

Doctoral Assistant Positions (PhD) in Economics at the Institute of Economics, 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 (IdEP) of the Università della Svizzera italiana (USI) in Lugano, Switzerland invites applications for full-time Doctoral Assistant positions (PhD).

The focus of our PhD students is their doctoral research and the completion of related PhD courses. To support this goal, the working environment we provide is very attractive, including compensation (all PhD students are paid a salary from the beginning), full tuition waivers, infrastructure, and opportunities for research and teaching assistant positions.

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.

Year 1 is devoted to developing a strong foundation in the basic tools of economics, including full year courses in microeconomics, macroeconomics, and econometrics. Successful candidates are required to apply by April 15, 2022 to the Swiss Program for Beginning Doctoral Students in Economics at the Study Center Gerzensee of the Swiss National Bank (SNB). The application form requires candidates to submit their GRE test scores. In year 1, successful candidates will devote most of their work time to this program. Successful completion of the program satisfies the 1st -year course requirements (30 ECTS).

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.

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 progresses regularly to their supervisor(s) and in informal seminars to the rest of the faculty and doctoral students, who will provide constructive feedback that will improve the research.

Candidates' profile

The ideal candidates have, or are upon completion of, a Master's degree in Economics, Econometrics or a related field. 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 September 1, 2022 (at the earliest).

The Application

Candidates should include the following information:

1. A complete CV, including your (i) date of birth, (ii) nationality, (iii) two references (see point 3), and (iv) other relevant information that might be important for us, such as programming skills.
2. A transcript of your university education (Master's and Bachelor's Degree 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 personal statement giving concrete evidence of your promise as a member of the academic community and providing the selection committee an image of you as a person.
5. Your GRE 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.

The application deadline is January 15, 2022.

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

Applications received before January 15, 2022 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, 16.11.2021