

ESPI vacancy notice

Research Intern – Space for Climate

The European Space Policy Institute (ESPI) is looking to employ a Research Intern for a duration of 6 months at the premises of the Institute in Vienna, starting from January 2021, to support a research activity on the topic of Space for Climate.

The European Space Policy Institute

The European Space Policy Institute (ESPI) is an association ruled by Austrian Law, based in Vienna, founded at its inception (2003) by the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) and supported by members including national space agencies, the European Commission, and leading space industry companies.

The Institute provides decision-makers with an informed view on mid-to-long-term issues relevant to Europe's space activities. In this context, ESPI acts as an independent platform for developing positions and strategies.

ESPI fulfils its objectives through various multidisciplinary research activities giving way to the publication of books, reports, articles, executive briefs, proceedings or position papers and to the organisation of conferences and events including the annual ESPI Autumn Conference. Located in the heart of Vienna, the Institute developed a privileged relation with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs 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

Research project

Scientific research building on suitable and reliable datasets is essential to better understand and monitor the extent and consequences of climate change and to support effective public strategies and policies in this domain. In this context, space systems provide unique and essential capabilities and data.

The ESA Climate Change Initiative (CCI) Programme is a major contributor providing scientific evidence through the “delivery of climate variables derived from satellite data sets” and the implementation of “a coherent and continuous suite of actions that encompasses all steps necessary for the systematic generation of relevant Essential Climate Variables (ECV)” and their regular update.

The goal of this research project is to support the ESA Climate Office in understanding how EO-based data support climate policies in Europe and examine how this contribution could be further improved in the future.

The study will involve the following activities:

- Policy landscaping: overview of the state of affairs in the field of climate-related policy in ESA Member States and at the European Union level.
- Policy impact evaluation: analysis of the role of the ESA CCI Programme in support of climate policies in Europe.
- Analysis of future needs: analysis of future climate policy needs and opportunities for the ESA CCI Programme to further enhance its contribution to climate-related policies in Europe.

The research intern is expected to work as part of a team responsible for the conduct of this project.

Duties

Duties and responsibilities envisioned for this internship include:

- Support ESPI Research Team in the frame of this research project:
 - Background research: Literature review, information and data collection and compilation,
 - Stakeholders consultation through dedicated interviews or surveys;
 - Methodology and analysis tools preparation;
 - Synthesis of results and recommendations;
 - Report writing and editing
- Support general activities of the Institute:
 - Participation to conferences, workshops and other events organisation
 - Working with other researchers and interns of the institute on common projects
 - Participation to ESPI daily routine and meetings

The internship may also involve a participation to other ESPI projects not listed above, according to the Institute needs and candidate profile.

Qualifications and competencies

For this internship ESPI welcomes applications from candidates with an educational background (at least 3 years degree) in political science, climate science, engineering or law who can justify acquaintance with the global and European space sector.

The following competencies would be considered an asset:

- Previous experience in policy research, consulting or advisory;
- General knowledge and understanding of the European and international frameworks on climate-related policies.

Applicants to the internship should demonstrate good interpersonal skills and the capacity to work both independently and as part of a team. Good knowledge of MS Office is required.

The working language of ESPI is English. **Excellent command of the English language, written and oral, is a prerequisite.** A track record of articles, papers, thesis or reports written in English would be appreciated.

Application process

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

To apply for this internship, please send to office@espi.or.at a **copy of your CV, a cover letter** and – if applicable – sample documentation supporting your qualifications (e.g. a previously published article, thesis extracts, etc.), with subject: “ESPI internship application – Space for Climate” before **02/12/2020, 19:00 CET**. Please do not submit educational records or certificates at this stage.