

## **Institute for Interdisciplinary Legal Studies – *lucernaiuris***

### **VISITING FELLOWS PROGRAMME 2022**

#### **Guidelines for Applicants**

### **1. The Institute for Interdisciplinary Legal Studies – *lucernaiuris***

The Institute for Interdisciplinary Legal Studies – *lucernaiuris* is a hub for leading-edge teaching and research that crosses traditional boundaries between law, the humanities and the social sciences. It holds a distinctive position within the national and international academic landscape as a vibrant site for critical and creative thinking.

The institute's main priorities are to:

- provide a rallying point for inter- and transdisciplinary work on the foundations of law and justice
- foster intellectual and methodological innovation in teaching and research
- promote the training of postgraduate and early career researchers in interdisciplinary legal studies
- stimulate collaborative activities with national and international partners

To borrow a distinction from the late legal historian Marie Theres Fögen, the institute has long seen its role as more that of 'troublemaker' than 'troubleshooter'. A consistent priority has been to undertake work that critiques and unsettles accepted categories and concepts, norms and discourses, practices and methods. This impulse continues to shape the identity of the institute today. Faced with the urgency of our present moment, however, we also turn our attentions increasingly to the future – to pursuing new forms of future-oriented critical thinking; to imagining future alternatives or alternative futures; to asking not just what is happening now, but what happens next.

### **2. Our Teaching & Research**

- Teaching

At the core of our teaching philosophy lies a firm conviction of the importance of what in German are usually referred to as the 'foundational subjects' (*juristische Grundlagenfächer*) for the discipline of legal studies. Our courses encourage students to engage with the historical, philosophical, economic, social and cultural dimensions of law, in the belief that such an approach is vital in (i) strengthening contextual and foundational knowledge; (ii) enhancing methodological competence in understanding structural and systemic connections; (iii) promoting critical reflection on the meaning and validity of positive law; and (iv) boosting the skills needed for practice as a lawyer, including analysis, evaluation and communication.

Two further principles are also central to our teaching programme. The first is the view that legal education in Switzerland should strive for a more intensive exchange with neighbouring disciplines in the humanities and social sciences. Thus alongside conventional lectures in legal history, legal philosophy and legal sociology, we also offer a set of supplementary modules that pursue new and innovative interdisciplinary directions. The second is the belief that the study of law should also become more international in content and outlook. To this end, we aim to help familiarize students with other legal cultures and orders by opening up teaching to international guest lecturers, developing collaborative projects with partner universities, and nurturing student exchange relationships.

- Research

The institute is committed to advancing pioneering research and projects. We pride ourselves on being a hub of contact and exchange – an open laboratory for the discussion of issues and ideas, methods and theories. This openness is reflected in the work of our members, a great deal of which is based on innovative, often cross-disciplinary, collaborations with colleagues in Lucerne or at other institutions at home and abroad.

Each year, we run a varied programme of lectures, seminars, workshops and conferences. These activities enable us to not only foster a vibrant research community that brings together established and emerging academics, but to also consolidate existing national and international networks, and support new collaborations.

The institute's activities currently focus on the following main themes:

- Legal Futures and Futurity
- Law and New Technologies
- Law and the Life Sciences
- Theories of Justice and Histories of the Judiciary
- Law, Art and Politics

### 3. Visiting Fellows

It is in the spirit of furthering academic collaboration and exchange that the institute sponsors a Visiting Fellows scheme. The aim of the initiative is to enable visitors to spend a period of time in Lucerne, during which they can share and develop research and teaching ideas with our members. We believe that the academic and international diversity of our fellows greatly enriches the intellectual life of the institute.

Each year, the institute allocates a limited number of funded fellowships for PhD students and postdocs. The grant covers travel and accommodation costs (up to a designated maximum), with the possibility of an additional stipend to defray supplementary living expenses. Applications are submitted in response to an annual call.

#### Eligibility

The scheme is open to PhD and postdoctoral researchers.

There are no restrictions on nationality or country of residence.<sup>1</sup>

The standard term limit for postdocs is up to five years after the completion of the PhD, whereby the reference date is 1 January (i.e. applicants should not have defended before **1 January 2017**).

Exceptions to the above are possible. They must, however, be well founded and are made at the discretion of the assessment committee.

#### Duration of Fellowship

The standard period of tenure of a fellowship is between thirty and sixty days.

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<sup>1</sup> Please be advised, however, that it is the responsibility of the applicant to check necessary visa requirements for visiting Switzerland. The University's Welcome Centre may be able to offer assistance in this regard ([welcome-centre@unilu.ch](mailto:welcome-centre@unilu.ch)).

## Requirements & Commitment

During their stay, fellows are generally expected to:

- participate in the institute's activities (workshops, seminars, lectures, conferences);
- meet regularly with our members and other fellows;
- avail themselves of further opportunities for exchange;
- be in residence in Lucerne.

Agreements on specific work tasks are made prior to commencement of the fellowship in liaison with the Head of Institute, Associate Director and/or designated academic mentor. These will be tailored to the needs, expectations and experience of individual fellows. Options might include:

- presentation of a paper at a research seminar/colloquium;
- delivery of a guest lecture as part of a teaching module;
- (co-)organisation of a seminar or workshop

Upon completion of their stay, fellows are requested to write a brief feedback report (ca. 500 words).

## Benefits

In return for the above, fellows are provided with:

- workspace at the university;
- borrowing privileges for both the Lucerne central library and the institute's own reference collection;
- a varied calendar of lectures, seminars, workshops and conferences;
- a friendly and stimulating environment for discussion and reflection.

## Funding

Fellowship grants are comprised of three main components:

- Reimbursement of return travel costs from country of residence to Lucerne (economy class, up to a maximum of **1'500 CHF**);
- Reimbursement of accommodation costs (studio apartment/shared flat in Lucerne, up to a maximum of **850 CHF** per month);
- Living allowance of **150 CHF** per week for the duration of stay.<sup>2</sup>

## Application Procedures

Applications are submitted in response to an annual call.

All candidates should submit:

- a completed application form;
- an up-to-date academic CV (including a list of publications, if applicable).

Application forms can be downloaded from our website ([www.lucernaiuris.ch](http://www.lucernaiuris.ch)).

The deadline for submission for the 2022 scheme is **Thursday 30 September 2021**.

## **4. Contact**

Enquiries should be made to Dr. Steven Howe ([steven.howe@unilu.ch](mailto:steven.howe@unilu.ch))

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<sup>2</sup> Please note that these contributions do not represent a salary replacement.