



At the Faculty of Social Sciences (Department of Government) of the University of Vienna a

## PhD position/Prae-Doc (4 years, 30hrs/week) within the ERC Project DeVOTE

is vacant.

### Overview:

The position arises from the award of a 1.5 Mio Euro Starting Grant from the European Research Council to Principal Investigator (PI) Ass.-Prof. Carolina Plescia, hosted by the Department of Government of the University of Vienna. The grant is for a major research project on “The meanings of ‘voting’ for ordinary citizens, their causes and consequences” running from January 2021 to December 2025.

The central objective of DeVOTE is to provide first-time evidence on what ‘voting’ means for ordinary citizens, and to examine variation in such meanings between individuals and across types of democracies; study how elections create and modify these meanings; and investigate their attitudinal and behavioural consequences. Looking at what voting means for citizens in a variety of countries promises to provide a ground-breaking understanding of citizen-conceptualizations of representation and the psychology of voting that can challenge conventional wisdom about participation and voting as well as lead to practical implications for how elections are run and administered.

The project is hosted by the Department of Government at the University of Vienna, a vibrant political science department dedicated to excellence in research and teaching, a relaxed social atmosphere, and located in one of the world’s best cities.

### Job Description:

- Be enrolled in the Vienna Doctoral School of Social Sciences (ViDSS) and complete a PhD thesis as part of the project.
- The successful candidate is expected to sign a doctoral thesis agreement within 12-18 months.
- Participate in research, publication and communication activities within DeVOTE.
- Collect, clean, analyse, and interpret data as appropriate to the project.
- Collaborate with members of the research team.
- Involvement in research administration and the organisation of project related events (e.g. webinars, workshops, etc.).
- Disseminate results from DeVOTE at national and international conferences and in high-quality outlets, and engage in third mission activities as appropriate.
- Present DeVOTE’s output in departmental seminars.
- Starting date: **1 March 2021**

### Profile of the Candidate:

- MA degree (or equivalent) in political science or a related discipline (completed or close to completion).
- Research focus on political psychology, electoral behavior or related field.



- Strong quantitative skills, excellent command of Stata and/or R.
- High-level analytical capability with ability to communicate complex information clearly.
- Ability and willingness to work independently as well as in a larger team.
- Willingness to acquire new methodological skills required for the project and PhD thesis (e.g., text analysis, design of survey experiments). Funds for methods training (e.g. summer or winter schools) will be available.
- Excellent command of English (written and spoken).
- Knowledge (even intermediate-level) of any language beyond English, German, Spanish and Italian is an asset.

**Salary (gross):** Salary scheme of the University of Vienna: III b, 30.00 hours/week

**Application:**

Applications including:

- letter of motivation
- curriculum vitae (including list of publications)
- one academic writing sample (e.g., chapter of master thesis, publication or term papers) (in English)
- contact details of two potential references.

should be sent electronically to [devote.staatswissenschaft@univie.ac.at](mailto:devote.staatswissenschaft@univie.ac.at) by **7 December 2020**. Online interviews will take place on **14, 15 or 16 December 2020**. Expected starting date is **1 March 2020**.

For informal enquiries about this job, contact the PI, Ass.-Prof. Carolina Plescia via email: [carolina.plescia@univie.ac.at](mailto:carolina.plescia@univie.ac.at).