

## TEMPLATE FOR ADVERTISING RESEARCH POSTS

based on indications given by par. 4.4.1 of the  
"Report of the Working Group of the Steering Group of Human Resources Management under the  
European Research Area on Open, Transparent and Merit-based Recruitment of Researchers"

**Recruiting Department/Research Unit: Department of Law**

**Title:** Normative and Digital Solutions to address constitutional challenges posed by online election campaigns

**Offer description - Funded by the European Union – Next Generation EU – PNRR mission 4, component 2, investment 1.1**

The research project, which is part of the PRIN 2022 PNRR "RightNets", aims to address the phenomenon of online electoral campaigns and the challenges it poses to the foundations of representative democracy. The research will involve the interdisciplinary collaboration of computer scientists and constitutional law scholars. The former will provide anonymized data from social networks about election campaigns, and the latter will address the constitutional implications of the data obtained and analyze the data results from the perspective of the rule of law and representative democracy. In the context of electoral campaigns that increasingly take place via social media, the general objective of the project is to examine the challenges posed to the transparency and accountability of the electoral processes. First of all the research will focus on the impact of the phenomenon of inauthentic bot-generated engagement in terms of "pollution" of the social media ecosystem during electoral processes; identifying legal instruments and political strategies to ensure an online political competition that is fair and free of fraudulent means. Secondly, the research will focus on the origin of political ads by setting up tools capable of analysing the flow of private funding used for online propaganda in order to assess the extent of possible foreign interference in election campaigns (in financial terms and/or in influencing public opinion) and envisaging regulatory and policy counter-measures.

**Researcher career profile:**

- R1 First Stage Researcher (up to the completion of PhD)
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For further details <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/europe/career-development/training-researchers/research-profiles-descriptors>

**Location:** Macerata, Italy

**Type of contract:**

- temporary

**Job status**

- full time

**Expected start date and duration of the contract:** 12 (twelve) months. The exact start date will be provided after the selection process.

**Annual gross salary:** € 19.367,00

**Selection criteria:** Master's Degree in Law

**Preferential selection criteria:**

1. proven research experience in the same field of this project's call or similar field;
2. proven research experience documented by at least 2 scientific publications in the law field;
3. excellent English skills;
4. further research experiences (such as scholarship or research contracts); they will be considered only if they are pertinent to this project research's field;
5. had taken part in former national or international research mobility programs;
6. further extra academic experiences will be evaluated only if close to the field of this research program.

**Application deadline:** 30/12/2023, 1 p.m.

**Full details are available at:** <https://www.unimc.it/it/ateneo/bandi-e-concorsi/finanziamenti-ricerca/bandi-assegni-ricerca>

**Enquiries can be made to** Ufficio Ricerca Scientifica e Dottorato – [ufficio.ricerca@unimc.it](mailto:ufficio.ricerca@unimc.it)

**DISCLAIMERS**

- The University of Macerata has adopted an OTM-R (Open, Transparent and merit-based Recruitment) policy within the framework of its Human Resources Strategy for Researchers; see <https://www.unimc.it/it/ricerca/hrs4r/la-policy-otm-r-open-transparent-and-merit-based-recruitment-of-researchers>
- The University of Macerata pursues an equal opportunities and diversity policy as well. Among facilities, a kindergarten is available for university's employees. Specific facilities and services are also dedicated to employees with disabilities (transportation services, specific technologies for studying).