

The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (Institut de hautes études internationales et du développement, IHEID) is an institution of research and higher education dedicated to the study of world affairs.

The Geneva Graduate Institute is recruiting a

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER

Activity period: 01.01.2026 – 31.12.2027 (or upon mutual agreement)

Activity rate: 70%

Application deadline: 01.09.2025

Introduction

The five-year research project “*Yes I do: Belligerent consent to United Nations peace missions*” is funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) and hosted at the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP) of the Geneva Graduate Institute. It explores the concept of ‘consent’ to UN peace missions. It seeks to unpack what consent means, how it comes about, and how it relates to effectiveness. Drawing on mediation and peacekeeping research, providing fine-grained data on belligerent consent, and combining quantitative and qualitative research methods, the project’s ambition is to develop a new theory on one of the most fundamental aspects of making and keeping peace and to thereby lay the foundations for more effective peace missions in the future.

Role and activities

We are recruiting a postdoctoral researcher for the research project who will contribute to the accomplishment of its objectives by conducting independent and coordinated research in a multi-faceted team.

The main tasks of the postdoctoral researcher are:

- Contributing to the development of a dataset on belligerent consent to peace missions (CPM), containing both quantitative and qualitative information. The goal is to generate fine-grained data on consent, in terms of how it works in practice, over time, and across peace missions.
- Examining the enabling and restraining factors for consent by conducting quantitative analyses based on the CPM.

- Contributing to case study research to analyze how consent came about in specific peace missions, how it evolved, and the reasons for this evolution.

In addition, the postdoctoral researcher will produce high-quality single-authored and co-authored journal articles, present research outputs at academic conferences, and contribute to the organization of research dissemination events.

Profile

The candidate's profile should include the following elements:

- PhD in political science, international relations, sociology, social anthropology, or a related discipline, with particular interest and expertise in IR and peace and conflict studies.
- Proven capacity for research of highest academic standards.
- Training in quantitative methods.
- Experience with mixed-methods research design is an asset.
- Excellent work ethic, communication skills, reliability, and self-motivation.
- Fluency in spoken and written English; further languages are an asset, especially if relevant for potential case studies.

Application process

To apply, please send an email to ccdp@graduateinstitute.ch with the subject heading 'CCDP Postdoctoral Researcher Position'. Your application should include as **a single PDF file**, a **letter of motivation**, your **complete CV** with your publication list, as well as a **research proposal** (max. 3 pages) specifying how you would like to contribute to the project. Only complete applications will be considered.

The deadline for applications is 1 September 2025. Interviews will be held in September. The position will start on 1 January 2026 (or upon mutual agreement).

What we offer

The CCDP is committed to a safe and inclusive working environment. We are an equal opportunity employer and value diversity. We do not discriminate on the basis of age, marital status, disability status, race, national origin, color, gender, sexual orientation, or religion.

For more information, please contact the CCDP Head of Research (eliza.urwin@graduateinstitute.ch) or the project's Principal Investigator (sara.hellmueller@graduateinstitute.ch).