



Doctoral Fellowships within the ERC Project “Labour Politics & the EU’s New Economic Governance Regime” at University College Dublin

Application deadline: 10 April 2018

Start date: 10 September 2018

The European Research Council (ERC) project *Labour Politics & the EU’s New Economic Governance Regime* at the Geary Institute for Public Policy, University College Dublin, invites applications for up to three doctoral fellowships. The PhD fellows will be supervised by Roland Erne (principle investigator and professor of European integration & employment relations) and Sabina Stan (senior social scientist and lecturer in sociology & anthropology). Successful candidates will be part of an interdisciplinary, multinational team and must enrol in the joint doctoral programme of the Graduate Schools of Business, Social Sciences and Law.

We welcome original and independent PhD project proposals. However, proposals should fit within the scope of the ERC project *Labour Politics and the EU’s New Economic Governance Regime* (www.erc-europeanunions.eu/about-the-project/). The proposal can be situated in labour studies, sociology, social anthropology, political economy, or comparative politics and may include:

- Contentious politics; social movements; trade unionism; transnational collective action; interest group politics; EU politics; political and social consequences of economic crisis; social justice; Euroscepticism, class politics, technocracy and democracy;
- Interactions between national and EU public policy (e.g. Germany, Italy, Romania and/or Ireland); access to public services (e.g. right to water, healthcare or transport); labour relations, labour law and social policy (e.g. wages, pensions, labour regulations).

Eligibility: Candidates must hold a master’s degree (or equivalent) in the social sciences and have received training in sociology, political sciences, social anthropology, industrial relations, *or* related disciplines. They should have experience with qualitative research and a good general knowledge of labour politics. A firm command of [English](#) is required. Working knowledge of one or two additional European languages is a strong advantage.

Fellowship conditions: Tax-free scholarship (€18,000 p.a. plus €6,170 p.a. fee remission grant); 4-year contract; access to structured PhD programme including language modules; laptop; conference and fieldwork expenses. Start date: 10/09/2018.

Application procedure

Required documents: a CV; a transcript of records from each university attended; a cover letter briefly describing your intellectual trajectory so far and discussing the topics that interest you (2 pages maximum); a PhD thesis project proposal (2,000 words maximum including abstract); and a writing sample such as an article, master thesis chapter, or term paper.

Please send the application compiled into a single PDF file to Bianca.Foehrer@ucd.ie by **10 April 2018** (with “PhD” in the subject line). Shortlisted candidates will be asked to nominate two academic referees and invited to an online interview. Final decisions will be made by the end of April 2018.

Informal inquiries can be sent to Roland.Erne@ucd.ie.



Frequently Asked Questions:

How close should my PhD proposal be related to our ERC project on “Labour Politics and the EU’s New Economic Governance Regime”?

The better your PhD proposal fits into the thematic scope of our ERC project, the higher are your chances to be selected. Hence, your PhD project proposal should relate to labour politics (e.g. to labour relations and the provision of public services) and the EU’s new economic governance regime, as defined in our project description ([full text](#) available here).

The following articles may also be helpful:

Erne, R. (2018) 'How To Analyse A Supranational Regime That Nationalises Social Conflict? The European Crisis, Labour Politics and Methodological Nationalism', in: Nanopoulos, E. and Vergis, F. (eds.) *The Euro-Crisis as a Multi-Dimensional Systemic Failure of the EU*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. [Full text](#) available here.

Erne, R. (2015) 'A supranational regime that nationalizes social conflict. Explaining European trade unions' difficulties in politicizing European economic governance'. *Labor History*, 56 (3): 345-368. [Full text](#) available here.

Erne, R., Bieler, A., Golden, D., Helle, I., Kjeldstadli, K., Matos, T. and Stan, S. (2015) 'Introduction: Politicizing the Transnational', *Labor History*, 56 (3): 237-245. [Full text](#) available here.

Is it important to have a good knowledge of European labour politics in a particular sector?

That would be an advantage. We would particularly be interested in candidates with a good knowledge of trade unions or social movements in public transport, health care, and water services.

Will I be expected to do fieldwork abroad?

We are looking for candidates who would like to study transnational trade union or social movement action in response to the EU’s new economic governance regime at different locations across Europe, namely in Brussels, Ireland, Italy, Romania, or Germany. Interesting PhD proposals that would involve fieldwork in other countries (e.g. France) are also very welcome.