

One PhD scholarship and one Postdoctoral scholarship on social protection policies and transnational migration

Université de Liège (Belgium), Faculty of Social Sciences (FaSS), Centre for Ethnic and Migration Studies (CEDEM)

Applications are invited for scholarships to work at doctoral and post-doctoral level as part of the *Migration, Transnationalism and Social Protection in (post-)crisis Europe* project (MiTSoPro).

Application deadline: 7 October 2016.

Start date: November 2016

Positions:

- One doctoral position: full-time, fixed-term position available for 4 years
- One post-doctoral position: full-time, fixed-term position available for 3 years

About the MiTSoPro ERC Starting grant project

The scholarships are attached to the European Research Council (ERC) Starting Grant for the project, *Migration, Transnationalism and Social Protection in (post-)crisis Europe* (MiTSoPro) led by Dr Jean-Michel Lafleur. MiTSiPro articulates social policy and migration studies' approaches to 'transnational social protection' defined as migrants' cross-border strategies to cope with social risks in areas such as health or unemployment that combine entitlements to host and home state-based public welfare policies and market-, family- and community-based practices.

This study combines large-N analysis of social protection policies and programs that home countries make accessible to their citizens abroad (EU-28 + 12 non-EU countries) with multi-sited ethnographic fieldwork to qualitatively assess the informal social protection strategies used by migrants and examine their interaction with formal host and home state social protection provisions.

Research Environment

The Faculty of Social Sciences (FaSS) of the University of Liège is a small and dynamic faculty committed to the development of research that spans beyond Belgian borders, as shown by its two recently awarded ERC grants and its involvement in numerous FP and Horizon 2020 research projects. Researchers hired to work on the MiTSoPro project will be part of the Centre for Ethnic and Migration Studies (CEDEM), one of Belgium's pioneering and leading research centres in the field of migration and a founding-member of the IMISCOE Research Network. Beyond their involvement in MiTSoPro, researchers will be expected to participate in the intellectual life of FaSS and CEDEM and teach within the Master Degree in Immigration Studies (in English) organized jointly with Pompeu Fabra University (Barcelona).

Vacancy 1: PhD scholarship on social protection policies and transnational migration

Position: One doctoral position: full-time, fixed-term position available for 4 years

Subproject summary:

This first step of the MiTSoPro project consists in identifying the social protection policies and programs that home countries make accessible to their citizens abroad, and then compiling this information into a qualitative online database. Together with the post-doctoral candidate, the doctoral student will compile country-specific information into an online database based on reports drafted by country experts. In a PhD dissertation, the doctoral candidate is expected to make use of this data to contribute to a better understanding of the type of social protection policies sending states design for citizens abroad and their motivation to do so.

Tasks expected from the PhD candidate

- Develop a qualitative database on sending states social protection policies, drawing on the input of country experts
- Write and complete a PhD dissertation on a question directly related to this topic
- Participate in the political & social sciences Ph.D. programme at ULg and in the intellectual life of FaSS and CEDEM (including teaching).
- Submit for publication a minimum of two articles or book chapters
- Present research results in international conferences
- Participate in administrative tasks related to the project (reporting, conference organizations...)

All work would be expected to be done in close consultation with the Principal Investigator and other members of the MiTSoPro project team.

Profile Needed

- MA in the Social Sciences or the Political Science fields (specialty in social policy is an asset)
- Language skills: English (French and other languages are an asset)
- Ability and interest to work in a team

What we offer

- Attractive scholarship
- Resources to conduct fieldwork and participate in conferences and summer schools
- Opportunities to train and develop new skills
- A stimulating and international research environment located a train ride away from Brussels, Paris, London, Cologne and Maastricht
- Possibility to design a joint PhD programme with another European university

How to apply?

The selection process occurs in 2 steps.

