



Job offer
Royal Military Academy - Patrimony



Postdoctoral Researcher in Maritime Security (M/F/X)
Department: ECONOMICS, MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP (DEML)
Project : “EMPORIA”
22 April 2024

Job description and associated tasks

In the framework of the EMPORIA (“Emerging Powers’ Maritime Nationalism and Its Consequences for Belgium and the EU”) research project, the Patrimony of the Royal Military Academy (RMA) currently has a vacancy for a full-time researcher with a doctoral degree. The Royal Military Academy (RMA) is strongly committed to promoting diversity and gender equality.

Context:

The Royal Military Academy of Belgium (RMA) is a military institution responsible for the basic academic, military and physical training of future officers, and for the continuing advanced training of officers during their active career in the Belgian Defense ([Homepage | RMA](#)). It is fully recognized as a university, fulfilling the same criteria as civilian universities. The Royal Military Academy is also conducting scientific research at university level for projects funded by the Belgian Defense or external sources.

Study:

The EMPORIA research project falls within the scope of the geo-economics research focus of the Department of Economics, Management and Leadership (DEML) of the RMA. It is led by Prof Cind Du Bois of the RMA and launched in collaboration with Prof Jonathan Holslag of the Department of Political Science of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) and Dr Sara Van Hoeymissen of the RMA. The project studies the rising trend of economic nationalism and power politics in the maritime domain worldwide and analyses how Belgium’s maritime and economic security are challenged by this development. It focuses in particular on the threat posed by the growing maritime ambitions of emerging powers such as China, India, Brazil and Turkey. The project studies the policies of these countries in the maritime domain, assesses their impact and suggests possible responses and counterstrategies.

Profile:

Our ideal candidate has an interest in security studies, is familiar with emerging powers such as China, and is ready to explore new horizons in the field of maritime security. It will be key to develop understanding about the Belgian maritime sector and country-specific maritime priorities. The candidate will work in close collaboration with researchers from The Geoeconomics Group, a young research consortium bringing together researchers from the Royal Military Academy and the Vrije Universiteit Brussels. Our aim is to develop into a centre of excellence of international repute at the crossroads of policy and academia.

Main Tasks

As a researcher at the Department of Economics, Management and Leadership of the Royal Military Academy, you will perform the following tasks:

- Providing day-to-day academic and operational leadership of the research project, including providing guidance to junior colleagues and regular progress reports to the academic supervisors and sponsor of the project
- Conducting interdisciplinary conceptual and empirical research in maritime security
- Gathering and analysing policy documents, technical documents, and research papers
- Interviewing informants, including policymakers and industry representatives
- Disseminating the research findings through academic publications, policy papers and media contributions
- Establishing close contacts with stakeholders in the Belgian Defense, other relevant government departments and industry
- Establishing close collaboration with various national and international research groups
- Participating in meetings and activities of the Geoeconomics Group
- Participating in national and international conferences and workshops
- Organizing conferences, seminars, exhibitions, and workshops

Required skills

Technical skills

The candidate:

- Holds a PhD in Maritime Economics, Security Studies, International Relations, Comparative Politics, Area Studies or other relevant field
- Is able to conduct interdisciplinary academic research and produce high-level scientific outputs (peer-reviewed publications in international journals, participation in key scientific conferences etc.)
- Is able to use qualitative and/or quantitative research methodologies
- Is capable of synthesizing information coherently
- Is able to organize scientific activities, including conferences and seminars
- Basic expertise in maritime security is recommended; expertise at an intermediate or higher level is an added advantage
- Experience in writing project proposals is an added advantage.

