

JOB DESCRIPTION

Vice-President for Research at Sciences Po

CONTRACT TYPE

Permanent contract

CONTRACTUAL TIME

Full time

RESEARCH AT SCIENCES PO

Sciences Po is an international research university in the humanities and social sciences with 15,000 students and almost 280 teachers and researchers, as well as a community of over 4,000 professional practitioners. A unique model in the French and international university landscape, Sciences Po offers a multi-disciplinary intellectual education in the humanities and social sciences, nourished by research and rooted in the professional world. Sciences Po has:

- eleven internationally recognised research centres (including seven jointly managed with the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), and is structured around five university departments: sociology, political science, history, economics and law.
- an undergraduate college, six graduate schools and a school of research.

In response to the challenges the world faces today, Sciences Po promotes excellence in research that enables us to 'Understand our times, make a difference' and design innovative teaching programmes. The professors at Sciences Po engage in cutting-edge research with a commitment to international collaboration and interdisciplinary work. They are deeply committed to training doctoral students, all of whom are funded and enrolled in rigorous PhD programmes.

Sciences Po professors are frequently awarded ERC grants and win calls for projects funded by European collaborative projects or the French National Research Agency (ANR), while Sciences Po is the recipient of the TIERED (Transforming Interdisciplinary Education and Research in Evolving Democracies) Excellence Programme, which aims to promote research and teaching programmes that foster collaboration between the humanities and social sciences and the experimental sciences. Sciences Po is also a member of the CIVICA European Research University, which brings together several of Europe's leading social science universities (including Bocconi University, the Central European University, the European University Institute, the London School of Economics and the Hertie School) and federates a critical mass of European social science researchers working on essential issues such as environmental and digital transformations, threats to democracy, and European reform.

PRESENTATION OF THE RESEARCH DIVISION

The role of the Research Division is, while respecting academic freedom, to implement Sciences Po's research policy in line with the institution's strategic orientations, to promote open science, and ensure academic integrity, including overseeing the Research Ethics Committee (CER).

Its objectives

The Research Division contributes to ensuring that research is at the heart of Sciences Po's development. It strives to promote excellence among its permanent faculty members and in the work they produce. It promotes research activities that aim to provide students with teaching that is deeply informed by research. Its ongoing focus is to foster research projects that address the challenges facing contemporary societies and contribute to the development of solutions.

Its members

The Research Division is staffed by around ten people, including a general secretary who oversees three staff members in the finance and research project monitoring unit, a person responsible for organising governance and recruitment, a person in charge of the research activity monitoring unit, a person overseeing the communication and promotion of research, a management assistant, and the three members of the research project support team (MAPS).

Its four missions

1/ Coordination, interface management and implementation of the institution's strategy throughout Sciences Po.

The Research Division works closely with the departments whose missions are directly linked to those of research: the Education Department, the Office for Academic Resources and Information (DRIS), the International Affairs Division (DAI) and the School of Research, as well as the departments that support research activities: the Financial Affairs Office (DF), the Strategy and Development Department (DSD), the Department of Human Resources (DRH), Real Estate Department (DI), the Information Systems Division (DSI) and the Communications Office (DCom).

The Research Division is also the main point of contact for the research centres and their staff. It plays a crucial role in mediating between them and the other departments.

2/ The Research Division is responsible for ensuring that research activities at Sciences Po are provided with the optimal conditions to thrive and reach the highest possible level of development. To this end:

- The Research Division serves as a liaison with other departments on matters related to regulations, finance, and human resources.
- Together with the research project support team (MAPS), it provides assistance with the submission of national and European research projects.
- It is responsible for steering research, as well as monitoring and analysing the activities of research centres, researchers and teaching staff.
- It plays a key role in structuring research by contributing to the development or management of institutional projects such as TIERED or CIVICA, as well as by allocating research resources.

3/ The Research Division manages academic human resources strategically by developing, implementing, and monitoring multi-annual recruitment plans. It works closely with the HR Department's academic unit to recruit and manage the careers of FNSP (Fondation Nationale des Sciences Politiques) and MESR (Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche) staff. It promotes a policy of integration and alignment of roles across the different categories of staff (MESR, FNSP, and CNRS).

In conjunction with the HR Department, the Research Division ensures that the bodies responsible for these matters (the Academic Board and, more occasionally, the Careers Committee) uphold the quality of the decisions made. Finally, considerable attention is given to the administrative and support staff in the research centres to ensure the creation of the best possible working environment.

4/ The Research Division nurtures Sciences Po's research culture and promotes research across the institution's departments, schools, and campuses. In conjunction with the Communications Department, it is involved in all communication regarding research outcomes both within and outside Sciences Po and works to enhance the national and international visibility of the institution's research activities. It maintains relations with the entire higher education and research ecosystem at sub-national and national level (ministries, national research bodies [ONR], other institutions, France Universités [FU], the Conférence des Grandes Ecoles [CGE], the socio-economic sphere) and, at European and international level, with the International Affairs Division (DAI).

