

# PhD special call: PhD position within the project DEMNORM: Democratic Norms

Aarhus BSS Graduate School, Aarhus University invites applicants for a PhD Scholarship in connection with the research project DEMNORM: Democratic Norms at the PhD Programme Political Science.

The position is available from 1 September 2022 (or as soon as possible thereafter).

## The research project

This advertised PhD position is located within the DEMNORM (Democratic Norms) project. The position is fully-funded by the Carlsberg Foundation. Besides the salary the stipend covers tuition fees, travel costs (e.g. conferences, summer schools) and a visiting period abroad.

As member of the project, the successful applicant will become part of the vibrant and well-connected Department of Political Science at Aarhus University and the research team led by Associate Professor Daniel Bischof. Applicants need to formulate their own independent research project which broadly covers one of the following research areas: public opinion formation, democracy studies, elite behavior (including party competition and politics). Within these areas, applicants are encouraged to choose a topic that intersects with DEMNORM's overall research interests in citizens' democratic values, elite behavior, and/or the causes and consequences of democratic norm erosion. Priority will be given to projects that have a strong empirical focus and/or rely on (quasi-)experimental methods.

The DEMNORM project aims to understand which role democratic norms, on the citizens- and elite-level, play for democratic stability. In the last decade many democracies have been facing challenges from within: the US Capitol was stormed by a violent mob, the rule of law has come into question in some democracies (e.g. Poland), and authoritarian candidates are on the rise (e.g. Hungary's Viktor Orbán). As a result, many journalists and academics argue that currently "democratic norms" among the public and political elites are eroding. DEMNORM seeks to understand:

- what we conceptually mean when referring to "norms" in the context of democracy,
- where such norms come from (e.g. the role of social networks),
- how they erode (e.g. due to anti-democratic slant by political elites),
- and which role they play for democratic stability in general.

The DEMNORM project will be a major research project (2022-2025) located at the Department of Political Science (Aarhus University), primarily funded by a Carlsberg Foundation Young Researcher Fellowship and supported by a Starting Grant of the Aarhus University Research Foundation. The project is led by Associate Professor Daniel Bischof. The core team will consist of two postdocs, one PhD student – hired via this advertisement – and several research assistants.

For further information on the project please see [here](#).

## Further information

Interested candidates are encouraged to contact the principal investigator, Associate Professor [Daniel Bischof](#) per email [bischof@ps.au.dk](mailto:bischof@ps.au.dk) to discuss their initial ideas.

If you need help uploading your application or have any questions about the recruitment process, please contact HR supporter Anne Arnfeldt Källberg, Email: [aak@au.dk](mailto:aak@au.dk)

## Work address

Bartholins Allé 7, DK - 8000 Aarhus C

## Formal requirements

You can read more about how to apply in [the application guide](#) and find the rules and regulations of the PhD education [here](#).

The following criteria are decisive in the assessment of the candidates:

**Application Deadline:**  
15 March 2022

**Faculty:**  
Aarhus BSS

**Institute/Faculty:**  
Aarhus BSS

**Academic contact person:**  
Daniel Bischof  
Lektor  
[bischof@ps.au.dk](mailto:bischof@ps.au.dk)  
+4587150746

**Vacant positions:**  
1

**Hours per week:**  
37

**Number of months:**  
36

**Expected date of accession:**  
01/09/2022

- the applicant's academic qualifications (assessed on the basis of the qualifying degree)
- the quality and relevance of the project proposal
- the applicant's level of academic aptitude and assessed ability to complete the project within the framework of the PhD programme

You can read more about the assessment procedure and committees appointed by the dean [here](#). Please note that for applications to the programme for Psychology and Behavioural Science, the criteria for assessment are specified [here](#).

Applicants are very much encouraged to supply documentation as to how they rank compared to their class (both Bachelor's and Master's degrees). This may for example be in the form of a letter from your University stating either how you rank as an individual student compared to other students the year you graduated ("ranks as no. 6 out of 111" or "ranks as among the best 8 percent") or if that is not possible, general information from your University as to how grades were distributed in the year of your graduation, will be appreciated.

Please note that Aarhus BSS Graduate School reserves the right to evaluate the applications on the basis of the documentation received before deadline, and you will not necessarily be asked for further documentation. Furthermore, Aarhus BSS Graduate School reserves the right to reject application that do not comply with the limitations as stated in the application guide (see link above).

Aarhus University's ambition is to be an attractive and inspiring workplace for all and to foster a culture in which each individual has opportunities to thrive, achieve and develop. We view equality and diversity as assets, and we welcome all applicants.

#### **Aarhus University**

*Aarhus University is an academically diverse and research-intensive university with a strong commitment to high-quality research and education and the development of society nationally and globally. The university offers an inspiring research and teaching environment to its 39,000 students, including 1,800 PhD students, and 8,000 employees, and has an annual revenues of EUR 884 million. Learn more about the PhD programmes at Aarhus University at [www.phd.au.dk](http://www.phd.au.dk).*