



EUTOPIA PhD Co-tutelle Program 2021

Call Guidelines

Call Opens: 13 January 2021

Call Closes: 28 April 2021

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1. Background and Overview

The EUTOPIA European University is an ambitious alliance of six like-minded European universities: the [Vrije Universiteit Brussel](#) (Belgium), [CY Cergy Paris Université](#) (France), the [Universitat Pompeu Fabra](#) (Spain), , the [Göteborgs Universitet](#) (Sweden), the [Univerza v Ljubljani](#) (Slovenia) and the [University of Warwick](#) (United Kingdom). It was selected as one of the first Erasmus+ ‘European Universities’ pilot projects. The core mission of EUTOPIA is to promote a connected and inclusive academic community, addressing global and local challenges, advancing excellence, inclusion, impact and innovation.

Following on from the success to the Erasmus+ pilot program in 2020 and to subsequent bids (EUTOPIA-TRAIN, EUTOPIA-Science and Innovation Fellowships), the partner universities have decided to open the PhD co-tutelle program again this year. This call description details the program’s functioning, funding scheme and practical modalities.

The EUTOPIA PhD co-tutelle program supports high-quality PhD projects **in all research areas** co-supervised by academics of the EUTOPIA member universities. It offers PhD fellowships for 3 to 4 years, depending on the length of doctoral studies in the partner universities. It is expected to lead to high-quality research projects with global impact, providing exciting research opportunities for PhD or doctoral candidates. They shall take full advantage of the vibrant scientific environment of the EUTOPIA alliance (the following links give access the research pages of the four EUTOPIA partner universities active in the 2021 program):

- [Vrije Universiteit Brussel](#)
- [CY Cergy Paris Université](#)
- [University of Ljubljana](#)
- [University of Warwick](#)

The participating EUTOPIA universities will jointly operate the call. This document describes the application procedure and requirements, the evaluation process and gives details about the funding conditions, operational modalities and implementation of the PhD fellowships. Depending on the universities’ national systems these will be governed by bilateral agreements between the partner universities. Successful candidates will enter into an agreement governing the joint supervision of their PhD and obtain funding for the entire duration of their PhD according to the national legal frameworks. An example of such an agreement can be provided upon request.

The present call offers PhD fellowships funding for all combinations of home and host institutions. The numbers of positions offered for each home/host combination are given in the following table.

Number of funded PhD fellowships by home and host institution				
Home institution	Host Institution			
	CYU	UL	UW	VUB
CYU		1	2	2
UL	1		1	1
UW	2	1		2
VUB	2	1	2	

The fellowships will start between October 2021 and January 2022.

2. Jointly operated application and selection process

a. Application

Applications are **to be submitted by the prospective supervisors** of the project.

The deadline for submission of applications to the present call is: **28 April 2021, 13:00 (Central European Time / CET)**. Applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

Submissions should include:

- Completed application form
- Detailed description of the research project
- Academic CVs of both co-supervisors and CV of the PhD candidate(s)
- Letter of motivation from the PhD candidate(s)
- Letters/emails of support from Head of School/Department/Research Center/Doctoral School, depending on each university (a support letter from the Head of Department is compulsory at University of Warwick)
- A scanned copy of the PhD candidate's Master's degree certificate and academic transcript (or highest degree obtained + Master's degree underway).

Applications where the PhD candidate has not yet been identified may be considered but *strong priority in the selection will be given to complete projects having already identified a PhD candidate* or a short list of PhD candidates. Applicants must explain their motivation for the choice of the proposed candidate(s) and indicate their ranking of the potential candidates, if more than one has being identified.

To be eligible, **submissions must be made via the online application platform:**

www.eutopia.smaply.io

Application materials will be made available on the platform.

The application platform opens 13 January 2021.

b. Evaluation and selection

Proposals will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Quality of the proposed research project:
 - relevance to the discipline(s)
 - topicality and originality
 - suitable methods, and feasibility
- Qualifications of the researchers:
 - track record of the co-supervisors
 - track record of PhD candidate
 - track record of past collaborations of the co-supervisors (if applicable)
- Complementarity of the two research environments, additionality for student of being co-supervised

The proposals will go through a peer review process and be submitted to a joint panel including all participating institutions for final decisions. The evaluation of the researchers' qualification will include an assessment against each partner university's *eligibility criteria* (see parts 3 and 4).

