



The EUI has an open vacancy for a

# Research Assistant in the Department of Economics

Florence, 13 September 2024

Reference: V/RA/ECO/4/2024

## Who we are

The **European University Institute** (EUI) at a glance:

- an **international organisation** set up in 1972;
- a research university focusing exclusively on **postgraduate, doctoral and post-doctoral studies**, and advanced research;
- located in the hills overlooking the city of Florence, Italy.

The Institute also hosts the Historical Archives of the European Union.

The EUI's [Department of Economics](#) (ECO) brings together scholars from all over Europe in a stimulating and innovative research environment.

ECO focuses on a wide range of topics in the fields of microeconomics, macroeconomics and econometrics. ECO runs one of Europe's leading Ph.D. programmes, a MRes in Economics and brings together scholars from all over Europe in a stimulating, innovative and outstanding research environment.

## Employment details

<b>Contract type</b>	Part-time 50% (15/30, 20 hours/week)
<b>Length of contract</b>	12 months. Start date 1 November 2024  Academic contracts at the EUI may be further renewed (several times and conditional to the availability of funds), leading to an extension of the period of service up to a total of 5 years, including the first contract period.
<b>Salary indication and grade</b>	Grade: ASTAC3 step 1  The basic net monthly salary after taxes is approximately 1.880 Euro, plus allowances if applicable.  More information about conditions of employment is available <a href="#">here</a> .

Place of work

Florence, Italy

## About the project

Project Director

Prof. Alexander Ludwig

Project details

The research project “Aggregate Effects of the Egg-Freezing Technology and Policy Implications” is a German Science Foundation (DFG)-funded project, which runs until 31 October 2026. We will analyse how women make fertility and labor supply decisions and how these decisions are shaped by, first, expectations, that is beliefs on fecundity; second, information treatments, that is medical check-ups that provide information on fecundity; third, the availability of assisted reproductive technologies (ARTs), that is egg freezing (or, social freezing, EF) and in-vitro fertilization (IVF). We will model fecundity belief formation, information treatment and decisions on fertility, labor supply as well as the take-up of ARTs in structural life-cycle models. Our main question is how information treatment and ARTs change the aggregate fertility rate in a population of women that are heterogeneous with regard to their labor productivity and their fertility preferences. In a second step, we will extend our model by the decisions of firms. This is motivated by the observations that more and more firms offer EF as a work perk. Our main question in this extension is to understand better the motives for firms to offer these contracts, depending on firm and observed worker characteristics, and what the labor market and aggregate fertility implications of these contracts are.

Job description

The Research Assistant will provide research assistance to the Director of the project.

Main tasks include:

- Carrying out independent literature reviews;
- Independent academic writing of first drafts of research papers;
- Setting up a “simple” two to three period model of fertility beliefs and fertility decisions of women with heterogeneous productivity and fertility preferences;
- Extending the simple model to a multi-period life-cycle model;
- Coding up the simple model and the multi-period model;
- Calibrating the multi-period model to fertility trajectories and elicited fecundity beliefs in Danish registry data;
- Setting up a model of firms with different elasticities of substitution between human capital and physical capital to motivate employment of high skilled women by some firms;
- Carrying out regression analyses to causally identify the effects of information treatments on fertility decisions;
- Cross-validating the structural model with empirical evidence;
- Carrying out counterfactual policy analysis.

## Qualifications and experience

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### Essential:

- Master of arts or Master of science in Economics;
- Advanced programming skills in Matlab, Python, Fortran and Stata acquired through previous experience;
- Proven excellent knowledge of the economics literature on life-cycle fertility and labor supply decisions;
- At least 2 years of demonstrated experience with micro-econometric data analysis and methods for causal identification;
- Proven experience in developing and solving dynamic life-cycle models with fertility and labour supply decisions, both analytically and computationally.

### Desirable:

- Third year PhD student or higher, preferably in Economics.

## Languages

Excellent knowledge of English, both spoken and written ([CEFR](#) level: C1 or above). Knowledge of other languages constitutes an advantage.

## How to apply

### Deadline

The closing date for applications is **27 September 2024** at midnight (Florence time)

### Contact details

For more information contact Manuela Corsini ([manuela.corsini@eui.eu](mailto:manuela.corsini@eui.eu)) mentioning the vacancy reference number in the email subject.

### How to apply

Fill in the [online application form](#) and upload documents as requested.

## Data Protection

The purpose of processing the data submitted by candidates is to manage their application in view of a possible pre-selection and recruitment by the EUI. The information candidates provide in their application form is collected for the purpose of the selection procedure. The EUI will ensure that candidates' personal data are processed as required by its Data Protection Policy ([President's Decision No. 10/2019 of 18 February 2019 regarding Data Protection at the EUI](#)).

## Equal opportunities

The European University Institute applies a policy of equal opportunities, which, in accordance with Article 1d of its Staff Regulations, prohibits discrimination on any grounds such as sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation. Any reference in this notice to a person of the male sex must be deemed also to constitute a reference to a person of the female sex.