

The European Space Policy Institute (ESPI) is looking to employ a **Research Intern** for a minimum of 6 months (with the possibility of an additional 6-month extension), to support research activities on the topics relevant for the increased uptake of space services and solutions, notably in the domains of Green Transition, Rapid & Resilience Crisis Response and Protection of Space Assets. The position is located at the premises of the Institute in Vienna, starting from 1 June 2023.

The European Space Policy Institute

The European Space Policy Institute (ESPI) was founded in 2003 at the initiative of the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) and it is supported by members including national space agencies, the European Commission, and leading European industry.

ESPI's mission is to provide decision-makers with proposals, recommendations and policy options, supported by informed views on mid-to-long-term issues relevant to Europe's space activities. ESPI fulfils its objectives through multidisciplinary research activities giving way to a variety of publications, while also organizing conferences, workshops and public events including the annual ESPI Autumn Conference. The Institute has privileged relations with key stakeholders in the European space sector, while also engaging with the local policymaking, industrial and diplomatic community in Vienna and with a network of researchers and experts in Europe and across the globe.

More information on ESPI is available on our website: www.espi.or.at

Fields of activities and duties

The Research Intern will primarily support Researchers in a variety of projects related to the conceptualisation and development of the Accelerators, as new user- and commercially-driven initiatives aiming at enhancing the use of space solutions to achieve policy-relevant goals. While the “technological push” is traditionally witnessed within the space sector, with today's increase in space investment accelerating the trend, the “solution pull” or market adoption of newly available breakthrough technologies is pursued through the Accelerators.

The Accelerators are set towards an objective of recognising the critical value of partnership building between all categories of space and non-space actors in Europe for the best achievement of policy-relevant goals through the deepest exploitation of space data and technologies.

In view of these considerations, ESA identified the following overarching objectives to be addressed by the three dedicated Accelerators:

- Green transition, with the goal of contributing to climate neutrality objectives;
- Crisis prevention, response and post-crisis recovery, with a variety of use cases addressed, both in the context of humanmade and natural disasters;
- Protection of space assets, aiming at safeguarding European space infrastructure from debris and space weather interferences.

The Research Intern is expected to actively work as part of the team responsible for the conduct of several activity lines related to this topics.

Duties and responsibilities envisioned for the position include the transversal support to the Accelerators, *ad hoc* tasks for the development of each single Accelerator, as well as contributing to other activities conducted by ESPI, along the following lines:

- Support ESPI Research Team in the frame of the support to the Accelerators development:
 - Methodology and analysis tools preparation (e.g., tailored scope definition, creation of *ad hoc* metrics);
 - Background research: Literature review, information and data collection, compilation and synthesis; Data analysis and creative exploitation (e.g., benchmarking with defined criteria, statistical analysis, visualisation of research outcomes);

- Stakeholders consultation through dedicated interviews or surveys;
- Synthesis of results and recommendations;
- Report writing and editing.
- Support to general activities of the Institute:
 - Conferences, workshops and other events organisation;
 - Working with other researchers and interns of the institute on common research projects;
 - Participation in ESPI daily routine and meetings.

Qualifications and competencies

For this internship, ESPI is looking for applicants with an educational background (at least a 3-year degree) in legal studies, political science, business, innovation, economy, international relations or other relevant fields. Applicants with a technical background (e.g., engineering, physics) will also be considered, provided a good understanding and strong interest in space policy matters. Previous exposure to policy research, consulting or advisory is an asset.

Knowledge on and Prior Exposure to the following topics is considered an asset:

- Main trends affecting the global and European space sector;
- Global space ecosystem, with a particular focus on both the private and public stakeholders acting in Europe;
- The use of space services and solutions in other policy-relevant sectors (energy, mobility, ICT);
- Public & private sector innovation frameworks and concepts;
- Evolution of governance options, models and frameworks, beyond space, especially in the European context and in the initial phases of their establishment.

Additionally, the following competencies will be a determining factor in our selection:

- Excellent analytical and synthesis skills;
- Capacity to recognise and build direct and indirect connections between topics;
- Ability to think beyond established schemes and frameworks;
- Curiosity, interest in continuous learning, and willingness to go the extra mile;
- Versatility, Flexibility and Adaptability;
- Capacity to work both independently and in close coordination with other members of a team;

Proficiency in MS Office (in particular, Microsoft Word, Microsoft PowerPoint, and Microsoft Excel) is required. Basic skills in database development and exploitation are considered an asset.

The working language of ESPI is English. **Excellent command of English**, written and oral, is mandatory. A track record of articles, papers, thesis or reports written in English can be annexed to your application.

Application process

ESPI can only accept applications by EU citizens or non-EU citizens holding residence and employment permits in Austria.

To apply for this internship, please send:

- A copy of your CV,
- A cover letter, and
- If applicable, sample documentation supporting your qualifications (e.g. a article(s), thesis extracts, etc.)

to vacancies@espi.or.at with the subject: "ESPI Internship application – Support to Accelerators Development" **before 21 April 2023, 23:59 CEST**. Please do not submit educational records or certificates at this stage.

The position is planned to be full-time (40 hours/week). The advertised salary for this internship is € 1400 gross per month on a full-time basis (paid 14 times a year).