First, applications must be submitted electronically in English to Jean-Michel Lafleur (JM.Lafleur@ulg.ac.be) by 7 October 2016 with the message subject, 'MiTSoPro_PhD'. The following documents must be attached to the e-mail in two separate PDF files:

1) In the first file, named 'Motivation_applicant's last name':

- A motivation letter (maximum 800 words);
- A CV with detailed information on degree results and language skills;
- The names and contact details of two reference persons

2) In the second file, named 'Sample_applicant's last name':

- one writing sample (e.g. essay or MA thesis chapter) in English or French demonstrating the applicant's relevant analytical capacities and methodological rigor (single-spaced, maximum 10,000 words)

Second, short listed candidates will be interviewed in person at ULg or remotely via Skype in November 2016. The interview will be based on their scientific track-record and a short research proposal that they will be asked to submit by 27 October 2016 (single-spaced, maximum 3,000 words). The proposal should consist of a PhD dissertation proposal connected to the sub-project on social protection policies for citizens abroad. It should include information on methodological strategies, possible theoretical developments, and relevant literature and data sources.

Final results will be notified before 15 November 2016. The successful nominee would be expected to start immediately.

For more information, please contact the Principal Investigator Jean-Michel Lafleur: Email: JM.Lafleur@ulg.ac.be ; www.cedem.ulg.ac.be

Vacancy 2: Postdoctoral scholarship on social protection policies and transnational migration

Position: One postdoctoral position: full-time, fixed-term position available for 3 years

Subproject summary:

This first step of the MiTSopro project consists in identifying the social protection policies and programs that home countries make accessible to their citizens abroad, and then compiling this information into an online database. With the help of the doctoral candidate, the postdoctoral candidate will be in charge of setting up a database on social protection policies and generating cross-country analysis from it. This entails two broad tasks. First, the postdoctoral candidate will build the canvas for the data collection process, identify country-experts, supervise their work and build it into an online database. Second, the post-doctoral candidate will work towards the creation of an index measuring the engagement of sending states with citizens abroad in the area of social protection in a comparative way.

Tasks expected from the Post-doctoral candidate

- Design and supervise the data collection process in view of building a qualitative database on sending states' social protection policies, drawing on the input of country experts
- Develop an index measuring the engagement of sending states with citizens abroad
- Participate in the academic life of the university as well as teach in the Masters programme on Immigration Studies
- Submit for publication a minimum of three articles or book chapters
- Present research results in international conferences
- Participate in administrative tasks related to the project

All work would be done in close consultation with the Principal Investigator and other members of the MiTSopro project team.

Profile Needed

- PhD in the Social or Political Sciences (research experience in social policy and/or migration policy is a strong asset)
- The applicant must have obtained a doctoral degree after 1 October 2008 (parents can add one additional year per child) or be in a position to obtain a doctoral degree before 1 November 2016.
- Demonstrated experience with mixed methods (familiarity with indexes is an asset)
- 2 published articles in international peer-reviewed journals
- Language skills: English (French and other languages are an asset)
- Ability and interest to work in a team
- The applicant must not have resided/been employed/been a student in Belgium for more than 24 months during the 3 years before the start of the postdoctoral contract

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- Opportunities to train and develop new skills
- Possibility to teach in English (or French) within the Master in Immigration Studies
- A stimulating and international research environment located a train ride away from Brussels, Paris, London, Cologne and Maastricht

How to apply?

The selection process occurs in 2 steps.

First, applications must be submitted electronically in English to Jean-Michel Lafleur (JM.Lafleur@ulg.ac.be) by 7 October 2016 with the message subject, 'MiTSoPro_Postdoc'. The following documents must be attached to the email in two separate PDF files:

1) In the first file, named 'Motivation_applicant's last name':

- A motivation letter (maximum 800 words)
- A CV with detailed information on degree results, publications, research experience and language skills
- A copy of the PhD dissertation if available
- The names and contact details of three references

2) In the second file, named 'Sample_applicant's last name':

- One writing sample (e.g. article, book chapter or chapter of PhD thesis) in English or French showing her/his methodological rigor, relevant analytical capacities and, preferably, the applicant's familiarity with mixed methods (single-spaced, maximum 10,000 words)

Second, short listed candidates will be interviewed in person at ULg or remotely via Skype in November 2016. The interview will be based on their scientific track-record and a research proposal that they will be asked to submit by 27 October 2016 (single-spaced, maximum 3,000 words). The proposal will consist in a document stating the methodological strategy, possible theoretical developments, and relevant literature and data sources that the candidate would foresee using for the subproject on social protection policies for citizens abroad.

Final results will be notified before 15 November 2016. Successful nominees are expected to start immediately.

For more information, please contact the Principal Investigator Jean-Michel Lafleur: Email: JM.Lafleur@ulg.ac.be ; www.cedem.ulg.ac.be