University of Vienna
Department of Government
Rooseveltplatz 3/1
A-1090 Vienna

3 pre-doctoral positions (4 years, 30 hrs/week)

(ERC-funded project 'DEPART: The de-party-politicization of Europe's political elites', PI: Laurenz Ennser-Jedenastik)

The Department of Government at the University of Vienna invites applications for three 4-year pre-doctoral positions in the ERC Starting Grant project DEPART, headed by Laurenz Ennser-Jedenastik. The project investigates how the careers of political elites in 30 European democracies have changed since 1945 and how this affects policy outcomes and political accountability. A more in-depth description of the project can be found here.

Successful applicants will be enrolled in the Vienna Doctoral School of Social Sciences (ViDSS) and complete their PhD thesis as part of the project.

The Department of Government is a vibrant political science department dedicated to excellence in research and teaching and a friendly and cooperative work environment. In addition, it is located in one of the world's best cities.

The three positions:
- **Position 1** is situated in DEPART's work package 1 (WP1) which collects and quantifies data on ministerial biographies on a large scale to analyze long-term changes in the careers of political elites in 30 European democracies. The researcher will have a strong interest in political parties and political elites, solid skills in quantitative methods, and the motivation to build on them (e.g. sequence analysis, event history analysis).
- **Position 2** is situated in work package 2 (WP2) which takes the biographical data produced in WP1, aggregates them, and examines what effect ministers' changing biographical backgrounds have had on policy outputs in Europe since 1945. The researcher will have a strong interest in how political actors affect public policy. He/she will possess solid quantitative skills and the motivation to build on them (e.g. multi-level models).
- **Position 3** is situated in DEPART's work package 3 (WP3) which uses existing observational data and survey experiments (to be designed by the researcher under the supervision of the PI) to examine the impact of political elite biographies on voting behavior and political accountability. The researcher will have a strong interest in how political elites shape voting behavior. He/she will possess solid quantitative skills and the motivation to build on them (e.g. survey experimental design).

General job description:

- Conducting and publishing high-quality research within the framework of DEPART
- Collaborating closely with other researchers in the project (PI, post-doc, pre-docs, student coders)
- Disseminating results from the PhD thesis at international conferences and in high-quality outlets
- Presenting research output from the PhD thesis in departmental seminars
- Starting date: 1 March 2021 for positions 1 and 3, and 1 September 2021 for position 2 (a later start is possible)
- Salary: approx. €31,000 (before taxes), which works out to approx. €1,600/month net (14 times/year) for a 30h/week workload;

Your profile:

- MA degree (or equivalent) in political science or a related discipline (completed or close to completion)
- Research interests as described above
- Strong quantitative skills, excellent command of Stata and/or R
- Willingness to acquire new methodological skills required for the project and PhD thesis (e.g. sequence analysis, life course analysis, event history analysis, multilevel models, TSCS models, design of survey experiments). Funds for methods training (e.g. summer or winter schools) will be available.
- Excellent command of English (written and spoken)
- Ability and willingness to collaborate in a team
- Knowledge (even intermediate-level) of any EU language except for German, English, French, Dutch, Swedish, and Danish is an asset.

We offer:

- Participation in cutting-edge research within a project funded by an ERC Starting Grant
- Opportunity to build your own research profile in the project
- Full integration into the Department of Government, thus the opportunity to draw on a vibrant department embedded in a large academic network in Europe and the United States
- Funding for participation at international conferences and methodological training
- Collaboration in a larger research team (PI, 1 post-doc, 3 pre-docs, 4 student coders)
- Lots of fun (really)

Your application:

- Curriculum vitae (including list of publications)
- Links to a writing example (working paper, MA thesis section, …)
- Contact details of two potential references
- Indication which position(s) you are applying for (1, 2 or 3)

To apply, send one PDF file containing this information to depart.staatswissenschaft@univie.ac.at, using the term 'PhD' or 'pre-doc' in the subject line. The deadline for applications is December 7, 2020. Online interviews for the position will take place December 14–18, 2020. Please direct any questions to laurenz.ennser@univie.ac.at.