

# Call for proposals: Doctoral and Postdoctoral Research Visitorships with the Institute for the Rule of Law, European University at St. Petersburg

This call is aimed at young scholars of Law & Economics, Law & Society, Empirical Legal Studies, and the adjacent fields with focus on post-Soviet countries. Postdoctoral researchers and doctoral students are invited to spend up to 3 months with the researchers at the Institute for the Rule of Law, European University at St. Petersburg, working on their dissertation or related projects.

## Background

The [Institute for the Rule of Law](#) is one of Russia's first academic institutions engaged in empirical legal studies. We study the behaviour of people enforcing the law: police officers' decisions to register crime reports, detectives' decisions to arrest suspects, judges' verdicts and sentences, or defence attorneys' efforts to protect their clients. The Institute's work enriches the dogmatic legal scholarship with social science-based empirical methods. We study law as a behavioural phenomenon relying on cutting-edge methods of social science.

Our researchers include economists, criminologists, sociologists, and legal scholars. We operate at the intersection of quantitative and qualitative research frameworks to accumulate and produce knowledge on the inner-workings of the Russian state and its discretionary actors.

The key research outputs include:

- Bocharov, T. and K. Titaev. (2018) "When Business Goes to Court: Arbitrazh Courts in Russia" In *A Sociology of Justice in Russia*. Cambridge University Press.
- Volkov, V. Legal and Extralegal Origins of Sentencing Disparities: Evidence from Russia's Criminal Courts. *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*, 13(4).
- Dzmityrieva, A. (2021) "Becoming a Judge in Russia: An Analysis of Judicial Biographies." *Europe-Asia Studies* 73(1).
- Панях, Э., К. Титаев, and М. Шклярук. (2018) *Траектория уголовного дела: институциональный анализ*. Европейский университет в Санкт-Петербурге.
- Kurmangaliyeva, M. (2018). Missing rich offenders: Traffic accidents and the impartiality of justice. *Review of Law and Economics*, 14(1).

Our mission is to promote the rule of law in Russia through research, media activities, and participation in public debate. In autumn of 2021 we are launching a [Master's programme in Empirical Legal Studies](#) to ignite interest in empirical legal studies in the new generation of social scientists in the region.

## Visitorship

Expected visitorship could start in September, 2021 or later depending on the applicant's availability. The visitor comes to St. Petersburg, Russia and spends up to 3 months at the European University at St. Petersburg. The visitorship entails participation in weekly meetings of the research group and *ad hoc* consultations. The visitor is also expected to give two 90-minute seminars at the start and the end of his/her visit on the research project and its progress.

Researchers of the Institute undertake to share their expertise with the visitor regarding his/her research project. Examples of such knowledge sharing include: methodological and practical support for fieldwork, managing interviewee accessibility constraints, quantitative analysis of judicial decision-making.

Visitors are more than welcome and encouraged to give a short course to the students of our Master's programme.

## Eligibility Criteria

**Degree requirements:** Ph.D. candidate or Ph.D. in Economics, Political Science, Sociology, Criminology or related social science fields.

**Language requirements:** we do not require working knowledge of Russian.

Only one visitor at a time is allowed.

## Financial framework

A monthly accommodation allowance of up to RUB 40,000 (or its in kind equivalent) is offered to the visitor. Additional remuneration is provided for teaching engagements. The University also provides visa support.

## Application

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Please send your CV and letter of motivation detailing your research project to [enforce@eu.spb.ru](mailto:enforce@eu.spb.ru). Please do not hesitate to contact us should any questions arise.