# Research Assistant in the

# Department of Law

## Who we are

The **European University Institute** (EUI) at a glance:
- an **international organisation** set up in 1972;
- a research university focusing exclusively on **postgraduate**, **doctoral** and **post-doctoral studies**, and advanced research;
- located in the hills overlooking the city of Florence, Italy.

The Institute also hosts the Historical Archives of the European Union.

The Department of Law is European and international in character, comparative in its approach and contextual in its perspectives. It is committed to the study of law in its many facets. The Department's researchers study the challenges facing European law, private law, constitutional and administrative law, public and private international law, climate change law, environmental law, competition law and economic regulation, and algorithmic, computational and digital law with PhD opportunities across social, cultural, political and economic topics. The Department's methods are diverse. The spectrum of research developed in the department spans doctrinal legal research, critical legal studies, empirical analysis, law and economics, law and technology, comparative law, and more.

## Employment details

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| **Contract type** | Part-time, 53% (16/30, 21 hours and 20 minutes/week) |
| **Length of contract** | 30 months, start date: from 1 July 2024 |
| | This contract may be further renewed (several times and conditional to the availability of new funds), leading to an extension of the period of service up to a total of 5 years, including the first contract period. |
| **Salary indication and grade** | Grade: ASTAC1e step 1 |

The basic net monthly salary after taxes is approximately 1170 Euro, plus allowances if applicable.

More information about conditions of employment is available here.

**Place of work**    Florence, Italy

## About the project

**Project Director(s)**    Prof. Martin Scheinin

**Project details**    ELOQUENCE - Multilingual and Cross-cultural interactions for context-aware, and bias-controlled dialogue systems for safety-critical applications

ELOQUENCE is focused on the research and development of innovative technologies for collaborative voice/chat bots. Voice assistant-powered dialogue engines have previously been deployed in a number of commercial and governmental technological pipelines, with a diverse level of complexity. In our concept, such a complexity can be understood as a problem of analysing unstructured dialogues. ELOQUENCE's key objective is to better comprehend those unstructured dialogues and translate them into explainable, safe, knowledge-grounded, trustworthy and bias-controlled language models. We envision to develop a technology capable of learning by its own, by adapting from a very data-limited corpora to efficiently support most of the EU languages; from a sustainable computational framework to efficient and green-power architectures and, in essence, that may serve as a guidance for all European citizens whilst being respectful and showing the best of our European values, specifically supporting safety-critical applications by involving humans-in-the-loop.

Overall, the ELOQUENCE project considers building on top and to improve of prior achievements in the domain of conversational agents, e.g. recently launched and public-domain Large Language Models (LLMs), such as chatGPT (e.g., more recent versions), or LaMDa most of them developed in non-EU countries. While including key industrial enterprises from Europe (i.e., Omilia, Telefonica, Synelixis), ELOQUENCE will validate the developed technology through (i) safety-critical scenarios with human-in-the-loop for security-critical applications (i.e., emergency services in call centres) and (ii) smart home assistants via information retrieval and fact-checking against an online knowledge base for lesser risky autonomous systems (i.e., home-assistants). ELOQUENCE will target the R&D of these novel conversational AI technologies in multilingual and multimodal environments and demonstrated in several pilots.

**Job description**    The research assistant will provide research support to the Director of the project. Main tasks include:

- supporting the coordination of multidisciplinary expert panels that will assess emerging ELOQUENCE technologies for their compatibility with European values, including fundamental rights and other requirements of ethics, law and societal acceptance and acceptability. About 30 such assessments will be conducted during the project period.
- participating in the draft of project deliverables based on the above-mentioned assessments and parallel strands of ELOQUENCE work, including results from surveys conducted by other project partners. In particular, the EUI is responsible for ELOQUENCE deliverable D6.2 as a

mid-term summary of assessment methodologies and their application, due in June 2025, and deliverable D6.4 which will be a final report of all ELOQUENCE work in Work Package 6 lead by the EUI, due in November 2026.

- Participating in both online and in-person meetings of the ELOQUENCE project, including annual plenary meetings, meetings with stakeholders, meetings of the assessment panels and meetings of Work Package 6 and when needed as EUI representative in metings of other Work Packages
- supporting the dissemination of ELOQUENCE outputs in various formats and to a range of audiences
- engaging in academic research activities, including for publication as journal articles, that supports and utilizes EUI's participation in ELOQUENCE

## Qualifications and experience

**Qualifications and Experience**

**Essential:**

- Bachelor of Arts or equivalent academic qualification;
- Proven knowledge of multidisciplinary human rights (fundamental rights) assessment and its methodologies;
- Demonstrated ability in academic research and writing

**Desirable:**

- PhD in law or a closely related field;
- Demonstrated Knowledge of EU law and technological, societal and legal developments in the field of Artificial Intelligence;
- Previous Experience in working in collaborative research projects.

**Languages**

Excellent knowledge of English, both spoken and written (CEFR level: C1 or above). Knowledge of other languages constitutes an advantage.

## How to apply

**Deadline**

The closing date for applications is **26 April 2024** at midnight (Florence time)

**Contact details**

For more information contact **Francesca Fazio**

**How to apply**

Fill in the online application form and upload documents as requested

required by its Data Protection Policy ([President's Decision No. 10/2019 of 18 February 2019 regarding Data Protection at the EUI](#)).

**Equal opportunities**
The European University Institute applies a policy of equal opportunities, which, in accordance with Article 1d of its Staff Regulations, prohibits discrimination on any grounds such as sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation. Any reference in this notice to a person of the male sex must be deemed also to constitute a reference to a person of the female sex.