

Call for expressions of interest for a 4-year PhD scholarship within the project ‘Minority rights in an age of immigration: democracy, deservingness and elite influences’ (MINIM) at the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB)

We invite expressions of interest for a **full-time FPI predoctoral grant to pursue a PhD thesis** associated with the project ‘**Minority rights in an age of immigration: democracy, deservingness and elite influences’ (MINIM)** led by project PI Alina Vranceanu and funded by the Spanish Research Agency (PID2025-174655NA-I00).

We seek a highly motivated person interested in developing a doctoral thesis in Political Science on a topic broadly related to the project. Candidates must hold a Bachelor’s degree and a Master’s degree in political science or other social sciences (economics, sociology or psychology) adding to 300 ECTS. They should have an excellent academic track record, strong background in quantitative research methods and substantive interest in the research areas of the PI and the project. Proficiency in English (both oral and written) is also required. The selected candidate will contribute to all tasks of the MINIM research project, including data collection, analysis and preparation of publications, presentations at national and international conferences, organization and participation in the project’s seminars and conferences.

We offer a four-year FPI predoctoral research contract, under the conditions, rules and procedures of the formal FPI call (to be published in due course), for the completion of a doctoral thesis within UAB’s [PPIR doctoral program](#). The selected candidate will receive support and mentorship from the project PI, and will join UAB’s Department of Political Science and the established research group [Democracy, Elections and Citizenship \(DEC\)](#). DEC offers an **excellent environment to pursue a PhD**, offering unmatched opportunities for advanced methodological training, attendance to specialized seminars, access to unique resources and data, and career mentoring.

Interested candidates can **submit** (1) a complete CV (including BA and MA final average grades and the contact details of two references), (2) a motivation letter (outlining their interest in the project and a brief outline of their ideas for their PhD thesis) and (3) a writing sample (seminar paper or master thesis) to alina.vranceanu@uab.cat (mention ‘MINIM PhD position’ in the subject line) at their earliest convenience and preferably no later than **20 October 2026**. Note that the formal PhD call is expected to be published soon, and the **formal application and selection processes** are expected to take place between October and December. The contract is tentatively scheduled to start in the first months of 2027.

The research project **MINIM** (PID2025-174655NA-I00) seeks to advance knowledge on citizens’ views about the principle of minority rights protection, about immigrants as a minority group, and factors affecting them. It will examine, first, whether citizens’ commitment to minority rights protection is conditional on the target (the specific minority group) and the content of protection (the type of right). More specifically, it will explore whether non-native minority groups (i.e., immigrants) are perceived by citizens as less entitled to rights protection

than native minority groups, whether this gap varies by the type of rights, and what individual-level factors explain differences in these evaluations. Second, it will explore how citizens' views about minority rights protection, and their tolerance toward immigrants as a minority group, may be influenced by political elites. Empirically, the project will combine experimental designs, quantitative observational research and text-as-data analyses in single-country and multi-country studies.