Research and Teaching Assistant
PhD in Communication Sciences

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 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 Institute of Marketing and Communication Management (IMCA) (www.imca.usi.ch) contributes to the field of management by exploring how communication processes shape organizations and markets. IMCA's communicative and interdisciplinary approach has enabled the Institute to develop a processual, cultural, performative, and socio-material perspective on organizations, business networks, stakeholder communities, and consumers. It is active in various research areas, including organizational identity construction and change. IMCA is distinguished by its focus on qualitative methodologies, particularly case studies, ethnographies, and visual analysis.

Teaching and research Assistant
IMCA invites applications for a full time PhD approaching the study of organizations from a communication-centred perspective. The doctoral students will work under the scientific supervision of Prof. Francesco Lurati (https://search.usi.ch/en/people/0350beca24b383ebbad34e60311b424/lurati-francesco).

The successful candidate will be able to design and carry out their PhD project within the broader research interests of his supervisor, such as stakeholder communication, strategic communication and identity formation, identity communicative construction, communicative influences on reputation (https://www.imca.usi.ch/en/corporate-communication). Ideally, the investigation field should be in the area of startup and innovation. In this regard, for their research, the person will have the unique opportunity to collaborate with the USI Startup Centre (https://www.startup.usi.ch/en) and have access to its broad network.

The doctoral student will be enrolled in the Doctoral Program of the Faculty of Communication, Culture and Society (https://www.com.usi.ch/en/study-communication/phd-doctoral-studies/phd-communication-sciences). Upon successful completion of the program requirements, the candidate will earn a PhD in Communication Sciences with a Specialization in Organization Studies.

Candidate’s profile
The ideal candidate for the position should meet the following requirements:
• A Master’s degree in business, communication, or related disciplines, with a final score of 8 or higher (on a 10-point scale).

• An international orientation, some experience in qualitative research methods, and a strong academic curiosity for developing our understanding of organizational phenomena and publishing in English in high-ranked journals.

• Proficiency in English and fluency in Italian (knowledge of another Swiss national language will be considered a plus).

• Motivation to work on a PhD dissertation and take ownership of a research project. The ability to work in a team and independently ideate, plan, and conduct qualitative research. Interest in teaching and tutoring students, along with the willingness to collaborate with colleagues (engage in scientific dialogue, listen, and think critically), is required.

• A high personal interest in understanding organizational phenomena through immersive, qualitative research methods.

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 a doctoral researcher are not compatible with additional professional activities.
The successful candidate will work as a research assistant at the Institute of Marketing and Communication Management (IMCA) and will have the opportunity to interact with an international network of collaborators.
The workplace is at USI Università della Svizzera italiana, located in Lugano, Switzerland. Availability to travel to other parts of Switzerland and abroad for collaboration and research purposes is required.
The position is internally funded, and the salary levels correspond to those set by the Swiss National Science Foundation for Ph.D. researchers.
The position funding is subject to annual review based on the successful completion of a Ph.D. progress report.
The starting date is 1 September 2024.

The Application
Applications should contain:

1. Letter of Motivation: A letter in which the applicant describes their research interests and motivation to apply. The letter should outline the connections between their academic and professional background and the research area described above, for example, by referring to its phenomenological, theoretical, or methodological positioning.

2. Curriculum Vitae (CV): A complete and up-to-date CV.

3. Academic Records: Copies of relevant diplomas, certificates, and the full transcript of records that prove the candidate’s eligibility for doctoral studies in communication studies. If the candidate has not yet completed a Master’s program, they should include the expected graduation date and a full transcript of records to date.
4. **Research Work**: An electronic version of a research work (Master’s thesis or other scientific publications). This should be accompanied by a short summary in English (maximum 1 page).

5. **Support letter** From a professor who knows the candidate well (e.g. the Master’s thesis supervisor).

Before proceeding with the ONLINE submission, please read the “Information on personal data processing of job candidates” available at the following [LINK](#). In the online form, you will be asked to declare that you have read and understood our privacy policy.

Applications must be submitted ONLINE by filling out the form accessible through the following link: [CANDIDATES](#). You will also need to upload the documents listed above.

Requests for further information to Francesco Lurati at francesco.lurati@usi.ch.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an online interview.

Applications received before 15 July 2024 will be given priority. However, applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

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, 13 June 2024