In the case of applications where a PhD candidate has not been identified yet, funding decisions will be conditional on the validation of suitable candidate(s), in accordance with the *eligibility criteria* (see parts 3 and 4).

Application results are expected to be released on 10 June 2021.

3. Conditions and modalities of the PhD co-tutelle fellowships

Each PhD co-tutelle fellowship will be hosted by two EUTOPIA partner universities. The students will enroll in both partner universities each year during the whole duration of the PhD co-tutelle program.

For the implementation of the PhD fellowships and other practical modalities, applicants are expected to **indicate a Home and a Host Institution** in their application. These indications will be considered by the evaluation committees and, if possible, confirmed during the selection process, but may be modified if necessary.

Candidates are expected to spend a significant amount of time at both partner institutions (at least 12 months in each) and at least 50% of their time at their Home Institution. In general, it is strongly advised that candidates start their PhD in their Home institution.

Enrollment in the two partner universities opens numerous opportunities to the PhD candidates in the scope of the PhD co-tutelle program. They access all services and support from both universities including doctoral training programs, professional orientation, libraries, student life services etc. They are fully integrated in the two research environments of their co-supervisors: research centers, scientific networks etc.

The implementation of the PhD co-tutelle program will be governed by bilateral agreements (see part 1) taking into account national and local regulations of each university. The following sections gather general information relevant for the agreements.

a. Funding

Funding for the PhD fellowships offered in the present call comes from the partner universities. Financial support for the PhD or doctoral candidates therefore follows the national rules and standards of each university.

Financial support for the PhD or doctoral candidates covers, for all universities, a 3 to 4-year PhD fellowship/stipend. According to the universities' practices, it may be complemented by a travel/research allowance and the payment/exemption of tuition fees by the university. All co-tutelle PhD fellowships in this call are jointly financed by the partner institutions, according to processes outlined in the bilateral agreements.

In the case of full financing of the student's fellowship by one university, this university will be the student's Home Institution. The student will receive funding for the duration of the PhD co-tutelle program according to the practices of their Home Institution, either by being employed by the university and receiving a salary or by receiving a stipend.

b. Eligibility criteria (supervisors / PhD students)

All co-tutelle PhD projects will be jointly supervised by permanent researchers from the candidate's Home and Host Institutions. The proposed PhD projects should be anchored in the scientific collaboration between the supervisors.

The eligibility for students and supervisors to the co-tutelle PhD programs of this call is governed by the partner universities rules and shall be defined in the bilateral co-tutelle agreements. PhD or doctoral candidates must meet the minimum entry requirements for PhD programs at each partner university involved in his / her co-tutelle PhD programs (see also part 4). Supervisors in both the home and host institution should meet local and/or national regulations defining the minimum requirements for PhD supervision (see below for details).

c. Project endorsement

According to each university's rules, applications to this call will be endorsed by the Head of School / Department / Faculty / Research Center / Doctoral School etc. to which the supervisors and PhD candidates are affiliated in order to ensure activities align with their priorities. Additional constraints can be integrated in the endorsement request, such as the availability of sufficient resourcing within the entities to which the co-tutelle PhD program is affiliated, as well as health, safety and ethical requirements. Endorsement can be optional or compulsory depending on each university's rules and will be part of the application documents.

d. Reporting

Annual reporting will be compulsory for each PhD co-tutelle program.

Students and supervisors will be subject to the standard reporting requirements of their Home and Host Institution. Modalities of the reporting shall be defined by the partner universities and it is possible that students/supervisors will have to comply to the reporting modalities of both partner universities.

Information gathered through the reports will be shared between all EUTOPIA universities.

e. Defense and diplomas

All PhD co-tutelle fellows will be eligible to receive a double diploma, one from each partner university.

