

**Institute of European and Global Studies - Alliance Europa
Call for proposals for thesis
Nantes area, France
2018**

**Deadline for the application form: 15th of April 2018
Application deadline: 15th of May 2018**

**Publication website of the call:
<https://alliance-europa.eu/fr/institut-appels>**

Email address to submit your application: recherche-alliance-europa@univ-nantes.fr

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A. Context

The Pays de la Loire region in France defined several programmes, under the regional scheme of higher education, research and innovation 2014-2020, in order to prepare its territory for the future and to increase the performance and attractiveness of its economy. Through these programmes, barriers between the worlds of Research, Education and Innovation are broken down to favour collaborations and to increase competitiveness and recognition at the national, European and international levels in different fields. Various stakeholders (research centres, universities, companies, competitive clusters, local authorities and associations) develop together a collective strategy for innovation, materialised by an action plan and resources over 5-7 years.

One of these programmes called *Alliance Europa* is a regional cluster of European Studies that brings together civil society stakeholders and over 120 researchers from 19 different research centres based in 4 renowned higher education institutions located in Western France: the University of Nantes, the University of Angers, Le Mans University, and ESSCA School of Management.

Researchers and stakeholders gathered in this cluster look at the societal, cultural and political challenges Europe faces in times of crisis and in the context of globalisation.

The academic branch of Alliance Europa called the Institute for European and Global Studies¹ was created in October 2015 as a pole of excellence in the social sciences and humanities. It has a strong interdisciplinary mission and aims at:

- developing the number of researchers involved locally in the field of European studies,
- further structuring the research community and its recognition at the international level
- increasing cooperation between researchers and socio-economic actors.

Research fields of the cluster rely on the assumption of a context of crisis and globalisation faced by a European entity which seems to be marginalised and to suffer from structural changes often misunderstood by weakened societies. The main issue consists in identifying and analysing these changes and investigating Europeans ability to adapt and to define strategies to bypass phenomenon to which they contribute but that may overtake them.

The objective is to rethink European integration conditions in the context of globalisation but also to assess the impact of globalisation on the way we act, think and build a society in Europe. The scientific project of the Institute is organised in 4 main themes and 5 priority issues (further presented in Annex 1):

¹ For further information www.alliance-europa.eu, the English version is currently under construction.

- Governance and democracy in Europe
- Globalisation and sovereignty
- Preservation of the environment and governance for a sustainable development
- Circulations, frontiers and peripheries
- Europe and a digital world

B. Objective of the call for proposals for thesis

This call for proposals for thesis launched by the programme Alliance Europa aims at developing these research fields. Thesis proposals will also allow for stronger cooperation with international universities since thesis must be co-supervised by a supervisor of the Pays de la Loire region and a supervisor from a university abroad. Applications from foreign students are very welcome.

C. Who can apply ?

Future PhD students as well as researchers, both from France and abroad can apply to this call, as long as the thesis topic corresponds to one of the fields of study of the Institute and as long as one of the supervisors comes from a university member of the Institute (University of Nantes, the University of Angers, the University of Le Mans).

D. Funding scheme

Alliance Europa will finance at least three thesis attached to research centers from one of the university members of the Institute.

Selected applications will be funded for a duration of 3 years based on the salary grid of the university. Thesis will have to be finalised in 5 years.

Thesis must be supervised by a researcher from a research center of one of the Institute's universities (see the list of research centers and PhD schools of the Institute presented in annex 2). The French research center will manage the allocation.

A co-supervision (co-supervision or cotutelle) is mandatory. Main partners of the institute are welcome: University of Montreal, University of Geneva, Université Saint-Louis – Bruxelles, University of Bologna, Trier University. Partnerships with other universities abroad are also accepted.

Alliance Europa can help until the 15th of May for developing a thesis proposal by putting in touch interested students/researchers.

E. Selection procedure

Admission criteria (complete application)

Application must be complete, including all requested documents and in the right timeframe. Applications must include the identification of all the following elements:

- A PhD candidate
- A thesis topic in line with scientific research areas of the Alliance Europa
- A thesis supervisor of one of the French research centres of the Institute
- A thesis supervisor from a university outside of France

Selection criteria

Thesis proposals must respect the following criteria:

- ➔ Coherence of the thesis topic with the [scientific project of the programme](#) and with one of the following priority themes (further detailed in annex):
 - Governance and democracy in Europe
 - Globalisation and sovereignty
 - Preservation of the environment and governance for a sustainable development
 - Circulations, frontiers and peripheries
 - Europe and a digital world
- ➔ Excellence, relevancy, originality and scientific innovation of the topic
- ➔ Quality of the future PhD student (grades and ranking in a European Masters degree)
- ➔ Potential future impact in terms of visibility, national and international acknowledgement, and cooperation between partners
- ➔ Thesis proposals with 50% funding from another institution than the University of the Institute are welcome - even if not mandatory.

