

**Institute of European and Global Studies - Alliance Europa (Nantes, France)
Call for proposals for PhD projects
2018**

Application deadline: 15 May 2018

Website of publication of this call:
<https://alliance-europa.eu/fr/institut-appels>

Email address to submit your application:
recherche-alliance-europa@univ-nantes.fr

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A. Context

The Pays de la Loire region in France defined several action programmes, under the regional scheme of higher education, research and innovation 2014-2020, with the aim of preparing its territory for the future and of increasing the performance and attractiveness of its economy. Through these programmes, barriers between the worlds of Research, Education and Innovation are broken down to favour collaborations and to increase competitiveness and name recognition at the national, European and international level in different fields. Various stakeholders (research centres, universities, companies, competitive clusters, local authorities and associations) develop together a collective strategy for innovation, materialised by an action plan and resources over 5-7 years.

One of these programmes called *Alliance Europa* and managed by the University of Nantes aims at developing a network of excellence in European Studies. Projects from the Social Sciences and Humanities from different research centres of the Pays de la Loire are investigating the societal, cultural and political challenges Europe is facing in times of crisis and in the context of globalisation. This network of pluridisciplinary researchers, called the Institute of European and Global Studies, has been created around this research programme in 2015. It aims at:

- developing the number of researchers involved in this field,
- further structuring the research community and its recognition at the international level,
- increasing cooperation between researchers and socio-economic actors.

The Institute brings together researchers from the University of Nantes, the University of Angers, the Maine University in Le Mans and ESSCA School of Management in Angers.

The Institute's priority areas of research are based on the assumption of a context of crisis. Europe is facing a process of globalisation which seems to push it to the margins and impose structural changes that are often misunderstood by its weakened societies. The main challenge consists in identifying and analysing these changes and investigating Europe's adaptation capacity, its ability to define strategies to accommodate a phenomenon to which it contributes but which at the same time threatens to outpace it.

The objective is to reconsider the conditions of European integration within the framework of the globalisation process, but also to assess the impact of globalisation on the way we act, think, and conceive Europe as society. The scientific project of the Institute is organised in 4 main themes and 5 priority areas (presented in more detail in Appendix 1):

- Governance and democracy in Europe
- Globalisation and sovereignty
- Environmental protection and the governance of sustainable development
- Movements, borders and peripheries

- Digital Europe

B. Objective of the call for proposals for PhD projects

This call for proposals for PhD projects launched by Alliance Europa aims at developing these research areas while strengthening the international dimension of the overall programme. PhD projects will allow for stronger cooperation with international universities since the dissertations must be co-supervised by a supervisor of the Pays de la Loire region and a supervisor from a university abroad. Applications from foreign students are most welcome.

C. Who can apply?

Future PhD students as well as researchers, both from France and abroad can apply to this call, provided the dissertation topic corresponds to one of the Institute's priority areas of research and one of the supervisors comes from one of the Institute's member universities (University of Nantes, the University of Angers, the Maine University).

D. Funding scheme

Alliance Europa will finance at least three PhD projects attached to research centres from one of the Institute's member universities.

Selected projects will be funded for a duration of 3 years based on the salary grid of the university. The PhD thesis will have to be finalised within 5 years.

The thesis must be supervised by a researcher from one of the Institute's affiliated research centres (see the list of centres and doctoral schools of the Institute presented in appendix 2). The French research centre will manage the allocated budget.

A co-supervision (co-supervision or co-direction) is mandatory. They are particularly encouraged with the Institute's main international partners (University of Montreal, University of Geneva, Université Saint-Louis Bruxelles, University of Bologna, Universität Trier). Partnerships with other universities abroad are also accepted.

Alliance Europa can assist until 15 May in the development of a PHD proposal by putting in touch interested students/researchers.

E. Selection procedure

Eligibility criteria (complete application)

Applications must be complete, include all requested documents and respect the timeframe.

Applications must include all of the following key elements:

- A PhD candidate
- A dissertation topic in line with the priority areas of research
- A thesis supervisor from one of the Institute's French research centres
- A thesis supervisor from a university outside of France

Selection criteria

Proposals must respect the following criteria:

- ➔ Coherence of the PhD topic with the [scientific project of the Alliance Europa programme](#) and with one of the priority areas of research (described in more detail in appendix 1):
 - Governance and democracy in Europe
 - Globalisation and sovereignty
 - Environmental protection and the governance of sustainable development
 - Movements, borders and peripheries
 - Digital Europe
- ➔ Excellence, relevance, originality and innovative character of the topic
- ➔ Quality of the future PhD student (grades and performance in his/her master's degree)
- ➔ Potential future impact in terms of visibility, national and international recognition, and cooperation between partner institutions
- ➔ Thesis proposals with 50% funding from another institution than the Institute's member university are welcome – though not mandatory.

