

ESPI vacancy notice

Research Intern – Space Diplomacy

The European Space Policy Institute (ESPI) is looking to employ a Research Intern to support the project on “Space Diplomacy”.

The European Space Policy Institute

The European Space Policy Institute (ESPI) is an association ruled by Austrian Law, based in Vienna, founded at its inception (2003) by the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) and supported by members including national space agencies, the European Commission, and leading space industry companies.

The Institute provides decision-makers with an informed view on mid-to-long-term issues relevant to Europe’s space activities. In this context, ESPI acts as an independent platform for developing positions and strategies.

ESPI fulfils its objectives through various multidisciplinary research activities giving way to the publication of books, reports, articles, executive briefs, proceedings or position papers and to the organisation of conferences and events including the annual ESPI Autumn Conference. Located in the heart of Vienna, the Institute developed a privileged relation with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and with a network of researchers and experts in Europe and across the globe.

More information on ESPI is available on our website: www.espi.or.at

Research project

Space Diplomacy is becoming more and more an important tool of foreign policy. In fact, space diplomacy was since the beginning an important aspect of national space activities as the space race was a kind of space diplomacy to market the supremacy of the political systems and technologies of the superpowers. With the emergence of an increasing number of space actors, space diplomacy is becoming more and more critical. Therefore, this project aims to analyse space diplomacy on various levels and dimensions. One example is how European space diplomacy was carried out and towards which countries and with which objectives. However, since diplomacy is always a kind of interaction between different countries and their interests, one goal is to analyse how the leading space countries act with respect to their space diplomacy not only towards other leading space countries but in particular with regards to evolving space nations. Fostering closer ties with emerging states in the Global South via space diplomacy is thus a critical and timely issue area.

Duties

Duties and responsibilities envisioned for this internship include:

- Support ESPI Research Team in the frame of this research project:
 - Background research: Literature review, information and data collection and compilation,
 - Stakeholders consultation through dedicated interviews or surveys;
 - Methodology and analysis tools preparation;
 - Synthesis of results and recommendations;
 - Report writing and editing

- The acceptant candidate can work from Vienna, but also remotely. The internship may also involve a participation to other ESPI projects not listed above, according to the Institute needs and candidate profile. (Time period of internship in 2021: tbd)

Qualifications and competencies

For this internship ESPI welcomes applications from candidates with an educational background (at least 3 years degree) in political science, law or international relations who can justify acquaintance with the space sector.

The following competencies would be considered an asset:

- General knowledge and understanding of space institutions, of their programmes and strategy
- Good understanding of the main political, legal and/or economic trends affecting the global and European space sector;
- Proficiency in preparation of impactful graphs and/or infographics;
- Previous experience in policy research, consulting or advisory;

Applicants to the internship should demonstrate good interpersonal skills and the capacity to work both independently and as part of a team. Good knowledge of MS Office is required.

The working language of ESPI is English. Excellent command of the English language, written and oral, is a prerequisite. A track record of articles, papers, thesis or reports written in English would be appreciated.

Application process

To apply for this internship, please send to Annette.Froehlich@espi.or.at a copy of your CV, a cover letter and – if applicable – sample documentation supporting your qualifications (e.g. a previously published article, thesis extracts, etc.), with subject: “ESPI internship application – Space Diplomacy”. Please do not submit educational records or certificates at this stage.