ROLE AND KEY RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH

The Research Division reports to the Vice-President for Research, who oversees its activities. The Vice-President for Research is responsible for:

- Designing and implementing a research policy that contributes to the success of the strategic vision set by Sciences Po's leadership, while upholding academic freedom and fostering a spirit of collegiality.
- Representing the research conducted at Sciences Po within the French higher education and research sector and throughout the world, maintaining a very high level of research production across all the research units, and enhancing its visibility in conjunction with the Communications Department.
- Providing strategic leadership within the Research Division and enhancing its management in all areas including budgeting, administrative and academic human resources management, support for research projects, oversight of governance bodies, monitoring of research activities and indicators, and the support or leadership of institutional projects.
- Actively participating in the coordinated management of teaching and research activities with the Education Department, in order to strengthen the link between teaching and research.
- Together with the HR Department, developing an ambitious recruitment plan to consolidate the permanent faculty, both in size and quality, ensuring a broad diversity of theoretical perspectives and methodologies, and increasing the

proportion of women and the social and geographical diversity of those recruited. This also involves ensuring demanding yet merit-based career development, recognising faculty members' actual contributions.

- Working in close collaboration with all departments, particularly those whose missions are directly related to research activities (the Office for Academic Resources and Information [DRIS], the Education Department, the School of Research, the International Affairs Division [DAI]), and those providing functional support for its development (the Financial Affairs Office, the Strategy and Development Department [DSD], HR Department, General Services and Real Estate Department [DI], IT Department, DCom, etc.).
- Ensuring that the research conducted at Sciences Po meets the most recent and rigorous standards in terms of academic integrity, research data management and access, and open science.
- Participating in research deliberative bodies (the Academic Board and the Researchers' Commission) and attending meetings that may have implications for research (the Committee of Deans and Department Directors, the Conseil de l'Institut [Board of the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris]).
- Strengthening existing research partnerships (notably through CIVICA and TIERED), developing new ones and promoting the acquisition of independent funding to support research.

DESIRED PROFILE

The Vice-President for Research must demonstrate the following competencies.

A recognised academic background in the humanities and social sciences

- An established academic reputation and extensive knowledge of research in the humanities and social sciences, enabling the promotion of this type of research and effective communication of its significance to both the international academic community and civil society.
- A clear vision of the challenges facing the humanities and social sciences, supported by the ability to keep abreast of emerging themes and promote a diversity of theories, methods and research questions.

Strong interpersonal and managerial skills

- Proven leadership experience (e.g., directing a research unit, UFR, or serving as a vice-president), demonstrating the ability to take on administrative responsibilities in a university setting.
- A successful track record of teamwork on diverse topics, ranging from budgetary matters to the challenges of open science, beyond strictly research-related issues.
- A demonstrated ability to develop innovative ideas and implement them effectively by fostering collective problem-solving and solution-building.

Knowledge of the higher education sector and a vision of how it is evolving

- Experience with both French and international higher education systems, along with a concrete understanding of their key issues, stakeholders, and ecosystems.
- Experience with, or at least a strong understanding of, career management in both public and private academic sectors.
- Practical experience with, or at a minimum familiarity with, research management tools and how they are evolving.

**Successful experience in raising funds from different types of partners.
Excellent command of written and spoken French and English.**

REMUNERATION

Sciences Po is prepared to offer a competitive remuneration package, commensurate with experience, in order to attract an outstanding candidate, in compliance with FNSP rules.

RECRUITMENT PROCEDURE

Submission of applications

Candidate selection begins immediately. Applications should be submitted, together with a complete application file, for consideration by the search committee **by midnight on 28 March 2025.**

Composition of the application:

- A letter of intent (maximum 8,000 characters, including spaces) outlining the candidate's experience relevant to the position, identifying the key challenges they associate with the role, and presenting their vision for advancing research excellence at Sciences Po.
- A complete curriculum vitae.
- The names of five referees (with the title, address, business and home telephone number and email address of each). Professional reference checks, focusing in particular on managerial and interpersonal skills, will be carried out for the shortlisted candidates.

These documents should be sent as a PDF file attached to an email to the following address: drh.poleacademique@sciencespo.fr

Procedure

Applications will be examined by the search committee from **31 March 2025**.

Candidates selected for interview will be confirmed by **30 April 2025** at the latest.

Interviews will take place **in the week of 26 May 2025**.

The search committee will submit its proposals to the President of Sciences Po.

The successful candidate will be expected to take up the position as soon as possible, but no later than 1 September 2025.