 words (excluding the bibliography) and follow the guidelines here: www.ucl.ac.uk/ssees/how-apply
- e) A copy of your Master's certificate (or equivalent) or certificate of graduation.
- f) An official transcript of the completed subjects and grades achieved in the course of the Master's programme.
- g) Two letters of recommendation from researchers familiar with your academic activities, e.g. the advisor of your Master's thesis. The references should be attached to the application.

Applications close on 28 February 2018 and interviews are anticipated to be held in early April 2018.

Further Information

For more information about the post, please contact: Dr Richard Mole (r.mole@ucl.ac.uk).