Defense rules of both partner universities shall apply to each PhD co-tutelle defense. Rules and modalities shall be defined in the bilateral agreement.

f. Training program

PhD students participating in this co-tutelle program will have the opportunity to follow a training program during their doctoral studies in both universities, jointly defined by the partner institutions on the basis of their standard doctoral training programs.

The contribution of each university to the PhD student's training program will be defined in their bilateral agreement, taking into account the duration of the student's stay in each institution. The courses delivered by one university to the student will, as far as possible, be recognized by the other institution. The requirements of each university with regard to the PhD student's training program will, as far as possible, not be additional but complementary and take into account the duration of the PhD student's stay in each university.

4. Practical details for bilateral agreements

The following sections will detail relevant information for the co-tutelle partnerships this call opens fellowships for, according to the universities' rules and regulations.

a. University of Warwick – CY Cergy Paris Université

Duration/Funding

PhD co-tutelle fellowships between University of Warwick and CY Cergy Paris Université have a duration of 4 years and will be fully financed by one partner (the total number of fellowships offered for cotutelle between CY and Warwick is 4 and each partner fully finances half of the positions offered). The financing university, either Warwick or CY Cergy Paris Université, will be the student's Home Institution for the total duration of the PhD program.

- **If University of Warwick is the Home Institution**, PhD candidates will receive full payment of tuition fees (home or international, band 1 or 2) and a tax-free maintenance stipend in line with UKRI rates (currently £15,285 per year; see: ukri.org/skills/funding-for-research-training/). In addition, they will have access to a Research Training and Support Grant of up to £2,475 per year. This Grant provides funding to support travel, accommodation and other research costs. Students will be exempt of tuition fees at CY Cergy Paris Université.
- **If CY Cergy Paris Université is the Home Institution**, PhD candidates will receive an allowance for accommodation and subsistence of 1750 € net per month (before income tax) and an annual research/travel allowance of 3000€. They will pay annual tuition fees at CY Cergy Paris Université of 380€ and be exempt of tuition fees at University of Warwick.

Eligibility

In order to act as **supervisors** of PhD co-tutelle fellows, academic staff from University of Warwick staff need to respect departmental regulations, while CY Cergy Paris Université staff must meet national regulations defining the minimum requirements for PhD supervision and be associated with one of the Doctoral Schools of CY Cergy Paris Université. French law stipulates that academics need to hold a qualification as "authorised to supervise research projects" (*habilitation à diriger des recherches / HDR*), in order to supervise PhD projects.

PhD candidates need to meet minimum eligibility criteria of both universities. For University of Warwick, please refer to the following links for details:

- <https://warwick.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/research/courses-2020/>
- <https://warwick.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/apply/english/>

For CY Cergy Paris Université, students enrolling in the first year of a thesis at one of the CY Doctoral Schools must hold a Master's degree. The Master 2 must be obtained with an overall average of at least 12/20 (French marking between 0 and 20) or an equivalent grade if the marking follows another system. Applications from students holding Master's degrees for professional purposes, or any other equivalent degree, must be validated by the Doctoral School's Council.

Ethics and other approvals

Research projects that involve human participants, their data or tissue, or animals will require appropriate ethical review. Research involving secondary analysis of publicly available data e.g. systematic reviews does not require ethics review, but secondary analysis of other data that are not publicly available does. Please note, data taken from social media, does not count as publicly available.

Ethics approval does not need to be applied for until funding has been awarded but must be obtained before projects can begin. Further information about ethics and other approvals, and how to apply

for these is available [here](#) (please note that it is the supervisor's responsibility to ensure the ethics application is submitted and approved before the project begins).

Warwick supervisors are advised to complete a Research Integrity online training module, if they haven't already: www.warwick.ac.uk/ritraining.

Information about CY Cergy Paris Université's requirements are available [here](#).

b. Vrije Universiteit Brussel – CY Cergy Paris Université

Duration/Funding

PhD co-tutelle fellowships between Vrije Universiteit Brussel and CY Cergy Paris Université have a duration of 4 years and will be full financed by one partner (the total number of fellowships offered for cotutelle between CY and VUB is 4 and each partner fully finances half of the positions offered). The financing university, either Vrije Universiteit Brussel or CY Cergy Paris Université, will be the student's Home Institution for the total duration of the PhD program.

