



## **MSCA European Postdoctoral Fellowship: Call for Expression of Interest, deadline: 17 March 2025 (noon)**

Essex Law School at the University of Essex has launched a call for Expression of Interest to apply for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) European Postdoctoral Fellowships. This highly regarded research fellowship gives candidates the opportunity to pursue a two-year research project under the supervision of an experienced academic within the field.

Eligible candidates must hold a PhD, have a maximum of 8 years of research experience from the time the PhD was awarded, and cannot have lived or worked in the UK for 12 months or more over the past three years. Additional details of the eligibility rules are given below.

### **About the Department**

Essex Law School has a longstanding tradition of providing an education that is both relevant and responsive to the demands of a changing society. Its vibrant research environment is organised on three pillars: ten research clusters covering various themes such as law and society, public law, and law and technology; interdisciplinary hubs, and three dedicated academic leads providing support in the area of public law, private and business law, international law, and European Union law. It hosts the Human Rights Centre and the Constitutional and Administrative Justice Institute (Essex CAJI). Recent funded projects include the Sustainable Transitions - Governance, Ecological Management and Society - Leverhulme Doctoral Training Programme as well as Horizon-funded projects such as EU-CIEMBLY and EXPRESS2. Please click [here](#) for Essex Law School's official website, [here](#) for the Essex Law Research Blog and [here](#) for the Essex CAJI external website.

We are looking to support a small number of high-quality applications in the following areas of specialisation:

- European constitutional values, including rule of law, access to justice, solidarity, democracy
- Sustainable transitions

- Local government in Europe
- Environmental, Societal and Governance (ESG) risks
- European democratic governance (accountability, transparency, public participation)
- Climate finance
- Just transition
- Interactions between the EU and the Council of Europe.

Essex Law School has a long tradition of outstanding teaching and research in public law (international, European, UK, comparative etc), in particular constitutional and Administrative Law. **Essex CAJI** is a hub for interdisciplinary scholarly inquiry and research concerning constitutional and administrative justice, social justice, and comparative public law. CAJI's teaching and research ethos is grounded in the principles of social justice, which places the individual at the focal point of society's fundamental functions, encompassing human dignity, democracy, equality, the rule of law, and respect for human rights. Social justice serves as a guiding principle for our methods and approaches, fostering innovation and research collaborations. Moreover, Essex CAJI stands out for its facilitation of interdisciplinary legal methods, challenging conventional approaches to legal systems and identifying pertinent yet underexplored matters relevant to the outer boundaries and internal dynamics of European constitutional and administrative law.

Potential Supervisors include the following colleagues:

- Dr Giulia Gentile (EU constitutional law, access to justice, digitisation and the state)
- Dr Anastasia Karatzia (EU financial law, EU democratic governance)
- Professor Theodore Konstadinides (European constitutional values – esp. rule of law)
- Dr Esin Küçük (EU values, solidarity, EU asylum and migration management)
- Professor Yseult Marique (local government, public finances, Environmental, Societal and Governance (ESG), comparative law)
- Dr Niall O'Connor (European democratic governance, socio-economic rights, citizenship, Brexit)
- Dr Stephen Turner (sustainable transitions)

- Dr Nikos Vogiatzis (Council of Europe, good administration, relations between the EU and the CoE, fourth branch institutions (audit, ombuds, data protection offices) and accountability)
- Dr Anil Yilmaz (Corporate sustainability and human rights, climate finance and just transition)

## **Description of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral European Fellowship**

The purpose of the MSCA European Postdoctoral Fellowship is to support the career development and training of researchers through international mobility. The scheme is open to researchers of any nationality who wish to engage in R&I projects by either coming to Europe from any country in the world or moving within Europe. The standard duration of these fellowships must be between 12 and 24 months.

The grant provides researchers with a salary, a mobility allowance, family allowance (if required) as well as funding for research, training and networking. Full details of the scheme are available at <https://marie-skłodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/calls/msca-postdoctoral-fellowships-2025>.

