

Graduate Assistant in Ecological Economics (Degrowth, Money, Culture)

Introduction

The University of Lausanne (UNIL) is a higher teaching and research institution composed of seven faculties where nearly 15,000 students and 5,000 collaborators, professors, and researchers work and study. Ideally situated along the lake of Geneva, near Lausanne's city center, its campus brings together over 120 nationalities.

Presentation

The Institute of Geography and Sustainability (IGD) seeks to fill a position of Graduate Assistant in Ecological Economics (Degrowth, Money, Culture). This position is linked to the research group of Prof. Christian Arnsperger and the Lausanne Ecological Economics Lab (LEEL).

The IGD is an interdisciplinary community of about 100 academics that work in the fields of Geography and Sustainability. With 15 professors and more than 40 PhD students, the department offers a vibrant, stimulating environment for cutting-edge research. It hosts regular lecture series and distinguished guest researchers from around the world.

Job information

Starting date: **September 1, 2022**

Contract length: 1 year, renewable 2 x 2 years, maximum 5 years

Activity rate: 80%

Workplace: University of Lausanne, Institute of Geography and Sustainability, Geopolis, Lausanne, Switzerland

Your responsibilities

The successful candidate will develop personal research leading to a PhD in Environmental science (not Economics) in the field of Ecological Economics, with an emphasis on degrowth in general and specifically on two fields: (i) heterodox approaches to monetary theory (and applications) and (ii) critical approaches to human rationality, motivation, and culture. These two fields may appear to have little connection to one another, but one of the aims of the doctoral research project will be to connect them in meaningful ways. The overarching issue is how to re-think the culture(s) of modern industrial societies – and hence their relationship to money, assets, and wealth – in order to move beyond the feeling of powerlessness that besets ordinary citizens as well as environmental experts when it comes to climate deterioration specifically, and to ecological degradation overall. The research will also be conducted within the framework of the activities of the Lausanne Laboratory of Ecological Economics (LEEL).

The successful candidate will devote at least half of their working time (i.e., at least 40% out of the total 80%) to their PhD research, with the remaining time reserved for supporting research and teaching of Prof. Christian Arnsperger in the fields of degrowth, economic anthropology, and monetary sustainability.

Your qualifications

The successful candidate is expected to have earned a Master's degree in Economics (with a significant emphasis on heterodox and critical approaches), or Social Science (with a significant emphasis on economic issues), or the Humanities (with a significant emphasis on

economic issues). A high-level understanding of monetary and financial mechanisms is indispensable as is a deep and clearly documented interest in issues of human motivation as well as social and cultural change.

Proficiency in both French and English is expected. (French is teaching language at UNIL as well as the main idiom of interaction within IGD.)

What the position offers you

We offer a stimulating work environment and atmosphere, with dedicated support for developing an academic career. Members of our research groups become part of international networks and benefit from opportunities to attend conferences and workshops around the world.

We offer an excellent remuneration package and additional funds for fieldwork and conferences. Different formation opportunities are possible at UNIL or in Swiss institutions that promote doctoral research.

Your application

Deadline: May 15, 2022

Please submit the following documents in PDF format only via the career website of the University of Lausanne:

- letter of motivation
- full CV
- a short proposal (2-3 pages) for doctoral research specifically linked to the job description: Ecological Economics (Degrowth, Money, Culture)
- scans of university degrees and course transcripts/marks
- the Masters thesis (and a research paper, if available)

Only applications submitted through the following website will be taken into account:

https://career5.successfactors.eu/career?company=universitdP&career_ns=job_listing_summary&navBarLevel=JOB_SEARCH&s.crb=PscCOVQ6GYtc2oETUbXzVmM3LAK%3d

Contact for further information

Prof. Christian Arnsperger (christian.arnsperger@unil.ch)

Personal page: <https://igd.unil.ch/ChArnsperger/en/presentation/>

"Permacircular Horizons" blog: <https://arnsperger-perma-circular.com/>

Additional information (please read carefully)

UNIL is committed to equal opportunity and diversity: www.unil.ch/egalite

UNIL supports early career researchers: www.unil.ch/graduatecampus