

Job advertisement: PhD Candidate

SciencesPo
CENTRE FOR RESEARCH ON
SOCIAL INEQUALITIES



Submission date: **12 April 2026**

The Centre for Research on Social Inequality (CRIS) at the Sciences Po, Paris is seeking to appoint a doctoral researcher / PhD candidate to join the Research Team led by [Prof. Bastian Betthaeuser](#) working on the ERC-funded project '*Understanding the Consequences of Major Health Crises for Education: Learning from the COVID-19 Pandemic (LEARN)*'.

The LEARN project: Health crises, natural disasters, and violent conflicts threaten children's education across the world. Because such disruptive events tend to obstruct data collection, understanding their impact on children's educational development is challenging. The COVID-19 pandemic and the extensive data collection it prompted provide a unique opportunity to study the consequences of major health crises for children's education. The ERC-funded LEARN project uses high-quality, cross-national data and advanced analytical techniques to investigate the key processes through which major disruptive events affect children's educational development and the key factors that moderate these processes. The LEARN project aims to provide a basis for policy makers to future-proof education systems to meet the growing threats posed by major disruptive events, such as health crises, natural disasters, and violent conflicts.

Key responsibilities: In close collaboration with the PI and the other members of the research team, the doctoral researcher will be responsible for advancing the core research streams of the ERC LEARN project. Key responsibilities of this role include:

- Preparing complex data for analyses
- Conducting advanced quantitative analyses
- Drafting, submitting, and revising (in English) academic articles for publication in leading international journals in collaboration with other members of the research team
- Presenting and disseminating findings at international conferences, workshops, lectures, stakeholder meetings, and in public media outlets
- Contributing to the reporting and administration of the research project
- Completing a PhD [Dissertation in Sociology](#) at the [Centre for Research on Social Inequality \(CRIS\)](#), Sciences Po, Paris within the remit of the ERC LEARN project

Key qualifications:

- Master degree or equivalent in the social sciences, preferably in sociology, demography, economics, cognitive sciences, psychology, or a related field (or evidence that the Master degree will be completed within the 2025-26 academic year)
- Strong quantitative methods skills and relevant experience in data preparation & analysis
- Proficiency in using Stata and/or R
- Fluency in English
- Strong intrinsic motivation to conduct world-leading, high-impact research
- Strong interest in issues of educational development and education inequality
- Strong ability to work cooperatively as part of a larger research team
- Strong ability to assume responsibility and work independently with a research project

- Expertise and/or experience in the field of research on education and/or educational inequality (preferable, but not essential)
- Experience and/or expertise in data visualization (preferable, but not essential)

What we offer:

- Vibrant research environment at an internationally leading university and a renown center for research on social and educational inequalities
- Opportunity to advance your research skills in a collaborative setting, as part of the ERC LEARN team
- Support for building your publication record in leading international journals through collaborative publications
- Opportunities for participation in international conferences and building your network in the research community

The Centre for Research on Social Inequalities (CRIS), Sciences Po, Paris: [CRIS](#) is a renowned center for research on social and educational inequalities. It consists of a lively and vibrant community of international experts in the study of different facets of inequality such as education, life course, gender, family, health, cultural, digital, labor market, economic, and environmental inequality, social mobility, urban segregation, migration, and ethno-racial minorities. CRIS is committed to empirical research, drawing on diverse methods and promoting interdisciplinary approaches to generate policy-relevant insights in a world where inequality has become a major threat.

Application materials & timeline: Please apply by the end of **12 April 2026** by completing [this online form](#) and uploading in a **single PDF** file containing the elements listed below. Please be sure to name the PDF file starting with your **last name** (e.g., SMITH_Naomi).

1. Cover letter (1 page) describing how you meet the key qualifications outlined above
2. Curriculum Vitae
3. A research proposal (1-2 pages) for an academic article that would fit within the broader objective of the ERC LEARN project to investigate whether and how health crises, natural disasters, and violent conflicts affect young peoples' educational development and trajectory. Your research proposal should provide: a brief introduction motivating the research proposal with reference to the existing research/theory, the key research questions, the data, key variables, and the methodological approach/research design to be used.
4. Writing sample (e.g., your master thesis or a term paper)
5. Contact information for two academic referees

The application process consists of two stages. In the second stage, applicants who were selected in the first stage will be asked to submit their application to the Sciences Po admission system for the PhD programme in Sociology. The successful candidate will be offered a 3-year doctoral contract at Sciences Po.

For questions concerning this position, please contact Prof. Bastian Betthaeuser (bastian.betthaeuser@sciencespo.fr).

CRIS values diversity and is keen to employ individuals from minorities and under-represented groups. We seek to increase the number of women in those areas where they are underrepresented and explicitly encourage women to apply.