Cluster of Excellence “The Politics of Inequality”
Proposal Instructions and Further Information about the
Call for Applications

Research Group Leader in Political Communication

Position Overview
The Research Group Leader will make an important contribution to the research carried out at the Cluster in the area of political communication and become an active member of the Cluster community. The project must be connected to at least one of the Cluster’s research areas (perceptions, participation and policies) as well as to the empirical domains of inequality (education, employment, political rights, etc.—as well as newly emerging topics like environmental and health inequalities).

For further information please visit: inequality.uni.kn/research

Funding Period
The contract should start no later than 1 October 2021.
The duration of the position is linked to the funding period of the Cluster, until December 31st, 2025.

Application documents
Applicants should submit the following documents in English:
(1) a research proposal describing the planned project (max. 10 pages excl. notes and references) and a proposed budget for personnel and other costs. For detailed proposal instructions please see below.
(2) a current CV, including a list of publications
(3) two reference letters commenting on the candidate and the proposed project. Reference letters should be sent directly by the reviewer to the cluster (application.inequality@uni-konstanz.de).

Proposal Instructions
Please format your proposal as follows: Times New Roman, Arial or similar, at least font size 11, margins (2.5 cm side and 1.5 cm top and bottom), 1.2 line spacing. The proposal should be structured as follows:
1. Cover page including name of the applicant, title of the proposed project, and a proposal summary (max. 2000 characters including spaces and line breaks). The summary should be short and precise and provide a clear understanding of both the objectives of the proposed research and how those objectives will be achieved.
2. Research proposal (max. 10 pages excl. notes and references):
   a) Information on the state of the art in the field of research and preliminary work of the applicant
   b) Research question(s) and objectives of the proposed research
   c) Methodology and proposed timetable for research
3. Budget plan for personnel and other costs. For further information, see “Budget plan” below.
4. References
Budget plan
Please use the template provided with this call (on the website).

Project funding does not cover general spending on IT or other infrastructure, except insofar as this is required for specific project-related needs. (The Cluster provides office space for researchers working on projects, as well as basic IT equipment and resources.)

Furthermore, project budget cannot include funding for:
- long-term visiting fellowships for external researchers (who are instead encouraged to apply for the Cluster’s funding scheme for external senior fellows). However, project budgets may include funding for short-term visitors and external cooperation partners (max. 2,500 Euro per month for accommodation and travel);
- overhead funds.

Eligibility
- Excellent PhD in political science or a related discipline
- Significant work experience at the postdoctoral level (typically 2-4 years)
- Early track record of high-quality research publications that go beyond the PhD dissertation
- International orientation and visibility in research networks and output
- Ability and willingness to engage in interdisciplinary collaborations
- Keen interest in science communication/open science

Selection Procedure and Criteria
The selection process consists of two stages.

In the first stage, the Board of the Cluster will screen submitted applications and research proposals regarding their fittingness with respect to the selection criteria. That meeting will be held on 16 March 2021. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for the second stage

According to Cluster Bylaws, research proposals need to meet the following criteria:
- Clear connection between project and the Cluster’s research focus
- Fit with research areas and empirical domains of the cluster
- Proven interdisciplinarity, demonstrated either through person involved and/or through the content of the proposal
- General quality and novelty of the project idea (novelty of Research Question, Theory, Research Design, Adequacy of Methods)
- Feasibility of the project

The second stage will take the form of a day-long workshop, where shortlisted applicants will present their project for review. The workshop will take place at on 29 March 2021.

Submission
The deadline for submission is 1 March 2021. All documents must be submitted via our online application portal.

FAQ
For further information, please consult the FAQ. Additional questions not covered in the FAQ may be directed to the Cluster Co-Speaker, Prof. Nils Weidmann (nils.weidmann@uni-konstanz.de).

Last updated: 27 January 2021