- **If Vrije Universiteit Brussel is the Home Institution**, PhD candidates will receive an allowance for accommodation and subsistence of min. 2,000 € par month net and an annual research/travel allowance of 3000€. They will pay annual tuition fees at Vrije Universiteit Brussel of 469.80€ in the first year of enrollment and in the year of defense and be exempt of tuition fees at CY Cergy Paris Université, except one year during the program (one payment of 380€ is due to CY Cergy Paris Université).
- **If CY Cergy Paris Université is the Home Institution**, PhD candidates will receive an allowance for accommodation and subsistence of 1750 € net per month (before income tax) and an annual research/travel allowance of 3000€. They will pay annual tuition fees at CY Cergy Paris Université of 380€ and be exempt of tuition fees at Vrije Universiteit Brussel, except one year during the program (one payment of 469.80€ is due to Vrije Universiteit Brussel).

Eligibility

In order to act as **supervisors** of PhD co-tutelle fellows, academic staff from Vrije Universiteit Brussel must have a minimal ZAP appointment of 10%, while CY Cergy Paris Université staff must meet national regulations defining the minimum requirements for PhD supervision and be associated with one of the Doctoral Schools of CY Cergy Paris Université. French law stipulates that academics need to hold a qualification as "authorised to supervise research projects" (habilitation à diriger des recherches / HDR), in order to supervise PhD projects.

For Vrije Universiteit Brussel the following eligibility criteria apply for **PhD students**: the default requirement for admission as a PhD student is a Master's degree (or equivalent) in a relevant field from a Belgian university. Derogations may be granted for the holders of a Master's degree in a relevant field from a non-Belgian university. Derogations for candidates without a Masters degree are unlikely to be granted unless the candidate has very strong research or professional credentials. The ultimate decision about the eligibility for PhD research resides with the Faculty in which the research will be conducted. More information can be found [here](#).

For CY Cergy Paris Université, students enrolling in the first year of a thesis at one of the CY Doctoral Schools must hold a Master's degree. The Master 2 must be obtained with an overall average of at least 12/20 (French marking between 0 and 20) or an equivalent grade if the marking follows another system. Applications from students holding Master's degrees for professional purposes, or any other equivalent degree, must be validated by the Doctoral School's Council.

Ethics and other approvals

Information about Vrije Universiteit Brussel requirements can be found [here](#) and [here](#)

Information about the CY Cergy Paris Université's requirements can be found [here](#)

c. University of Ljubljana – CY Cergy Paris Université

Duration/Funding

PhD co-tutelle fellowships between University of Ljubljana and CY Cergy Paris Université have a duration of 4 years and shall be fully financed by one partner (the total number of fellowships offered for cotutelle between CY and UL is 2 and each partner fully finances half of the positions offered). The financing university, either University of Ljubljana or CY Cergy Paris Université, will be the student's Home Institution for the total duration of the PhD program.

- **If University of Ljubljana is the Home Institution**, PhD candidates will be financed in accordance with the Rules for Financing of Young Researchers by the Slovenian Research Agency. This includes tuition fees and an approximate salary of the PhD candidate of 1485€ per month gross. In the case of University of Ljubljana being the PhD student's Home Institution, the call is open only for PhD candidates who are currently financed by the Slovenian Research Agency as "young researchers" at the University of Ljubljana and are in the academic year 2020/2021 enrolled in the 1st year of a doctoral study program at the University of Ljubljana. They will be exempt of tuition fees at CY Cergy Paris Université for the duration of the PhD co-tutelle program. They will have the chance of using up to 6000 € for mobility purposes (travel and accommodation costs for research stays at the partner university) for the duration of the EUTOPIA project, that is by the end of November 2022.
- **If CY Cergy Paris Université is the Home Institution**, PhD candidates will receive an allowance for accommodation and subsistence of 1750 € net per month (before income tax) and an annual research/travel allowance of 3000€. They will pay annual tuition fees at CY Cergy Paris Université of 380€ and be exempt of tuition fees at University of Ljubljana for the duration of the PhD co-tutelle program.

