

ESPI vacancy notice

Research Intern – Space for Security

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 Security.

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

In an evolving landscape of space technologies, services and applications, there is a growing range of opportunities to use space-based capacities in support of security related missions, both in civilian and military domains. Some examples include the use of space for border control, environmental monitoring, disaster relief, human rights protection, support to deployed contingents in their designated missions; or in fact-finding assignments usually related to justice and police actions.

Various national authorities across the globe have long exploited space in support of objectives associated with these security missions. In Europe, the EU and ESA have also acknowledged the growing relevance of space in support of security-related activities and launched dedicated activities to better explore the synergies between the two areas.

1) The ever more important place granted to security in the political agenda, 2) a long-established practice of using space in support of security missions and 3) emerging disruptive technological solutions, create new prospects for space-based security applications.

This project will investigate in more details:

- Objectives and priorities of ESA member states in space and security domains
- The use of space in support of security objectives by national authorities of ESA member states
- The evolution of needs and requirements of national authorities tasked with security, law enforcement and emergency management missions

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, security studies, international relations, 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 security environment (major security threats, actors and responsibilities...)

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 Security” before **02/12/2020, 19:00 CET**. Please do not submit educational records or certificates at this stage.