F. Application documents

Application files (contact Florence Krowicki recherche-alliance-europa@univ-nantes.fr) must be submitted with the student's and co-supervisors' CV, Masters 1 and 2 grades² and a support letter from the Masters 2 director, as well as a validation from the research center laboratory and from the French University.

In order to facilitate the reception of applications, all documents must be sent in one PDF file.

G. Timeframe

Selection procedure:

1/ Application file to obtain before the 15th of April 2018 by contacting Florence Krowicki: recherche-alliance-europa@univ-nantes.fr.

2/ Full application file must be sent as a pdf file to the Director of the Institute of European and Global Studies before the 15th of May 2018, at the following email address: recherche-alliance-europa@univ-nantes.fr.

3/ Applications are then selected by the Experts Committee. Interviews of selected applications will take place on the 12th or 13th of June.

Final decision will be taken by the Director Committee of the Institute and will be communicated on the 14th of June 2018.

In case of selection

Administrative and financial aspects:

-The doctoral allocation will be given to a unique institution which will take in charge the administrative and financial organisation of the PhD. In case of co-funding an agreement will be signed between the University member of the Institute and the other institution making explicit transfers characteristics.

Agreement:

In any case an agreement between the two universities co-supervising the thesis will be signed. Agreement is recommended to include:

- the share of tasks, HR and financial means and responsibilities between the two co-supervisors ;
- the share of time spent by the PhD student between the two universities

² Masters grades and ranking can be sent during three weeks after the 15th of May deadline.

- if relevant, the share of intellectual property rights of the results;
- the way results will be published/disseminated.

Relations with Alliance Europa:

The project coordinator will have to communicate several documents to Alliance Europa:

- a summary in French and English to present the thesis topic to a wide audience – summary to be communicated 15 days after the application selection,
- a final report (5 to 10 pages) signed by the research center, at the end of the thesis, at the latest one month after the finalisation of the thesis. Payslips signed by the accountant will have to be forwarded.

Funding agreement will further specify communication and monitoring organisation.

H. Contact

For further information and for a support for developing an application, please contact:

Florence Krowicki – Research coordinator

00 33 (0)2 53 00 93 88

recherche-alliance-europa@univ-nantes.fr

ANNEX 1 SCIENTIFIC THEMES

Governance and democracy in Europe

European representative democracy is facing a crisis at the European, national and local scales. The future of our democratic model, of our governance methods, of the citizens participation to the political debate as well as the future of the legitimacy of our institutions are questioned by nationalist claims, rise of populism and assertion of radicalism. The future of the European institutions and the ways to boost Europe are in debate in particular in the current context of Brexit and Catalan and Scottish separatism. Differentiated integration models and the invention of an authentic transnational democracy relying on interconnected public spaces are debated.

Globalisation and sovereignties

Contemporary globalisations are characterised by the intensification of exchanges (be it economic, political or cultural exchanges). This accelerates interdependencies worldwide and the assertion of a transnational society beyond traditional frontiers. The European Union can be seen as representing this evolution, as the symbol of free circulation, supranationality and trade openness. On the other side the economic, political and social crisis can lead to resistances towards the process and to an increasing demand for protection at the local and national level. Europe in the future will have to deal with the coexistence of globalisation - often presented as being inevitable, and of strengthened sovereignties - perceived as necessary. What would be the competences and European policies needed to address this challenge?

Preservation of the environment and governance for a sustainable development

Preservation of the environment is a major challenge for the planet worldwide. Numerous actions, national, international and transnational mobilisations have been taking place to address this challenge and its consequences (e.g. biodiversity preservation, food security, fight against climate change, social and location inequalities). The European Union, States and NGOs were important stakeholders and often even leaders for the Rio Summit and COP21. Changes for a transition towards a more environmental-friendly society can encounter economic, social and cultural resistances. How can transnational and European cooperation take place to address these issues? What are the consequences for governance at the local level?

Circulations, frontiers and peripheries

Europe has been developed based on its relations to the “external world”, on its capacity to influence the world and on the reception of external influences. Following the decolonisation process, European States have kept an important but unequal (economically, strategically, culturally) influence at the international scale. At a time of globalisation, this influence is an asset to remain a major actor worldwide. Europe includes outermost and ultramarine regions, huge maritime areas, but also various frontiers, borders, passageways and human and trade control areas. Circulation conditions in Europe and in the world, tensions, competitions and cooperations in these maritime and border areas are essential issues to measure influence and attractiveness of the European Union.