Eligibility

Supervisors and co-supervisors in doctoral studies at the University of Ljubljana shall be university teachers with the title of assistant professor, associate professor or full professor, or academic worker with the title of scientific associate, senior scientific associate or academic counsellor, and shall demonstrate their research work, with the requisite bibliography, from the broader field covered by the doctoral dissertation. The minimum condition for the demonstration of research work shall be set out in a resolution adopted by the Senate of the UL, which shall be published on the website of the UL Doctoral School. Supervisors and co-supervisors may also be persons with the appropriate habilitation of another institute (domestic or foreign) and who have references from the broader field covered by the topic of a doctoral dissertation, and who work in a study program or are employed by an institute with whom the UL or a member faculty of the UL has concluded an agreement or entered into a cooperation agreement.

CY Cergy Paris Université staff must meet national regulations defining the minimum requirements for PhD supervision and be associated to one of the Doctoral Schools of CY Cergy Paris Université. French law stipulates that academics need to hold a qualification as "authorisation to supervise research projects" (habilitation à diriger des recherches / HDR), in order to supervise PhD projects.

For **student** eligibility criteria at University of Ljubljana, please refer to the Call for Enrolment into Doctoral Degree Programs which will be published in the beginning of February 2021:

<https://www.uni-lj.si/study/doctoral/call>

For CY Cergy Paris Université, students enrolling in the first year of a thesis at one of the CY Doctoral Schools must hold a Master's degree. The Master 2 must be obtained with an overall average of at least 12/20 (French marking between 0 and 20) or an equivalent grade if the marking follows another system. Applications from students holding Master's degrees for professional purposes, or any other equivalent degree, must be validated by the Doctoral School's Council.

Ethics and other approvals

Information about University of Ljubljana requirements can be found [here](#)

Information about the CY Cergy Paris Université's requirements can be found [here](#)

d. Vrije Universiteit Brussel – University of Warwick

Duration/Funding

PhD co-tutelle fellowships between Vrije Universiteit Brussel and the University of Warwick have a duration of 4 years and will be fully financed by one partner (the total number of fellowships offered for cotutelle between VUB and UoW is 4 and each partner fully finances half of the positions offered). The financing university, either Vrije Universiteit Brussel or Warwick, will be the student's Home Institution for the total duration of the PhD program.

- **If Vrije Universiteit Brussel is the Home Institution**, PhD candidates will receive an allowance for accommodation and subsistence of min. 2,000 € per month net and an annual research/travel allowance of 3000€. They will pay annual fees at Vrije Universiteit Brussel of 469.80€ in the first year of enrollment and in the year of defense, and be exempt of tuition fees at the University of Warwick.
- **If University of Warwick is the Home Institution**, PhD candidates will receive full payment of tuition fees (home or international, band 1 or 2) and a tax-free maintenance stipend in line with UKRI rates (currently £15,285 per year; see: ukri.org/skills/funding-for-research-training/). In addition, they will have access to a Research Training and Support Grant of up to £2,475 per year. This Grant provides funding to support travel, accommodation and other research costs. Students will be exempt of tuition fees at Vrije Universiteit Brussel.

Eligibility

In order to act as **supervisors** of PhD co-tutelle fellows, academic staff from Vrije Universiteit Brussel must have a minimal ZAP appointment of 10%. At Warwick, academic staff wishing to act as co-supervisors must be eligible to supervise PhD candidates in line with departmental regulations.

For Vrije Universiteit Brussel the following eligibility criteria apply for **PhD students**: the default requirement for admission as a PhD student is a Master's degree (or equivalent) in a relevant field from a Belgian university. Derogations may be granted for the holders of a Master's degree in a relevant field from a non-Belgian university. Derogations for candidates without a Master's degree are unlikely to be granted unless the candidate has very strong research or professional credentials. The ultimate decision about the eligibility for PhD research resides with the Faculty in which the research will be conducted. More information can be found [here](#).

While the University of Warwick has minimum entry requirements for a PhD, some academic departments will require qualifications above this level. See [here](#).