F. Application documents

Application files (for requesting the file, please contact Florence Krowicki recherche-alliance-europa@univ-nantes.fr) must be submitted with the student's and co-supervisors' CVs, transcripts of records from Masters 1 and 2¹ and an endorsement letter from the Masters 2 director, as well as a validation from the research centre or laboratory and from the French University.

¹ Master2's grades and ranking can be sent later on, as soon as possible.

In order to facilitate the processing of applications, all documents must be sent in one PDF file.

G. Timeframe

Selection procedure:

1/ Application file to be requested by contacting Florence Krowicki: recherche-alliance-europa@univ-nantes.fr.

2/ The complete application file must be sent as a pdf file to the Director of the Institute of European and Global Studies before **15 May 2018**, at the following email address: recherche-alliance-europa@univ-nantes.fr.

3/ Applications are then evaluated and selected by the Experts Committee. Interviews of selected applicants will take place on **26 June (and not on 12 or 13 June 2018 as originally planned)**.

The final decision will be taken by the Steering Committee of the Institute and will be communicated on 27 June 2018.

For selected applicants

Administrative and financial aspects:

The doctoral allocation will be given to a single institution which will take charge of the administrative and financial organisation of the PhD project. In the case of co-funding an agreement will be signed between the Institute's member university and the partner institution, providing explicit rules of budgetary transfers.

Agreement:

An agreement between the two universities that are jointly supervising the thesis will be signed. This agreement is expected to include:

- the distribution of tasks, as well as human and financial resources and responsibilities between the two co-supervisors;
- the timeshare spent by the PhD student within each of the two universities concerned;
- the sharing of intellectual property rights of the results (if applicable);
- dissemination and publication of results.

Relations with Alliance Europa:

The project coordinator will have to forward several documents to Alliance Europa:

- a summary in French and English to present the thesis topic to a wide audience – summary to be communicated 15 days after the notification of selection;

- a final report (5 to 10 pages) signed by the research centre, at the end of the thesis, at the latest one month after the finalisation of the thesis;
 - payslips signed by the accountant will also have to be forwarded.
- The funding agreement will further specify monitoring and communicating duties.

H. Contact

For all further information and assistance in developing an application, please contact:

Florence Krowicki – Research coordinator

00 33 (0)2 53 00 93 88

recherche-alliance-europa@univ-nantes.fr

APPENDIX 1 PRIORITY AREAS OF RESEARCH

Governance and democracy in Europe

In Europe, representative democracy is facing a crisis at all levels, whether European, national or local. Nationalist claims, the rise of populism, and new radical assertions raise questions about the future of our democratic model, our governance methods, citizens' participation in the political debate, as well as the legitimacy of our institutions. Debates on the future of the European institutions and the ways to relaunch Europe have intensified in the context of Brexit, as well as Catalan and Scottish separatism. Differentiated integration models and the invention of a genuinely transnational democracy relying on interconnected public spheres are being discussed.

Globalisation and sovereignty

Contemporary globalisation streams are characterised by the intensification of all kinds of exchanges (be they economic, political or cultural). These accelerate interdependencies worldwide and the emergence of a transnational society beyond traditional borders. The European Union may be considered representative of this development, as the symbol of free movement, supranationality and open trade. At the same time, the current economic, political and social crisis may lead to various forms of resistance against this process and to an increasing demand for protection at the local and national level. Europe in the future will have to deal with the coexistence of globalisation – often presented as being inevitable – and the perception of a need to reinforce sovereignty at different levels. What competences and policies does the European Union need to address this challenge?

Environmental protection and the governance of sustainable development

Environmental protection has imposed itself on the global agenda. A variety of actions, national, international and transnational mobilisations are addressing this major challenge and its consequences (e.g. the preservation of biodiversity, food security, the fight against climate change, socio-economic and spatial inequalities). The European Union, its member-states and NGOs were important stakeholders and often even leaders from the Rio Summit to COP21. Changes for a transition towards a more environmental-friendly society, however, encounter economic, social and cultural resistances. What forms of transnational and European cooperation are most appropriate for addressing these issues? What are the consequences for governance at the local and regional level?

Movements, borders and peripheries

Europe has developed on the basis of its relationship to the rest of the world, its capacity for global impact and the accommodation of external influences. Following the decolonisation process, European States have kept an important but unequal economic, strategic and cultural influence on the world stage. At a time of globalisation, this influence is an asset to remain a major actor worldwide. Europe includes outermost and ultramarine regions, huge maritime areas, but also a large variety of borders, which serves as passageways but also checkpoints for the flow of humans and goods. The conditions in which movement between Europe and the world takes place, most notably the competitive and cooperative tensions that arise in these maritime and border areas, are essential criteria for measuring the European Union's influence and attractiveness.

