

## Scholarship position

**Name of the institution:** University of Opole, Institute of Political Science and Administration

**Name of the position:** Research Scholarship

### Requirements:

We are looking for a person who:

- fulfils the NCN (Narodowe Centrum Nauki) requirements regarding the research scholarships (see details below and <https://www.ncn.gov.pl/finansowanie-nauki/koszty-w-projektach/stypendia-naukowe>)
- demonstrates interest in the field of European integration.
- is fluent in English at the academic level.
- demonstrates sufficient knowledge of one of the following languages: Polish, German, at a fluency level enabling scientific investigation.
- demonstrates knowledge and skills in qualitative and quantitative research methods.

### Tasks:

Research activities will be conducted in the framework of a research project entitled: “Determinants and Dynamics of Differentiated Integration in Post-Brexit Europe” (NCN – program OPUS, pt. „Determinanty i Dynamika Zróznicowanej Integracji w (Post)Brexitowej Europie” (2020/37/B/HS5/00230). The overarching research objective of the project aims at analyzing the determinants and dynamics of differentiated integration in Europe from the interdisciplinary point of view. The existing theories of international integration are fragmented and trapped into the disciplinary camps without much dialog between and among them. The starting assumption is captured in the hypothetical statement that the level and scope of differentiation will differ from country to country in various policy areas in line with the time factor as well as a will be determined by a group of factors of socio- political, economic, legal and institutional nature. Against this background, this study derives a number of hypotheses addressing the inter-disciplinary nature of the differentiation in Europe (e.g. “Differentiation increases in polities with proportional more Euro-skeptic citizenry than Euro-friendly population”, “More intra-EU trade (of goods and services) as well as capital and migration flows will result in more pro-integrative attitudes and less differentiation, whereas the less intense economic traffic within the block will result in more differentiation” or “Policy areas with higher integration- related costs will represent greater

differentiation, whereas less differentiation will occur in sectors where less costs and risks are anticipated”). The research methodology of the project is going to be subordinated to the aimed objectives, questions and hypotheses. The methods used will derive from the scholarly tradition present in similar studies. At the same time it will be strongly integrated with the theoretical approaches to be applied. The integrity of the research methodology with the stated goals, specific research questions, related hypothesis (and their theoretical underpinnings) as well as ways of verifying them will be carefully taken into account throughout the research process. The research process is going to incorporate a diversity of methods, including a thorough combination of qualitative and quantitative ones. The majority of the analyzed determinants are operationalized in the form of parameterized variables that allow for a multi-factor analysis measuring the strength and importance of the determinants in question (descriptive statistics – linear regression). This is complimented with the qualitative analysis (in-depth semi-structured interviews and framing analysis) which enriches the quantitative results and provides a clear picture of the dynamic phenomenon of differentiated integration in Europe. The research project aims to contribute to the state of research on differentiated integration in Europe, as well as to integrate various perspectives (economic, political, legal- institutional, social) on it while explaining the dynamics and determinants of the growing differentiation in Europe. This multi-factor analysis will address a number of important questions, like: What drives and determines the differentiation inside the EU and on its peripheries? What is the dynamics of this differentiation? How has it evolved so far? What is its current trajectory? Where is it heading? How (and why) do the various countries, EU member states and non-members, integrate differently? How does the differentiation change in relation to the field of integration? Is time (in a larger or shorter horizon) an explanatory variable and how does it matter? What are the old and new forms and types of differentiation? Has the differentiation reached a point in which it carries the potential for disintegration? What does it mean for the supra-national institutional architecture? What is the specific EU member states strategy in relation to the growing differentiation?

**Submission deadline:** 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024, 24:00 (anticipated date of the announcement of results: 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024)

**Form of submission:** electronic - by e-mail to: riedelr@wp.pl

**Conditions of the scholarship:** The successful scholarship holders will receive a monthly payment of 3000,- PLN, for the period of 6 months

**Additional information:**

The scholarship will be subject to NCN regulations. The scholarship may be granted to a person who is enrolled in a PhD programme (official status of the PhD candidate) or is enrolled in a Master program in Poland

The candidates are requested to send their application package (in Polish or English) to prof. Rafał Riedel including the following documents (integrated as one PDF file):

- CV
- cover letter,
- list of achievements – publications, grants, scholarships, prizes, internships and other elements proving the candidate's competences,
- certificates confirming the status of a student (BA, MA or PhD) in Poland compatible with NCN eligibility criteria
- (if available) copies of certificates documenting language skills

Recommendation letters from previous supervisors are welcomed but not obligatory.

The University is an equal opportunity employer. The University of Opole hence invites applications of qualified scholars whose candidacies will receive equal consideration irrespective of gender, ethnicity, physical handicap or other characteristics unrelated to expected performance in the advertised positions. Only selected candidates will be contacted in order to be invited to the further stages of the recruitment procedure.