Europe and a digital world

The European Union has been late in tackling the “digital revolution” and its challenges. A fight against the tax practices of the GAFAs has been launched by the EU. There is also an attempt to build a big digital European market in order to favour large access for all Europeans to digital goods and services. Infrastructures and innovations are being developed supporting a stronger European economy especially for the industry and employment. The project of an “inclusive digital society” strengthening trust towards digital services and generalising its use must be questioned at a time where resistances towards a digital world emerge. This field can be studied from an economic perspective (constitution of European giants), a legal one (widening the access to rights, harmonising property rights, free circulation), a political one (governance), a social one (reduce the digital divide in Europe)...

ANNEX 2 Research centres of the universities members of Alliance Europa

The list below presents in French the different research centers of Alliance Europa and PhD schools to which they are attached. Some researchers already highly involved in Alliance Europa's activities are presented on the [website](#).

Ecole doctorale	Laboratoire	Etablissement membre d'Alliance Europa	Liste des chercheurs membres
Ecole doctorale Arts, lettres et langues	3L.AM - Langues, littératures, Linguistiques	Université d'Angers et du Mans	http://3lam.univ-lemans.fr/fr/membres/enseignants-chercheurs.html
	CIRPaLL - Centre Interdisciplinaire de Recherche sur les Patrimoines en Lettres et Langues	Université d'Angers	http://cirpall.univ-angers.fr/fr/la-laboratoire/membres.html
	CRINI - Centre de recherches sur les identités nationales et l'interculturalité	Université de Nantes	http://www.crimi.univ-nantes.fr/les-membres-du-crimi-431570.kjsp?RH=1402925224545&RF=ECRINI
	L'AMO - L'Antique, le Moderne	Université de Nantes	http://lamo.univ-nantes.fr/Presentation-de-L-AMO
Ecole doctorale Droit et Sciences	CDMO - Centre de recherche en droit maritime et océanique	Université de Nantes	http://www.cdmo.univ-nantes.fr/equipe-de-recherche-884957.kjsp?RH=1339768074937&RF=1341997337394

Ecole doctorale	Laboratoire	Etablissement membre d'Alliance Europa	Liste des chercheurs membres
Politiques	DCS - Droit et changement social	Université de Nantes	http://www.dcs.univ-nantes.fr/membres/enseignants-chercheurs-1521174.kjsp?RH=1487582970632
	IRD - Institut de recherches en droit privé	Université de Nantes	http://irdp.univ-nantes.fr/index.php?option=com_comprofiler&ask=userslist&Itemid=482
	CJB - Centre Jean Bodin	Université d'Angers	http://centrejeanbodin.univ-angers.fr/fr/un-peu-d-histoire/liste-des-membres/enseignants-chercheurs.html
Ecole doctorale Education, Langages, Interactions, Cognition, Clinique	CREN - Centre de recherche en éducation de Nantes	Université de Nantes	http://cren.univ-nantes.fr/membres/
Ecole doctorale de Gestion et Economie	LEMNA - Laboratoire d'économie et de management de Nantes atlantique	Université de Nantes	http://www.lemna.univ-nantes.fr/membres-du-lemna-348740.kjsp?RH=1189522011877&RF=1189520853498

Ecole doctorale	Laboratoire	Etablissement membre d'Alliance Europa	Liste des chercheurs membres
	Granem - Groupe de recherche angevin en économie et management	Université d'Angers	http://granem.univ-angers.fr/fr/acces-directs/les-membres2/enseignants-chercheurs.html
Ecole doctorale Sciences de la Mer et du Littoral	LETG - Littoral, environnement, télédétection, géomatique	Université de Nantes et d'Angers	http://letg.cnrs.fr/spip.php?page=membres
Ecole doctorale Sociétés, temps, territoires	CENS - Centre nantais de sociologie	Université de Nantes	http://www.cens.univ-nantes.fr/liste-des-chercheurs-du-cens-468649.kjsp?RH=1207686781692
	CFV - Centre François Viète	Université de Nantes, Angers et Le Mans	http://www.cfv.univ-nantes.fr/membres-1149499.kjsp?RH=1405598336924&RF=1405598371265
	CReAAH - Centre de recherche en archéologie, archéosciences, histoire	Université de Nantes et du Mans	http://www.creaah.univ-rennes1.fr/spip.php?rubrique29
	CRHIA - Centre de recherches en histoire internationale et atlantique	Université de Nantes	https://www.crhia.fr/qui_sommes_nous_equipe.php#bloc

Ecole doctorale	Laboratoire	Etablissement membre d'Alliance Europa	Liste des chercheurs membres
	ESO - Espaces et sociétés	Université de Nantes, d'Angers et du Mans	http://eso.cnrs.fr/fr/equipe-1.html
	TEMOS - Temps, Mondes, Sociétés	Université d'Angers et du Mans	http://cerhio.fr/spip.php?rubrique3