Ethics and other approvals

Research projects that involve human participants, their data or tissue, or animals will require appropriate ethical review. Research involving secondary analysis of publicly available data e.g. systematic reviews does not require ethics review, but secondary analysis of other data that are not publicly available does. Please note, data taken from social media, does not count as publicly available.

Ethics approval does not need to be applied for until funding has been awarded but must be obtained before projects can begin. Further information about ethics and other approvals, and how to apply for these is available [here](#) (UoW) and [here](#) and [here](#) (VUB). Please note that it is the supervisor's responsibility to ensure the ethics application is submitted and approved before the project begins.

Warwick supervisors are advised to complete a Research Integrity online training module, if they haven't already: www.warwick.ac.uk/ritraining.

e. University of Ljubljana – University of Warwick

Duration/Funding

PhD co-tutelle fellowships between the University of Ljubljana and the University of Warwick have a duration of 4 years and will be fully financed by one partner (the total number of fellowships offered for cotutelle between UL and UoW is 2 and each partner fully finances half of the positions offered). The financing university, either Ljubljana or Warwick, will be the student's Home Institution.

- **If University of Ljubljana is the Home Institution**, PhD candidates will be financed in accordance with the Rules for Financing of Young Researchers by the Slovenian Research Agency. This includes tuition fees and an approximate salary of the PhD candidate of 1485€ per month gross. In the case of University of Ljubljana being the PhD student's Home Institution, the call is open only for PhD candidates who are financed by the Slovenian Research Agency as "Young Researchers" and will enroll in the 1st or 2nd year of a doctoral degree program at the University of Ljubljana in the academic year 2021/2022. Students will be exempt from tuition fees at the University of Warwick. They will have the chance of using up to 6000 € for mobility purposes (travel and accommodation costs for research stays at the partner university) for the duration of the EUTOPIA project, that is by the end of November 2022.
- **If University of Warwick is the Home Institution**, PhD candidates will receive full payment of tuition fees (home or international, band 1 or 2) and a tax-free maintenance stipend in line with UKRI rates (currently £15,285 per year; see: ukri.org/skills/funding-for-research-training/). In addition, they will have access to a Research Training and Support Grant of up to £2,475 per year. This Grant provides funding to support travel, accommodation and other research costs. Students will be exempt from tuition fees at the University of Ljubljana.

Eligibility

Supervisors and co-supervisors in doctoral studies at the University of Ljubljana shall be university teachers with the title of assistant professor, associate professor or full professor, or academic worker with the title of scientific associate, senior scientific associate or academic counsellor, and shall demonstrate their research work, with the requisite bibliography, from the broader field covered by the doctoral dissertation. The minimum condition for the demonstration of research work shall be set out in a resolution adopted by the Senate of the UL, which shall be published on the website of the UL Doctoral School. Supervisors and co-supervisors may also be persons with the appropriate habilitation of another institute (domestic or foreign) and who have references from the broader field covered by the topic of a doctoral dissertation, and who work in a study program or are employed by an institute with whom the UL or a member faculty of the UL has concluded an agreement or entered into a cooperation agreement.

At Warwick, academic staff wishing to act as co-supervisors must be eligible to supervise PhD candidates in line with departmental regulations.

To be admitted to a doctoral degree program at the University of Ljubljana, the **PhD candidate** must have obtained a Master's degree (or equivalent). For student eligibility criteria at University of Ljubljana, please refer to the Call for Enrolment into Doctoral Degree Programs which will be published in the beginning of February 2021: <https://www.uni-lj.si/study/doctoral/call>

While the University of Warwick has minimum entry requirements for a PhD, some academic departments will require qualifications above this level. See [here](#).

Ethics and other approvals

Research projects that involve human participants, their data or tissue, or animals will require appropriate ethical review. Research involving secondary analysis of publicly available data e.g. systematic reviews does not require ethics review, but secondary analysis of other data that are not

publicly available does. Please note, data taken from social media, does not count as publicly available.

Ethics approval does not need to be applied for until funding has been awarded but must be obtained before projects can begin. Further information about ethics and other approvals, and how to apply for these is available [here](#) (Warwick) [here](#) (Ljubljana).

