

RESEARCH ASSISTANT POSITION (12 MONTHS), ‘LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT OF REGULATORY AGENCIES’ PROJECT (SCIENCES PO SAB FUNDING)

The Centre for European Studies and Comparative Politics at Sciences Po seeks to appoint a research assistant – 12 months, part-time – in order to join the project “*Third Force or Legislative Strengthening? A Franco-British Comparison of Parliamentary Oversight of Regulatory Agencies*”.

1. SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT

The massive development of independent regulatory agencies in Western Europe has raised concerns that have received contradictory answers in public and academic debates. For some, these entities are insufficiently controlled by elected officials, or are too close to regulated interests. Others consider that they are largely in politicians’ hands, leading to a disconnection between agencies’ jurisdictions and their policy outcomes. To address this issue, this research project will generate comparative, quantitative data on legislative “oversight” of independent regulatory agencies (IRAs).

Used as a proxy of parliamentary control, our overall assumption is that oversight attention from legislators would increase with the development of IRAs. However, this process would not necessarily result in an increase in direct legislative control of agencies; rather, they would be the objects of competing controls by multiple principals.

Contradictory accountability requirements would explain the mixed perceptions of these entities in academic and public debates.

Funded by the Sciences Po SAB Research Grant (2020-2022), this project is led by Cyril Benoît (<https://www.sciencespo.fr/centre-etudes-europeennes/fr/chercheur/cyril-benoit>).

More information on the project is available on demand.

2. JOB DESCRIPTION

The research assistant is expected to contribute to the first phase of the project. In close collaboration with the PI, its main task will be to set up a database including a variety of information on regulatory agencies in France and in the United Kingdom (including basic agency characteristics, political variables and other sectoral information).

The work process with the PI should proceed as follow:

- PI writes the codebook, prepares the database and identify sources of data
- Assistant help identifying sources of data and complete the database (first for France and then for the UK)
- PI performs statistical modelling and analysis

Depending on its skills and/or interests, Assistant may participate in these three phases for a single country (there is a possibility, in that case, to attend scientific conferences and to be associated to publications).

3. QUALIFICATIONS, KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE

ESSENTIAL

- A graduate degree (BA/Bsc., Sciences Po College Diploma) to a Postgraduate (MA/Msc.) degree in Political Science, Economics or Law.
- Proficiency in French (if interested to focus on the French case) **or** Proficiency in English (if interested to focus on the British case). In any case, an ability to read and to communicate in the two languages is required.
- An interest for public policy theories, legislative studies and/or political economy
- A basic knowledge of Excel

DESIRABLE, BUT NOT ESSENTIAL

- Demonstrable training in Public Policy **or** Administrative Law **or** Political Economy
- Demonstrable training in quantitative research methods (especially in Poisson Regression Models)
- Demonstrable training on R and/or Stata
- Interest in literature in Quantitative Political Science

4. CONTRACT DETAILS

The appointment is part-time (50 %) and available from 1st January with a contract duration of 12 months.

- Type of contract: Fixed-duration contract (CDD)
- Gross salary: € 1,300 per month (part time salary)

5. HOW TO APPLY

Please send:

- A CV
- A cover letter (no longer than 2 pages)

To linda.amrani@sciencespo.fr by 5pm on October 30, 2019.

Candidates short-listed for interview (possibility to do face-to-face, phone, or skype interview) will be contacted during the last week of October.

Interviews will be planned for the week of November 15, 2019.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to write an email to Cyril Benoit (cyril.benoit1@sciencespo.fr).