Personal skills

- Leadership skills (prioritizing tasks related to project goals, guiding collaborators in the performance of their tasks, acting as liaison with project hierarchy)
- Keen interest in geo-economics, geopolitics or security studies as evidenced by the candidate's academic track record
- Critical thinking skills
- Ability to read, comprehend, and process substantial amounts of material
- Analytical and synthetic skills, coupled with a critical and creative approach
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in Dutch and/or French
- Ability to engage in policy discussions about maritime security and to explain research findings to a broader audience
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively within a group
- Demonstrated organizational skills, decisiveness, and ability to take initiative
- Ability to adapt research strategies based on the evolving nature of the project and emerging findings

Other skills

- Due to the international context of the research, the candidate must possess excellent oral and written English skills. Proficiency in a foreign language that is relevant to the research (Mandarin Chinese, Hindi, Portuguese or Turkish) is an added advantage.
- Interest in working in a defence-related environment
- Ability to be deployed abroad in order to collect empirical data and insights
- Proactive approach in identifying research gaps and proposing solutions
- Networking skills.

Specific requirement

- The employee might be working with classified information and, therefore, may be required to obtain a corresponding security certificate. The candidate is required to consent to the background check required to obtain this clearance, and the check will be conducted by the Belgian Defence.
- Working for the Patrimony requires living in Belgium for the duration of the study.

Application

You will be employed in a military environment. For this reason, every employee undergoes security verification. Please attach to your application the completed document which can be downloaded from the RMA site: <http://www.rma.ac.be/nl/aanvraag-veiligheidsverificatie>

Your application should include:

- a motivational letter
- a full CV
- a scan of your ID card (both sides)
- the completed security document

Send your application by e-mail to

- Dr Helena BRUYNINCKX (erm-deao-rsw@mil.be) of the RSWO department of the RMA
- Prof Cind DU BOIS (cindy.dubois@mil.be) and Dr Sara VAN HOEYMISSEN (sara.vanhoeymissen@mil.be) of DEML of the RMA
- Prof Jonathan HOLSLAG (jonathan.holslag@vub.be) of the Department of Political Science of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel

The deadline for application is **17 May 2024**.

Please clearly indicate the project reference: "**DEML-EMPORIA-PhD - HFM/24-03**".

The interviews will take place at the Royal Military Academy, Hobbemastraat 8, 1000 Brussels. The date and time of the interview will be communicated to the preselected candidates.

Miscellaneous

Contract

- Probable date of recruitment: From 15 August 2024, in consultation with the applicant
- Status: Full-time employment based on an open-ended contract with the Patrimony of the Royal Military Academy (you will not be a civil servant).
- Wage scale: class A2. Please do note that the financing of your contract is tied to the “EMPORIA” project (which lasts 4 years). RMA-Patrimony applies a merit-based research career track, allowing researchers to advance in wage scale based upon annual evaluations.
- Holiday pay

Extra-legal benefits

- Possibility to benefit from a bilingualism allowance (Dutch/French) following a SELOR test
- End-of-year bonus
- Free DKV hospitalization insurance. Possibility of additional affiliation for one or more persons living under the same roof: spouse, child(ren) (50% of the price per additional member)
- Bike allowance / Free public transport (home-work commute)
- Meal vouchers (6€ / day)
- Free access to campus sports facilities outside working hours
- On-campus restaurant and cafeteria with democratic prices (discount on the daily menu)
- Flexible working hours within the 38-hour week
- Teleworking possible with allowance
- Holidays:
 - 29 days holiday / year from the 1st year of contract (then from 45 years: +1 day holiday every 5 years)
 - + 1 week OFF every year between Christmas and New year’s Eve (independent of the annual balance of holidays)
- Advantages and interesting offers thanks to the Benefits@work card (discounts, vouchers...)
- Entitlement to services offered by the ‘Office Central d’Action Sociale et Culturelle de la Défense’ (OCASC): among others holiday centres, discount on travel organised by the tour operator...
- Possibility of benefiting from the nursery funded by Belgian Defence (subject to availability)

Workplace

- Royal Military Academy, Avenue de la Renaissance 30, 1000 Brussels
- Occasional travels abroad for scientific conferences, etc.

Points of contact

- Concerning the research project: Dr Sara Van Hoeymissen (sara.vanhoeymissen@mil.be)
- Concerning the recruitment modalities: Dr Helena Bruyninckx (erm-deao-rsw@mil.be)
- For more information about the Royal Military Academy, see [Homepage | RMA](#)