

swisspeace is a practice-oriented peace research institute. As an associate institute of the University of Basel, it carries out research on violent conflicts and their peaceful transformation. The institute shapes political and academic discourse on peace policy issues at the national and international level through publications, workshops and conferences. Thereby, swisspeace promotes knowledge exchange between researchers and practitioners.

For its Statehood program, swisspeace is looking for:

## 2 PhD research fellows

Starting Date: 1 August 2017 (or by agreement)

Duration: 3 years

The successful candidates will complete a PhD at the University of Basel as part of the Swiss National Science Foundation project "From Fragility to Resilience: Accounting for the Diversity of State-Making Trajectories" coordinated by Professor Dr. Laurent Goetschel and Dr. Dominik Balthasar.

The research project sets out to shed light on the question why some countries have succumbed to fragility, while others have not, despite exhibiting similar structural disposition. It starts from the fundamental premise that a defining characteristic of state trajectories lies in differential degrees of institutional and identity plurality, with high degrees thereof being hypothesized to be indicative of fragility. Informed by historical sociology and political economy, and framed in the language of institutions, this project seeks to advance theoretical and empirical insights into dynamics of state-building and nation-building by conducting qualitative comparative case study analysis.

### **Your tasks:**

- Developing and conducting high quality research on trajectories of state-building and/or nation-building on an agreed pair of case studies,
- Completion of the required doctoral course work and credits for a PhD at the University of Basel (see [here](#)), and participation in the [Graduate School Social Sciences](#) as well as the [International Graduate School North-South](#) doctoral programs,
- Producing high quality research output (scientific papers, or a monography),
- Participation in international conferences and contributing to the organization and coordination of research dissemination events,
- Supporting ongoing swisspeace program work.

### **Your profile:**

- A Master's degree in social sciences (preferably political science),
- Fulfillment of the requirements for a doctorate at the University of Basel ([admission requirements](#)),
- Proven record in conducting empirical research, and preparedness to carry through field research in developing and fragile countries,
- Excellent communication skills and social competencies,
- Independent and proactive, while simultaneously dedicated to work in and contribute to a small team,
- Language competency in English, German, and/or French.

**Our offer:**

Attractive working conditions in a small, professional and dynamic team and a workplace in Bern, Switzerland. The PhD fellowships are fully funded in line with the standard packages provided for by the Swiss National Science Foundation.

We look forward to receiving your complete application in English, including the following documents:

- Motivation letter,
- CV with list of publications and names of 2 referees,
- Sample of (un)published written academic work on a relevant topic (in English, German, or French),
- One-page research proposal, detailing how you envision contributing to the project “From Fragility to Resilience.” Apart from conceptual considerations, your proposal ideally includes methodological aspects, such as a proposition of a suitable case study pair and initial thoughts on how to operationalize the analysis of processes of institutional and/or identity pluralization/standardization.

Please send your electronic application to [jobs@swisspeace.ch](mailto:jobs@swisspeace.ch) by Monday, 22 May 2017, mentioning ‘PhD Fellowship’ in the subject line. More information can be found at [www.swisspeace.ch](http://www.swisspeace.ch) or received from Dr. Dominik Balthasar, [dominik.balthasar@swisspeace.ch](mailto:dominik.balthasar@swisspeace.ch), Tel: +41(0)31 330 12 16.