



VRIJE
UNIVERSITEIT
BRUSSEL

The Department of Political Science at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) seeks to hire a PhD researcher to work on a project on democratic innovations and democratic short-termism. The project is funded by the Research Foundation—Flanders FWO, and the candidate will become part of the research group on 'Democratic Innovations'.

The project

Modern democracies face many long-term policy challenges, including climate change, budget deficits, or nuclear waste disposal. Paradoxically, however, many authors claim that democratic systems are notoriously ill-equipped to deal with such long-term policy challenges. Democracies have an "appetite for the immediate" (Thompson 2011, p. 19) and experience difficulties in producing policies that take into account the long-term concerns of future generations. However, recent studies have shown that not all democracies are equally short-sighted. That is: some democracies are better at incorporating long-term considerations than others. The aim of this project is therefore (1) to clarify which democratic institutions exacerbate or alleviate democratic short-termism; and (2) to determine the potential of democratic innovations in overcoming democratic short-termism.

Your profile

- You have obtained a master's degree in political science or sociology (or equivalent) with excellent grades.
- Candidates that have not yet acquired their master's degree are equally invited to apply, but need to comply with all diploma requirements before starting their position at VUB.
- You have excellent language skills in English, written and oral.
- You have knowledge of quantitative and qualitative research methods and techniques, or you are prepared to acquire these methodological qualifications. Knowledge of experimental methods is an asset.
- You are expected to write a PhD dissertation under the supervision of professors Didier Caluwaerts and Kris Deschouwer.
- You are able to work harmoniously in a multicultural and multilingual environment.
- You are willing to travel regularly, to attend international conferences and summer schools, and to present your findings to international audiences.

Our offer

We offer employment as a full-time doctoral researcher.

Contract: full-time research grant for one year, renewable on an annual basis for a maximum of four years. Extension of the contract is subject to the agreement of the doctoral committee. Remuneration is at the level of a full-time research assistant at a Flemish university (approximately 1.900 euros net per month).

Planned starting date: October 1st, 2019

Interested candidates can contact prof. dr. Didier Caluwaerts (didier.caluwaerts@vub.be) for more information.

The Vrije Universiteit Brussel is an equal opportunities employer that values every talent, regardless of gender, age or background.

Application

The deadline for applications is **May 31st, 2019**. All applications should include:

- A cv
- A motivation letter
- A one-page project proposal outlining your theoretical and methodological approach to the project

The selected candidates will be invited for an interview.

All applications should be sent to prof. dr. Didier Caluwaerts (didier.caluwaerts@vub.be). Late applications will not be considered.