

INTER-UNIVERSITY COOPERATION PROJECT LAOS-LUXEMBOURG

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Research grants

The University of Luxembourg is proud to announce the opening of applications to select academic staff to undertake research in the field of law from the Faculty of Law and Political Science of the National University of Laos to pursue a research project under the supervision of the Inter-University Cooperation Project Laos-Luxembourg.

Criteria

The research programme is dedicated to Lao lecturers to improve their academic and research skills in the legal field, in order in the long-run to strengthen the capacities of the Faculty of Law and Political Science of the National University of Laos. Applicants must be lecturers at the Faculty of Law and Political Science of NUOL, with at least a Bachelor degree in law or with a strong component in law. There are no criteria in terms of age. Candidates will be selected based on merit. The University of Luxembourg will have full discretion in the selection and or rejection of the applications.

In line with the "[Luxembourg General Cooperation Strategy for Sustainable Development – Road to 2030](#)", the Inter-University Project welcomes research proposals falling under the following themes:

- Rule of law and governance;
- Fundamental rights;
- Gender equality;
- Environment sustainability and climate protection.

Supervision

The Project will provide thorough research guidance during the grant period. The selected candidates will be supported to carry out their research and be supervised by the Project's Liaison Officer through regular meetings to share the progress of their research.

Selected candidates will be required to participate fully in capacity building activities organised by the Inter-University Cooperation (seminars, research workshops, etc)

and will be asked to present their research to the public. They will also have to submit advancement reports every 3 months, in accordance with the research contract signed with the University of Luxembourg.

Administration

Selected candidates will receive a grant equivalent to 1 200 EUR to complete their research.

The scholarship will be granted by Uni.lu to the lecturer in 4 instalments. Payment of the Uni.lu' scholarship is based on merit and will be conditional on compliance with the obligations of the researcher set up in the "scholarship agreement" including in particular the submission of advancement reports every 3 months to the Liaison Officer of Uni.lu in Vientiane.

The candidates will be entirely responsible for the management of the funding allocated; no extra-costs will be borne by the Project.

The candidates will conduct their research from Lao PDR.

Selected candidates shall ensure that their research complies with the University of Luxembourg procedures, in particular on [research ethics and plagiarism](#).

The research will take the form of a paper written in Lao or in English. The length of the final paper will be discussed with the Liaison Officer. The research must be completed within one year from the date of signing the grant contract, and the agreed research outcome submitted.

Applicants can only apply for a funding grant as an individual researcher, not as a team or institution.

Application

The application must be written in Lao or in English and should encompass:

- A cover letter (not to exceed 2 pages);
- A curriculum vitae with full contact details including academic experience (courses taught, previous research experience, university curriculum, etc);
- A research proposal (not to exceed 3 pages), including the bibliography. The project proposal should include a description of the research topic (introduction), the hypothesis, research objectives and envisaged methodology as well as a short bibliography (15 references maximum).

Application deadline: 28 February 2022

The pre-selected candidates will be invited for an interview.

Applications should be submitted to Dr. Perrine SIMON: perrine.simon@ext.uni.lu and to Ms. Thongkhon XAYYAHONG: thongkhonxayyahong@gmail.com

ANNEX: GUIDANCE FOR APPLYING

The Inter-University Cooperation Project welcomes research proposals in the field of law, this is to say proposals which focus on a legal issue, investigate about the legal framework applicable to a particular issue and use legal sources.

The Project welcomes proposals using a wide range of approaches, such as for example doctrinal legal research, comparative law research or more interdisciplinary legal research (mixed) such as socio/empirical-legal research.

The aim of the research programme is to strengthen *qualitative legal research* as well as to reinforce *analytical skills* of candidates. Applicants should therefore put the emphasis on these two aspects in their application (qualitative approach and legal analysis).

Topics can focus on any area of law (international law, constitutional law, administrative law, civil law, criminal law, procedural law, labour law, environmental law, property law, agricultural law, etc.). However, the research must be related to one or more of the following lines of research:

- Rule of law and governance
- Fundamental rights;
- Gender equality;
- Environment sustainability and climate protection.

Below are a few suggestions.

Rule of law and governance

We welcome in particular topics dealing with:

- Constitutional checks and balances;
- Law making process (e.g., procedure and qualities that laws must respect);
- Hierarchy between the constitution, the laws and regulations;
- Integration of international law within the national legal order;
- Implementation of the law by the judiciary;
- Independence of the judiciary;
- Accessibility of the laws and/or judicial decisions;
- Right to be heard and fair trial;
- Presumption of innocence;
- Access to justice and legal aid;
- Guarantees in pre-trial detentions;
- Right to appeal decisions from public authorities;
- Transparency and accountability (e.g., liability of public officials, anti-corruption legal framework, etc.).

Fundamental rights

We welcome in particular topics dealing with:

- The human rights legal framework in Laos;

- Human rights instruments signed/ratified by Lao PDR (e.g., International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment);
- The UN Human Right Committee and the monitoring of civil and political rights;
- The UN Human Right Council and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR);
- Constitutional fundamental rights;
- Specific fundamental rights;
- Fundamental rights in the ASEAN.

Gender equality

We welcome in particular topics dealing with:

- The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and its implementation;
- The legal framework on abortion and reproductive rights (e.g., from a comparative law perspective);
- The definition of rape (and possible application of the offence by the courts);
- The legal framework on sexual harassment;
- The Legal framework on marriage and divorce;
- Human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

Environment sustainability and climate protection

We welcome in particular topics dealing with:

- International Environmental law (international and regional agreements concerning the environment and natural resources);
- SDGs and Water Governance in the Mekong River Basin Sub-region;
- The legal framework on infrastructure development and environmental protection;
- The legal framework on exploitation of natural resources and environmental protection;
- The role of ASEAN in regional environmental protection;
- Regulation of environmental impact assessments;
- Land law/ Land tenure rights.