



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY



HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

Research Assistant – Horizon Pillar II Project OWN-EU (0.7 FTE)

School of Political Science and Sociology

College of Arts Social Sciences and Celtic Studies

Ref. No. 011830

JOB ADVERTISEMENT

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for a part-time (0.7 FTE), 13-month position as Research Assistant with the [School of Political Science and Sociology](#) at the University of Galway, Ireland.

This position is funded by a Horizon Pillar II EU grant, with the expectation for the Research Assistant to start on 01 September 2026 or soon after for a duration of 13 months.

The successful applicant will be working within the context of the OWN-EU (Enhancing the Success of Enlargement through the Political Ownership-Territorial Capital Nexus) project, primarily contributing to Work Package 1 led by Dr Evans Fanoulis. Funded by a Horizon Pillar II EU Grant, OWN-EU brings together 19 partners from all over Europe. The project reframes enlargement strategies and policies for the Eastern Neighbourhood and Western Balkans (ENWB) by coupling lessons from past rounds with a novel analytical lens: the nexus between political ownership and territorial capital. Building on comparative evidence from previous enlargements, OWN-EU aims to examine and understand the role of contrasts between and within candidate states in order to provide dynamic recommendations for how the EU should redesign its enlargement strategy and increase its effectiveness, while delivering differentiated approaches that take into account the characteristics of each candidate state.

Salary: Research Assistant salary scale €34,129 - €44,311 per annum, (subject to the project's funding limitations), and pro rata for shorter and/or part-time contracts.

The default position for all new public sector appointments is the 1st point of the salary scale. This may be reviewed, and consideration afforded to appointment at a higher point on the payscale (subject to the project's funding limitations), where evidence of prior years' equivalent experience is accepted in determining placement on the scale above point 1, subject to the maximum of the scale.

[\(Research Salary Scales - University of Galway\)](#)

Employment permit restrictions apply for this category of post.

Closing date for receipt of applications, consisting of a CV and one-page cover letter, is 17:00 (Irish time) on 10 July 2026. It will not be possible to consider applications received after the closing date. Interviews are planned to be held in late July 2026.

***Please review full job description for further details and essential requirements.**

JOB DESCRIPTION



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Job Description:

The successful candidate will be supporting different research and administrative activities within the OWN-EU project.

Duties:

Tasks of the successful applicant may include

- Work under the direction of the Principal Investigator/Project Leader. Plan and manage own day-to-day research activity within this framework & direction.
- Provide assistance in conducting research activities, including planning, organizing, conducting, and communicating research studies within the overall scope of OWN-EU.
- Conduct literature and database searches on EU enlargement, political ownership and territorial capital, and interpret and present the findings of the literature searches as appropriate.
- Write up project reports for review by the PI, including preparing technical reports, conclusions and recommendations.
- Coordinate and perform a variety of independent tasks and team activities involved in the collection, analysis, documentation and interpretation of information/results of the project.
- Keep appropriate records of research activities as directed and in line with EU/University policy.
- Attend and contribute to meetings of the consortium as well as weekly meetings with the PI.
- Continue to update knowledge and develop research skills.
- Perform other related duties incidental to the work described herein.
- Any other duties assigned commensurate to this level of post.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Essential Requirements:

- A Bachelor's degree (Level 8) in Politics, Political Science or cognate discipline.
- A good understanding of how the European Union works.
- A good understanding of qualitative research methods.
- A basic understanding of quantitative research methods.
- Experience with writing up analysis and/or reports.
- Excellent communication, problem-solving and organisational skills

Desirable Requirements:

- A Master's degree in Politics, Political Science or cognate field
- Prior experience with developing research methodology
- Good administrative and coordination skills
- Strong potential to develop project management skills

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Continuing Professional Development/Training:

Researchers at University of Galway are encouraged to avail of a range of training and development opportunities designed to support their personal career development plans. University of Galway provides



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continuing professional development supports for all researchers seeking to build their own career pathways either within or beyond academia. Researchers are encouraged to engage with our Researcher Development Centre (RDC) upon commencing employment - see [HERE](#) for further information.

FURTHER INFORMATION/LINKS

- **TO APPLY:** [Search Current University of Galway vacancies](#). Applications must be submitted online.
 - [How to apply guide](#)
- For informal enquiries, please contact Dr Evans Fanoulis, School of Political Science and Sociology, University of Galway at evans.fanoulis@universityofgalway.ie
- [University's Strategic Plan](#)
- [Working in Research at University of Galway](#)
- [Moving to Ireland \(Euraxess\)](#)
- [Applicant Information](#)
- We reserve the right to re-advertise or extend the closing date for this post.
- University of Galway is an equal opportunities employer.
- All positions are recruited in line with Open, Transparent, Merit (OTM) and Competency based recruitment.