Digital Europe

The European Union has been rather late in tackling the “digital revolution” and its challenges. Only recently, a fight against the tax practices of major tech companies has been launched by the EU. Above all, there is an attempt to build a single European digital market in order to grant access for all Europeans to digital goods and services. Infrastructure and innovation are being developed in support of strengthening European economy in terms of industrial development and employment. The project of an “inclusive digital society” strengthening trust towards digital services and generalising their use must however be questioned at a time where resistances towards a digital world emerge. This field can be studied from various angles: economic (the constitution of big European digital players), legal (widening access, harmonising property rights, free movement), political (governance of the digital), as well as social (reducing the digital divide in Europe).

APPENDIX 2 – Research centers Alliance Europa's member universities

The table below (in French) presents the different research centres of Alliance Europa and the doctoral schools to which they are attached. Some researchers already highly involved in Alliance Europa's activities are presented on the [website](#).

Ecole doctorale	Laboratoire	Etablissement membre d'Alliance Europa	Liste des chercheurs membres
Ecole doctorale Arts, lettres et langues	3L.AM - Langues, littératures, Linguistiques	Université d'Angers et du Mans	http://3lam.univ-lemans.fr/fr/membres/enseignants-chercheurs.html
	CIRPaLL - Centre Interdisciplinaire de Recherche sur les Patrimoines en Lettres et Langues	Université d'Angers	http://cirpall.univ-angers.fr/fr/la-laboratoire/membres.html
	CRINI - Centre de recherches sur les identités nationales et l'interculturalité	Université de Nantes	http://www.crimi.univ-nantes.fr/les-membres-du-crimi-431570.kjsp?RH=1402925224545&RF=ECRINI
	L'AMO - L'Antique, le Moderne	Université de Nantes	http://lamo.univ-nantes.fr/Presentation-de-L-AMO
Ecole doctorale Droit et Sciences	CDMO - Centre de recherche en droit maritime et océanique	Université de Nantes	http://www.cdmo.univ-nantes.fr/equipe-de-recherche-884957.kjsp?RH=1339768074937&RF=1341997337394

Ecole doctorale	Laboratoire	Etablissement membre d'Alliance Europa	Liste des chercheurs membres
Politiques	DCS - Droit et changement social	Université de Nantes	http://www.dcs.univ-nantes.fr/membres/enseignants-chercheurs-1521174.kjsp?RH=1487582970632
	IRD - Institut de recherches en droit privé	Université de Nantes	http://irdp.univ-nantes.fr/index.php?option=com_comprofiler&ask=userslist&Itemid=482
	CJB - Centre Jean Bodin	Université d'Angers	http://centrejeanbodin.univ-angers.fr/fr/un-peu-d-histoire/liste-des-membres/enseignants-chercheurs.html
Ecole doctorale Education, Langages, Interactions, Cognition, Clinique	CREN - Centre de recherche en éducation de Nantes	Université de Nantes	http://cren.univ-nantes.fr/membres/
Ecole doctorale de Gestion et Economie	LEMNA - Laboratoire d'économie et de management de Nantes atlantique	Université de Nantes	http://www.lemna.univ-nantes.fr/membres-du-lemna-348740.kjsp?RH=1189522011877&RF=1189520853498

Ecole doctorale	Laboratoire	Etablissement membre d'Alliance Europa	Liste des chercheurs membres
	Granem - Groupe de recherche angevin en économie et management	Université d'Angers	http://granem.univ-angers.fr/fr/acces-directs/les-membres2/enseignants-chercheurs.html
Ecole doctorale Sciences de la Mer et du Littoral	LETG - Littoral, environnement, télédétection, géomatique	Université de Nantes et d'Angers	http://letg.cnrs.fr/spip.php?page=membres
Ecole doctorale Sociétés, temps, territoires	CENS - Centre nantais de sociologie	Université de Nantes	http://www.cens.univ-nantes.fr/liste-des-chercheurs-du-cens-468649.kjsp?RH=1207686781692
	CFV - Centre François Viète	Université de Nantes, Angers et Le Mans	http://www.cfv.univ-nantes.fr/membres-1149499.kjsp?RH=1405598336924&RF=1405598371265
	CReAAH - Centre de recherche en archéologie, archéosciences, histoire	Université de Nantes et du Mans	http://www.creaah.univ-rennes1.fr/spip.php?rubrique29
	CRHIA - Centre de recherches en histoire internationale et atlantique	Université de Nantes	https://www.crhia.fr/qui_sommes_nous_equipe.php#bloc

Ecole doctorale	Laboratoire	Etablissement membre d'Alliance Europa	Liste des chercheurs membres
	ESO - Espaces et sociétés	Université de Nantes, d'Angers et du Maine	http://eso.cnrs.fr/fr/equipe-1.html
	TEMOS - Temps, Mondes, Sociétés	Université d'Angers et du Mans	http://cerhio.fr/spip.php?rubrique3

