PhD student position at the Institute IdEP, Faculty of Economics 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
The Institute of Economics of the University of Lugano, Switzerland (Università della Svizzera italiana, USI), invites applications for full-time PhD positions in all fields of economics. Applications received by January 10 will be given priority. The starting date is August 1.

The Ph.D. Position
Doctoral School in Economics at USI
In advancing to the PhD degree, students pass through two major stages, (i) course work and (ii) the completion of a dissertation.

Our PhD students focus on their doctoral research and the completion of PhD courses. To support this goal, the working environment we provide is very attractive, including compensation, infrastructure, and opportunities for research and teaching assistant positions. From the beginning, all PhD students are paid a salary of around CHF 50,000 per year and obtain full tuition waivers.

Year 1 is devoted to developing a strong foundation in the basic tools of economics, including full-year courses in microeconomics, macroeconomics, and econometrics (core courses). Successful candidates will be required to apply by April 15 to the Swiss Program for Beginning Doctoral Students in Economics at the Study Center Gerzensee of the Swiss National Bank (SNB). Candidates must submit their GRE test scores during the web-based online application process for this program. In year 1, successful candidates will devote most of their work time to this program.

Year 2 is devoted to deepening courses to bring successful candidates to the research frontier of their field(s) of interest and to developing the dissertation topic. Starting from year 2, in addition to doctoral work, successful candidates will provide part-time assistance in the institute's research projects and/or teaching activities. At the end of year 2, students present a proposal of their dissertation project in an oral exam.

Years 3 to 5 are devoted to completing the dissertation, which consists of at least three original research papers. Successful candidates will present their research progress regularly to their supervisor(s) and in informal seminars to the rest of the faculty and their graduate student peers, who will provide constructive feedback that will improve the research.
Candidates’ profile
We especially welcome applications of women and minority students. Ideal candidates have, or are upon completion of, a Master's degree in Economics, Econometrics or a related field such as Computer Science or Mathematics. Candidates with a general interest in quantitative empirical research will be given a strong preference.

Contract terms
Admission to the Ph.D. program is highly competitive. Admission decisions are based on the candidate’s background, interests, attitude and potential for academic achievement. Successful enrolment in the Ph.D. program and the position as doctoral researcher are not compatible with a further professional activity.

The successful candidates will work as research assistants at the Institute IdEP, and will have the possibility to interact with an international network of collaborators.

Workplace is USI Università della Svizzera italiana, located in Lugano, Switzerland. Availability to travel to other parts of Switzerland and abroad (for purposes of collaboration and research) is required.

Starting date is August 1, 2023.

The Application
Applicants must complete the online application form and email all application files as one compressed zip folder to idep@usi.ch. Please name the zip folder “LastName_FirstName” (Example: Doe_Jane.zip). Specifically, candidates should include the following information:

1. A complete CV, including your email address, date of birth, two academic references (see point 3), any programming skills and other relevant information that might be important for us.
2. A transcript of your university education (Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees or equivalent), including the grade point average (GPA).
3. The names and email addresses of two academic references that could be contacted for more information.
4. A tentative research proposal (max. 4 pages long) on a topic you would be interested in working on.
5. Your GRE certificate with the test score (if available).

Owing to the large number of applications received, only those applicants whose profiles are likely to fit the positions will be notified for further details and eventual interviews. We will start interviewing qualified applicants shortly after the submission deadline (in January and February).

The application deadline is January 10, 2023.

Please send your application in electronic form or requests for further information to idep@usi.ch.

Applications received before January 10, 2023 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.

Lugano, 6.12.2022