

PhD Position (65%) in the research group of Professor Natasha Wunsch

The research group conducts research on European Politics with a special focus on challenges to democracy drawing on quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods approaches.

The position entails:

- Developing and conducting your own PhD project, preferably in the research area of the professorship (e.g. democracy and democratic backsliding, rise of populism and illiberalism in Europe)
- Limited teaching assistance (one course per semester)
- Support with organisational matters related to the MA programme in European Studies
- Contributing to the activities of the research group

Requirements:

- Very good MA/MSc degree in Political Science (or close to completion)
- Strong interest in research on challenges to democracy in Europe
- Solid training in social science methods (preferably both quantitative and qualitative)
- Ability to work both independently and in a team
- Very good working knowledge of French and/or German as well as English

What we offer:

- Integration into a young, dynamic, and research-focused department
- Conditional on approval of the PhD proposal by the end of the first year, funding is guaranteed for up to five years
- Flexible work arrangement alternating between on-site and remote work
- Additional funding for conference participation and methods training is available

Place of work: Fribourg, Switzerland

Start of employment: 1 February 2027 (or by arrangement)

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis from **9 November 2026**

How to apply:

Please send your application electronically **as a single pdf file** to europa@unifr.ch. The file should contain a cover letter, CV, writing sample (e.g., MA thesis), copies of university transcripts (grades and diplomas), and the contact details of two people willing to serve as references.

Further information: Informal enquiries can be directed to Prof. Natasha Wunsch (natasha.wunsch@unifr.ch).