## **Eligibility and Candidate qualifications**

- Candidates should hold a PhD degree on the closing date for applications. Applicants who have successfully defended their doctoral thesis but who have not yet formally been awarded the doctoral degree are also eligible to apply.
- Candidates should hold a doctoral degree in law or a relevant discipline.
- Candidates should have an interest in, and if possible experience with, interdisciplinary research and/or comparative research and/or with interactions between local situations and European /international law.
- Candidates should have a maximum of eight years of experience in research from the date of the award of the PhD degree – the following experience will not be counted towards this maximum to Europe:

- years of experience outside research and career breaks
- years of experience in research in third countries, for nationals or long-term residents of EU Member States or Horizon Europe Countries who wish to reintegrate
- Candidates should comply with mobility rules: At the time of the call deadline (10 September 2025) researchers must **not** have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies etc) in the UK for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the call deadline.
- Candidates are also expected to have good problem solving, troubleshooting, and analytical skills, be fluent in written and spoken English, have good interpersonal and communication skills, and be able to work independently as well as within an international team.

### **Application and Assessment process**

Interested applicants should submit

- a one-page CV,
- an outline of the proposed research (maximum 1,500 words)

The project outline must include a brief description of:

- The purpose of the project, including the hypothesis or central research questions that the project seeks to test/answer
- Why it is important to undertake this research, including how the project contributes to the state-of-the art
- What research methodology and approach will be used
- Why the Department is an appropriate host institution
- The expected research outputs, such as publications, policy briefs, datasets, or other contributions.

Candidates are also encouraged to identify which member(s) of staff they would prefer to work with.

Please submit these in Word format to by the **17 March 2025 noon** to Yseult Marique ([ymarique@essex.ac.uk](mailto:ymarique@essex.ac.uk)) with the mention “MCSA 2025 – Expression of Interest” in the object of the email.

If you would like to discuss your proposal further, please contact Yseult Marique ([ymarique@essex.ac.uk](mailto:ymarique@essex.ac.uk)).

Applicants who are successful in receiving EU funding must relocate to Essex to work as a postdoctoral fellow.

All documents that you submit to Essex University, including your proposal idea, will be handled in full confidentiality and in strict compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018)

Review of expressions of interest will start after the deadline. Proposals will be evaluated based on the applicant's qualifications and project idea, including its fit with the *Department's* research areas and (one of) our faculty members' research profile.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for a virtual interview on **20<sup>th</sup> March 2024**. Based on the application and interview candidates will be notified of the outcome of their applications by the **28 March 2025**.

Those who are successful will be invited to develop a full MSCA PF application in collaboration with the Essex Law School and with the support of the Research and Enterprise Teams at Essex University. The final proposal will be submitted by the deadline of **10 September 2025**.

### **The postdoctoral position (if the MSCA-PF application is successful)**

The successful MSCA European Postdoctoral fellowship will be announced by the EU in February 2026. To successful applicants who are awarded the MSCA European PF, we will offer:

- A position at Essex University as a postdoctoral researcher to implement the project on a temporary contract.
- The possibility for the right candidate(s) to pursue his/her academic goals with guidance from an experienced supervisor
- Membership in active research group, academic seminars and discussion groups such as our clusters, hubs, Human Rights Centre and Constitutional and Administrative Justice Institute
- Specialised training as agreed in the proposal
- Opportunity to collaborate with talented people and network extensively in a range of academic circles in the UK, in Europe and beyond
- Flexible working conditions



We would like to note that an expression of interest is not a promise of funding or position. It is an expression of interest in making a future application with the University of Essex as your host.

### **Indicative Timeline**

- 9 April 2025: Launch of the calls for proposal
- 10 September 2025: Deadline for submitting proposals
- February 2026: Grant Agreement and signature for successful projects (TBC)
- April 2026: First EU-funded projects start (TBC)

The University of Essex is committed to being a cosmopolitan, internationally oriented university that is welcoming to staff and students from all countries, faiths and backgrounds, where you can find the world in one place. You can read more about our commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion [here](#).

Our [Strategy](#) sets out how we will do this through the delivery of a fair and supportive working environment for all.