Please note that it is the supervisor's responsibility to ensure the ethics application is submitted and approved before the project begins.

Warwick supervisors are advised to complete a Research Integrity online training module, if they haven't already: www.warwick.ac.uk/ritraining.

f. University of Ljubljana – Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB)

Duration/Funding

PhD co-tutelle fellowships between University of Ljubljana and VUB have a duration of 4 years and shall be fully financed by one partner (the total number of fellowships offered for cotutelle between VUB and UL is 2 and each partner fully finances 1 full position offered). The financing university, either University of Ljubljana or VUB, will be the student's Home Institution for the total duration of the PhD program.

- **If University of Ljubljana is the Home Institution**, PhD candidates will be financed in accordance with the Rules for Financing of Young Researchers by the Slovenian Research Agency. This includes tuition fees and an approximate salary of the PhD candidate of 1485€ per month gross. In the case of University of Ljubljana being the PhD student's Home Institution, the call is open only for PhD candidates who are currently financed by the Slovenian Research Agency as "young researchers" at the University of Ljubljana and are in the academic year 2020/2021 enrolled in the 1st year of a doctoral study program at the University of Ljubljana. They will be exempt of tuition fees at VUB for the duration of the PhD co-tutelle program. They will have the chance of using up to 6000 € for mobility purposes (travel and accommodation costs for research stays at the partner university) for the duration of the EUTOPIA project, that is by the end of November 2022.
- **If Vrije Universiteit Brussel is the Home Institution**, PhD candidates will receive an allowance for accommodation and subsistence of min. 2,000 € per month net and an annual research/travel allowance of 3000€. They will pay annual fees at Vrije Universiteit Brussel of 469.80€ in the first year of enrollment and in the year of defense, and be exempt of tuition fees at the University of Ljubljana

Eligibility

Supervisors and co-supervisors in doctoral studies at the University of Ljubljana shall be university teachers with the title of assistant professor, associate professor or full professor, or academic worker with the title of scientific associate, senior scientific associate or academic counsellor, and shall demonstrate their research work, with the requisite bibliography, from the broader field covered by the doctoral dissertation. The minimum condition for the demonstration of research work shall be set out in a resolution adopted by the Senate of the UL, which shall be published on the website of the UL Doctoral School. Supervisors and co-supervisors may also be persons with the appropriate habilitation of another institute (domestic or foreign) and who have references from the broader field covered by the topic of a doctoral dissertation, and who work in a study program or are employed by an institute with whom the UL or a member faculty of the UL has concluded an agreement or entered into a cooperation agreement.

In order to act as supervisors of PhD co-tutelle fellows, academic staff from Vrije Universiteit Brussel must have a minimal ZAP appointment of 10%.

For Vrije Universiteit Brussel the following eligibility criteria apply for **PhD students**: the default requirement for admission as a PhD student is a Master's degree (or equivalent) in a relevant field from a Belgian university. Derogations may be granted for the holders of a Master's degree in a relevant field from a non-Belgian university. Derogations for candidates without a Master's degree are unlikely to be granted unless the candidate has very strong research or professional credentials. The ultimate decision about the eligibility for PhD research resides with the Faculty in which the research will be conducted. More information can be found [here](#).

For student eligibility criteria at University of Ljubljana, please refer to the Call for Enrolment into Doctoral Degree Programs which will be published in the beginning of February 2021:
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Ethics and other approvals

Research projects that involve human participants, their data or tissue, or animals will require appropriate ethical review. Research involving secondary analysis of publicly available data e.g. systematic reviews does not require ethics review, but secondary analysis of other data that are not publicly available does. Please note, data taken from social media, does not count as publicly available.

Information about University of Ljubljana requirements can be found [here](#)

Information about the VUB's requirements can be found Ethics and other approvals : [here](#) .

Please note that it is the supervisor's responsibility to ensure the ethics application is submitted and approved before the project begins.

5. Further Information & Contacts

University of Warwick:

- Mike Haymes, International Partnerships Manager, International Strategy and Relations, m.haymes@warwick.ac.uk tel: +44 (0)2476 150034

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