

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOW IN CLIMATE CHANGE AND FOREIGN POLICY

**Centre for Research and Studies in International Politics
Department of Political Science
Faculty of Philosophy and Social Sciences**

Application deadline: November 24th, 2024.

Start date: As soon as possible (negotiable).

Location: Institute for European Studies, Avenue Franklin Roosevelt 39, 1050 Brussels, Belgium.

Job description

We are at a crossroads. For too long, researchers have approached climate diplomacy primarily through the lens of international negotiations held under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. It is time to broaden this perspective and explore how the various dimensions of foreign policy are both impacted by and can be leveraged to advance international cooperation on climate change. We are inviting applications for a three-year Postdoctoral Research Fellow position to explore these critical issues.

The selected candidate will lead a project examining how Belgium can mobilize the different facets of its foreign policy to effectively address the climate challenge. What policy levers must be activated, and what obstacles need to be overcome to enhance the impact of Belgium's foreign policy on climate action? Germany, as the first country to develop a dedicated climate foreign policy strategy, offers a useful example. What lessons can be drawn from this experience? Are there best practices from Germany and other countries that can be adapted to the Belgian context?

These questions will be explored through a series of five thematic seminars held over the course of three years. This Belgian Dialogue on Climate Foreign Policy will bring together invited academic experts from various universities and disciplines, alongside key stakeholders and observers of Belgian foreign policy, including civil servants, representatives from civil society, and the business world.

Before each seminar, a background paper will be prepared and shared with the participants. This document will analyse the current situation, identify potential obstacles, and propose pathways for improvement, drawing on relevant international initiatives and best practices. The background paper will be informed by extensive documentary research, interviews with key actors and observers, and insights gathered from significant foreign policy moments (e.g., parliamentary sessions, international summits, economic missions). Following each seminar, a final paper will be drafted, further refining the findings and recommendations based on the discussions of the seminar. This document will be widely disseminated to inform public debate.

Under the supervision of [Prof. Romain Weikmans](#), the successful candidate will:

- Prepare a background paper for each seminar;
- Coordinate the practical organization of the seminars;
- Contribute to external communication related to the Dialogue;
- Draft a final paper after each seminar that refines and expands on the findings and recommendations contained in the background paper;
- Disseminate key outcomes through publications in peer-reviewed academic journals.

Qualifications and skills

- Scholars of all nationalities with a Ph.D. in political science, public policy, sociology, economics, development studies or other relevant disciplines will be considered. Candidates must be untenured and within 8 years of Ph.D. (candidates who have recently finished their Ph.D. are also strongly encouraged to apply).
- Willingness to engage in policy-relevant research. Experience in research carried out in interaction with a government or international organisation, think tank or civil society would be an advantage.
- Advanced analytical abilities, with a talent for critically and creatively evaluating complex information from multiple sources, leading to insightful, evidence-based recommendations.
- Highly proactive, demonstrating initiative and organizational excellence, with a strong focus on delivering superior-quality results and outcomes.
- Ability to build and coordinate relationships and networks, effectively collaborating with diverse stakeholders, partner organizations, and coalitions to achieve common goals.
- Strong communication skills, capable of presenting complex information to colleagues and partners with clarity and precision, both in writing and verbally.
- Excellent written and spoken English.
- Proficiency in French or/and Dutch would be an advantage.

We offer

- Full-time, three-year position (one-year contract that could be extended for an extra two years).
- Flexible working arrangements and hybrid working approach.
- Vibrant workplace within [REPI](#), a research centre of the Department of Political Science, ranked in the top 100 worldwide and 1st in Belgium in the field of political science (QS Rankings 2024).
- Net monthly salary of approximately 2500 - 3000 euros (depending on seniority, family situation, and if you are in international mobility or not), providing for a relatively comfortable life in Brussels.

Interested?

Please submit your application to Prof. Romain Weikmans (romain.weikmans@ulb.be) by Nov. 24th, 2024.

Your application should include:

- A detailed CV, including a list of publications;
- A cover letter of maximum two pages outlining why you are applying for this role and when you would be able to start;
- A copy of your university transcripts and of your PhD/DPhil examination report.

Interviews will be conducted via Microsoft Teams.

We greatly appreciate the time and effort invested in your application. However, due to the high volume of responses, we will not be able to provide individual feedback to all applicants. If you do not hear from us within two weeks of the application deadline, please consider your application unsuccessful for this position.

Equal opportunities policy

ULB's personnel management policy is geared towards diversity and equal opportunities.

We recruit candidates on the basis of their skills, irrespective of age, gender, sexual orientation, origin, nationality, beliefs, disability, etc.

More details on the ULB gender and diversity policy are available at [Diversity at ULB - ULB](#).