

Call for one funded PhD Position:

“beyond Coalitions: Small States in UN Climate Negotiations”

Sciences Po Paris is looking for a PhD Candidate to join the French-Swiss research project “beyond Coalitions: Small States in UN Climate Negotiations” (beCoSS Climate). This project, co-led by Carola Klöck (Sciences Po Paris) and Paula Castro (Zurich University of Applied Sciences) examines the presence, participation, and influence of different small states in UN climate negotiations through a mix of quantitative and qualitative methods. The PhD project is an integral part of this research project.

The PhD candidate will join the Doctoral School at Sciences Po Paris in the doctoral programme in political science, and has to be formally admitted into this programme.

PROFILE

- knowledge of and interest in UN negotiations, especially those on the environment in general and climate in particular;
- strong interest in and experience with empirical social science methods. We expect a basic understanding of data collection and analysis in both quantitative and qualitative methods, and a good command of at least one method.
- very good English language skills. Knowledge of French and/or another UN language is a plus.
- a team player who can work well independently and autonomously.
- applications from candidates from, or with experience with, countries from the Global South will be viewed favourably.
- willingness to travel and conduct fieldwork at climate negotiations.
- interest in or experience with research communication and outreach to practitioners and other stakeholders is a plus.

TASKS

The PhD candidate will in particular:

- collect data on delegation size and composition (coding) with the support of other project team members;
- analyse quantitative data through descriptive and explanatory statistics;
- collect and analyse qualitative data through observation at climate summits and interim sessions, interviews, and documents;
- write single-authored and co-authored scientific papers for publication in peer-reviewed journals;
- help with the coordination and organisation of the overall project.

CONDITIONS

Candidates need to have completed, or be about to complete, a Master's degree in political science or an adjacent discipline (human geography, sociology, anthropology, etc.) with a good overall mark (equivalent to at least 15/20 in the French system), and a very good mark for their final thesis (equivalent to at least 16/20 in the French system).

Recruitment is conditional on the formal admission into the doctoral programme of the Doctoral School at Sciences Po Paris, as described on the School's website:

<https://www.sciencespo.fr/ecole-recherche/en/>. The Principal Investigators (PIs) will fully support successful candidates to be admitted to the programme, but the final decision on admission is with the Doctoral School, not the PIs.

APPLICATIONS

Please send a letter of motivation, CV, transcript of your Master's degree, and a sample of your writing (e.g., your Master's thesis) to Carola Klöck (carola.kloeck@sciencespo.fr) and Paula Castro (casp@zhaw.ch), with the subject line "beCoSS Climate: PhD application" by 1st April 2024.

We will hold online interviews with shortlisted candidates in early April. The final decision is however subject to admission to Sciences Po's PhD programme. You will need to formally apply to the School of Research at Sciences Po Paris by the programme's deadline on 17 May 2024. Selected candidates will receive the full support for their application.