

Two Doctoral Assistant Positions (PhD) in Management at the Institute of Management and Organization (IMO), Faculty of Economics at USI Università della Svizzera italiana

Università della Svizzera italiana (USI) is a young and lively university, a hub of opportunity open to the world where students are offered a quality interdisciplinary education in which they can be fully engaged and take centre stage, and where our researchers can count on having the space to freely pursue their initiative.

Established in 1996, USI is in constant evolution, always taking on new challenges while remaining true to its three guiding principles: quality, openness, and responsibility.

The director of the Humanitarian Operations Group, Prof. Paulo Goncalves, invites applications for two research and teaching PhD positions (four years with annual evaluations). The PhD candidates will develop their dissertation projects to explore policy synergies and trade-offs across targets within the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

The Ph.D. Position

The doctoral student will be enrolled in the economics PhD program (<https://www.eco.usi.ch/en/study-economics/phd-doctoral-studies>). The doctoral student will work under the scientific supervision of Prof. Paulo Goncalves (<http://usi.to/iam>). The successful candidate will be offered the possibility to work in a dynamic research team and in a multidisciplinary and international scientific environment.

The two PhD candidates will work on a Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) funded project mapping interlinkages across sustainable development goals (SDGs) for effective policy making. The PhD candidates will develop a set of System Dynamics models capturing causal interlinkages across different SDGs, culminating with the design of effective policies that achieve multiple SDGs simultaneously, exploring their synergies while avoiding their trade-offs.

On the teaching side, the two PhD candidates will work as teaching assistants in courses at the master level, helping in the preparation of teaching materials, grading assignments, and tutoring students. The PhD candidates are also asked to present papers at scientific conferences and produce publications for scientific journals.

Candidates' profile

Ideal candidates must meet the following requirements:

- A Master of Science (M.Sc. or equivalent) degree in system dynamics, industrial engineering, operations research, economics, psychology, or related disciplines.
- Expertise and interest in quantitative (e.g., econometrics, optimization, simulation) and qualitative (e.g., participatory systems modelling, surveys) research methods.
- A growth-oriented mindset and ability to find constructive strategies to deal with adverse situations.
- Excellent oral and written English, the official language of the Ph.D. program, skills.
- Ability to work independently and autonomously, to plan, direct, and make progress on own research.
- Motivation to learn new skills, research methods, and move beyond current comfort zone.
- Interest for teaching and tutoring students and ability to collaborate with colleagues and work in teams.
- High personal interest in sustainability and societal issues.

Contract terms

Admission to the Ph.D. program is highly competitive. Admission decisions are based on the candidate's background, interests, attitude, and potential for academic achievement. Successful enrolment in the Ph.D. program and involvement as doctoral researcher requires full-time commitment and is not compatible with further professional activity.

The successful candidates will work as research assistants with Professor Gonçalves on an SNSF-funded 4-year project creating system dynamics models to map the interlinkages among the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). The two PhD candidates will have the possibility to interact with an international network of collaborators.

Workplace is USI Università della Svizzera italiana, located in Lugano, Switzerland. Availability to travel to other parts of Switzerland and abroad (for purposes of collaboration and research) is required.

Starting date is September 1, 2022 (at the earliest) and October 1, 2022 (at the latest).

The Application

Applications should contain:

- (1) A personal statement in which the applicant describes their research interests and the motivation to apply,
- (2) A complete CV, including (i) date of birth, (ii) nationality, (iii) names of two references (see p.3), and (iv) other information relevant for the position (e.g., programming skills).
- (3) Names and contact information (e.g., email and telephone) of two professional references supporting your application.
- (4) An electronic version of research work (Master thesis or other scientific publication), accompanied by a short summary in English (1 page maximum).
- (5) Copies of relevant diplomas, certificates as well as the full transcript of records that prove the candidate's eligibility for doctoral studies,

The application deadline is July 31, 2022. Please send your application in electronic form in a single PDF file directly to paulo.goncalves@usi.ch (also requests for further information).

Due to the large number of applications received, only those applicants whose profiles are likely to fit the positions will be notified for further details and eventual interviews. We will start interviewing qualified applicants shortly after the submission deadline.

As an institution that values diversity, USI particularly encourages applications from women and from all individuals from underrepresented groups.

Lugano, July 1, 2022