The Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies at the University of Tartu invites applications for a fully-funded PhD position in the academic year 2020/2021

You are invited to submit your application along with a research proposal on the following topic:

Applications of logical models in Social Sciences

The aim of the PhD project is to apply quantitative predictive models (see explanation below) in the field of Social Sciences. Applicants should define a more specific focus in the framework of this general theme. For example, predictive logical models can be applied to the analysis of electoral systems, electoral behaviour, party systems and their development, the spread of various technologies, connections between economic cycles and politics, interstate relations, international conflicts, etc.


Examples of the application of logical predictive models include:


The prospective PhD candidate should have an interest in and intermediate knowledge of quantitative social science methods, such as the prevalent statistical or econometric techniques.

Interested candidates are invited to prepare a research proposal outlining the specific research project they would pursue under this general topic. Admission requirements, including guidelines for the research proposal, can be found here.

Main supervisor: Rein Taagepera, Professor Emeritus at the Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies and University of California, Irvine.

Co-supervisor: Dr Mihkel Solvak, Senior Researcher at the Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies, mihkel.solvak@ut.ee (when sending an email, please use subject line “Logical models PhD position”)

Please contact Dr Mihkel Solvak (with Maili Vilson, maili.vilson@ut.ee in cc) for an approval of your proposal ahead of the application deadline! However, please note that the prospective supervisor is not in a position to provide extensive comments or help develop project descriptions at the application stage, given the large number of applicants.