

Funded PhD positions on higher education studies at the Institute of Public Communication, Faculty of Communication, Culture and Society at USI Università della Svizzera italiana

Università della Svizzera italiana (USI) is a young and lively university, a hub of opportunity open to the world where students are offered a quality interdisciplinary education in which they can be fully engaged and take center stage, and where our researchers can count on having the space to freely pursue their initiative.

Established in 1996, USI is in constant evolution, always taking on new challenges while remaining true to its three guiding principles: quality, openness and responsibility.

The Institute of Public Communication (ICP) at the Faculty of Communication, Culture and Society invites applications for two PhD positions in higher education studies.

The PhD Position

The successful candidates will work at the Institute of Public Policy and Communication in the group on Research Policy and Higher Education Studies directed by Prof. Benedetto Lepori.

The selected candidates will work on the newly funded Swiss National Science Foundation project on Diversity of higher education systems, differentiation processes and policy mixes in collaboration with Giliberto Capano (Bologna), Jürgen Enders (Bath) and Filippo Wezel. The successful candidates will work on collecting data on institutional differentiation in higher education systems, perform data analyses and investigate the relationship between public policies and higher education diversity. S/he will be expected to work on a cumulative PhD thesis on the topic of higher education diversity, presenting at international venues and publishing in top-level journals in the field both individually and together with the group leader and other members of the group.

The positions are up to four years with competitive salary based on SNSF norm.

Candidates' profile

The ideal candidates will have a master degree in social sciences or economics and should have competences in quantitative research and data management; s//he should exhibit an interest in the study of the structure of higher education systems, as well on diversity of higher education and its policy and organizational determinants.

General terms

Workplace is USI Università della Svizzera italiana, located in Lugano, Switzerland. Distant work might be possible in a first phase.

The Application

Applications should contain a Curriculum Vitae, transcripts of university education, the names of two academic references and other materials (e.g., master and writing samples) that s/he deems relevant. In addition, candidates shall include in the application a short letter discussing interest, motivation, and fit with the position.

Please send your application in electronic form or requests for further information to Prof. Benedetto Lepori (blepori@usi.ch).

Applications received before November 30th, 2021, will be given priority. However, applications will be received until the position is filled.

As an institution that values diversity, USI particularly encourages applications from women and from all individuals from underrepresented groups.