Research Staff

Job description

Post Title:	Doctoral Researcher: Islamic Finance, Governance and Constitutional Legitimacy
Grade:	MARIE CURIE
Faculty/Service:	CBL/BBS/ BRE
Accountable to:	Associate Professor of Economics
Accountable for:	
Post no:	R09651

Job context

The Bristol Business School of the University of the West of England (UWE Bristol) invites applications for a Doctoral Researcher position in the MSCA Doctoral Network MINARET: A Sociology of Post-Imperial Islamic Legal Cultures.

MINARET is an international doctoral training network bringing together leading universities and research partner institutions to investigate the relationships between law, religion, governance, constitutional development, and state-building in post-imperial Muslim-majority societies. The network will train 15 doctoral candidates through an interdisciplinary programme spanning law, sociology, political science, economics, governance, and Islamic studies.

The doctoral project (DC9) at UWE forms part of MINARET's work package on law, economy, and governance in post-imperial Muslim-majority societies. It will examine how Islamic finance institutions contribute to public trust, economic governance, and constitutional legitimacy in Central Asia and Southeast Asia (Uzbekistan and Indonesia).

The research focuses on how Islamic principles such as fairness, risk-sharing, and social responsibility are translated into contemporary legal, financial, and governance arrangements. It will explore how Islamic finance institutions interact with state structures, influence governance practices, and shape citizens' perceptions of state authority and institutional legitimacy. By bridging debates in economics, law, governance, political economy, and Islamic studies, the project seeks to generate new empirical and theoretical insights into the relationship between religion, economy, and governance in Muslim-majority societies.

The DC will spend most of the funded three years at UWE Bristol, UK, with periods on secondment to MINARET partners and associate partners. They will also benefit from extensive opportunities to share knowledge and collaborate with the other 14 DCs through workshops and summer schools, jointly collect data, and engage with academic and non-academic stakeholders. The programme offers joint supervision, inter-sectoral secondments, strong transferable skills training, and a clear bridge between academic research and policy.

Applicants should be prepared to submit a single PDF file containing the following documents:

- Cover letter (maximum 2 pages)
- Research proposal outlining your interest in the specific project (3-4 pages recommended)
- Curriculum Vitae (up to 3 pages)
- Degree certificates and academic transcripts
- Contact details for two academic referees
- Writing sample

A successful candidate will be required to complete a UWE PhD application form and comply with the UWE doctoral programme requirements, including adherence to UWE regulations, achievement of key milestone deadlines, and submission of the thesis within the stipulated timeframe.

Job purpose

The purpose of this role is to conduct research individually, and as part of a research team, in order to achieve a PhD in the area of Economics.

Principal accountabilities

1. Research and scholarship

   Undertakes basic research for example by preparing, setting up, conducting and recording the outcome of field work, the development of questionnaires and conducting surveys.

   Analyses and interprets the results of own research and generate original ideas based on outcomes.

2. Workload and project planning

   Plans own day-to-day research activity within the framework of the agreed programme. Co-ordinates own work with that of others, including the other MINARET studentships to avoid conflict or duplication of effort. Contributes to the planning of research projects.

3. Communications

   Presents information on research progress and outcomes to the MINARET network and others. This could include making presentations at conferences.

   Writes up results of own research and contributes to the production of research reports and publications.

4. Liaison and networking

   Makes internal and external contacts to develop knowledge and understanding and to form relationships for future collaboration.

5. Teaching and learning

   May be invited to assist in the supervision of student projects.

6. Other

   Sensory and physical demands will vary depending on the development of the research design.

   Likely to be expected to conduct personal risk assessments and ethics approvals for

research.

Comply with the University's equal opportunities policy.

Responsible for your own health and safety and that of your colleagues, in accordance with the University's health and safety policy.

Person specification

Qualifications/Professional membership

Essential

1. A relevant master's level degree, for example in economics, economic development, development studies or behavioural science.
2. Excellent English speaking, reading, and writing skills (applicants will need IELTS score of 7.0 overall or equivalent).

Desirable

3. An excellent first degree in a subject related to economics or development studies.

Knowledge/Skills/Experience

Essential

1. Excellent English speaking, reading and writing;
2. Effective communication skills in order to communicate research, progress and outcomes, orally and in writing to colleagues, at conferences, and as first author of published papers;
3. Strong skills in mixed research methods appropriate to the research design;
4. An understanding of disciplinary differences in research approaches;
5. Independent attitude paired with an ability to work in a research team;
6. An ability to lead research and create effective working relationships with the research team and industrial partners in knowledge co-creation and sharing activities;
7. An ability to effectively manage own workload, research resources and administrative activities.
8. Motivation to engage in interdisciplinary research and policy outreach.

Desirable

1. Experience of understanding and applying knowledge and methods from more than one discipline, for example social science theories and economic modelling.
2. A good experience of working with quantitative and qualitative data.

Special conditions

Additional requirements

This vacancy follows the recruitment procedures of MINARET, which are set up in compliance to the MSCA DN recruitment rules from the European Commission, most notably the mobility and eligibility of the DCs:

- Candidates must not have a PhD degree.

- Candidates must not have lived or carried out their main activity (work, studies etc.) in the host institution country for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before their recruitment date.
- A successful candidate will be required to complete a UWE PhD application form.

Health and Safety/Risks

This post has been identified with the following risks: (activities, hazards or exposures)

Risk 1	Risk 2	Risk 3	Risk 4	Risk 5
DSE / VDU User	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.