

The European Space Policy Institute (ESPI), the leading independent European think-tank on space, is looking to employ a **Research Fellow** focused on **security & defence** at the premises of the Institute in Vienna (on-site), starting latest by Q3 2026.

About the role

Can you read beyond the job description? Are you driven by purpose and thrive in a pool of bright young minds? Do you cherish independence, and can you stand up in open debate and advocate for impact? Can you build bridges in complex spheres of influence and power? Are you inspired by space? Depending on your experience, you will be tasked to work as part of project teams of 1-4 additional Research Fellows, including project lead of selected projects, notably:

- delivery of high-quality expert advice regarding space policy, the space industry, space operations, market assessments, budget evolutions, and non-space policies impacting the space sector;
- concepts, studies and continuous content output in support of programme implementers and policy-makers;
- strategic direction and organisation of high-level events, workshops, and educational courses;
- managing projects including contract, budget, and deliverable management;
- quality assurance and compliance with project terms.

As part of our Research Team, you will also contribute to the strategic orientation and further development of the Institute, our Engagement activities and Key Partner Management efforts.

We invite candidates with experience in **Security & Defence activities related to the space sector** to apply for this ESPI Research Fellow position. You will be joining a **fast-paced growth environment** in a culturally diverse team with varied backgrounds. We are characterised by a strong appreciation of new initiatives & impact-driven objectives, paired with a commitment to rigour, continuous learning, and team-wide exchange where the best ideas prevail. Space is undergoing a transformative change in market dynamics, technology developments, and policy implications. As an ESPI Research Fellow, you are responsible for developing insights and maintaining the **Institute's position at the cutting edge** of analysing these advancements and evolution across the following domains defined in [ESPI2040](#):



Green & Sustainable Societies



Security & Defence



Exploration & Science



Space as an Asset



Industry, Innovation, Finance, Workforce

Qualifications

- a Master's degree that relates to the Institute's work and mission (e.g. Law, Economics, Political Science, International Relations, Business, Engineering, Physics, Banking & Finance, Technology & Innovation);
- at least 5 years of relevant full-time work experience (Consultancy, Think Tank, Industry, Public Sector, NGO);
- excellent analytical or writing skills, ability to work in teams, and intercultural competence;
- demonstrated knowledge and understanding of the space sector and the space policy landscape;
- flexibility, impact-oriented thinking and excellent organisational skills;
- excellent command of English, written and oral.

Application Process

We accept applications by **EU/EEA citizens as well as non-EU citizens**. To apply for this position, please send:

- a copy of your CV in .pdf format,
- a motivation letter in .pdf format

to vacancies@espi.eu with the subject: "ESPI Research Fellow SD" **before 26 April 2026, 23:59 CEST**. Please do not submit educational records or certificates at this stage.

The position is full-time (40 hours/week) with flexible working conditions. The advertised salary is in the range of **€ 50,000 – € 55,000 gross per year** (paid 14 times a year). Given ESPI's status as a Quasi-International Organisation (QuIO) since July 2025, the salary of ESPI employees is **exempt from tax**.

Any additional bonus payment is subject to the Management's decision and the Institute's overall performance.

Why work with us? Read more about the **benefits** of working at ESPI [here](#).