PhD position in International Economic Law at the Law Institute, Faculty of Economics at USI
Università della Svizzera italiana

Università della Svizzera italiana (USI) is a young and lively university in Lugano, Switzerland and ranks 3rd in the U-Multirank 2022 of Swiss universities. It is 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 centre stage, and where our researchers can count on having the space to freely pursue their initiatives. 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 Law Institute is an inter-Faculty Institute and aims at promoting and coordinating the teaching and research activities pursued in the field of Law at USI.

The project
This position offers the opportunity to conduct research activities within the context of the reFuel.ch project. The project aims at developing solid and practical pathways for the introduction of sustainable fuels and platform chemicals (SFPC) into the markets and the Swiss energy system, using an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach. The project seeks inter alia to promote trade and investment in SFPCs through innovative, economically efficient solutions that are also compatible with the current legal and regulatory framework. To this end, the doctoral candidate will be required to investigate opportunities and constraints for investments in and finance of SFPC production facilities and infrastructure as arising out of the international law and policy landscape relevant to the production, transport, storage, and trade of SFPC.

Postdoctoral position
Prof. Ilaria Espa (Associate Professor of International Economic Law) is looking for an assistant - PhD student in International Economic Law within the context of reFuel.ch project financed by the Swiss Federal Office of Energy, starting from 1 January 2024 (or upon agreement).

Candidate’s profile
The ideal candidate for the position should satisfy the following requirements:
- Master in Law (cum Laude)
- Strong interest in research in international economic law (in particular international trade law and its interfaces with climate change and energy law and policy).
- Excellent drafting skills.
- Self-organized and autonomous work ability.
• Good knowledge of at least two national languages (preferably including Italian) and English.

Contract terms
• Admission to the position is highly competitive. Admission decisions are based on the candidate’s background, interests, attitude and potential for academic achievement.
• Depending on mutual needs, the position can be either full-time or part-time.
• The salary is to be determined according to the candidate’s experience based on the pay scale of USI Lugano.
• 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.

The Application
Applications should contain:
• Detailed CV,
• Letter of motivation including research interests, transcripts and degrees of all completed college/university courses
• Copy of any relevant publications
• At least two letters of recommendation

Application should be sent in a single PDF to Prof Ilaria Espa (ilaria.espa@usi.ch) with the subject line: "Application – PhD position in International Economic Law - reFuel.ch project". Deadline for applications is 30 November, but we may start reviewing applications earlier. Candidates are hence encouraged to submit an early application.

For further information, please contact Prof. Ilaria Espa (ilaria.espa@usi.ch).

USI strives to be an equal opportunity and family friendly employer and is further responsive to the needs of dual career couples. We guarantee that the selection process will give equal opportunities to female and male researchers. As an institution that values diversity, USI particularly encourages applications from women and from all individuals from underrepresented groups.

Lugano, 3 November 2023