

The European Space Policy Institute (ESPI), the leading independent European think-tank devoted to space policy, is looking to employ a **Research Manager** with a focus on **Economics, Security & Defence, and Strategy** 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 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? Applications across our research agenda are welcome, noting that for this incoming Research Manager role, we are in particular looking for expertise in Economics, Security & Defence, and/or Strategy Development. You will be tasked to advise project teams and team leads and ensure the implementation of projects, typically handled by teams of 2-4 Research Fellows each, notably:

- delivery of expert advice on space policy, the space industry, space operations, market assessments, and non-space policies impacting the space sector;
- concepts, studies and content output in support of programme implementers and policy-makers;
- empowerment of ESPI leads, support to professional development, mentorship;
- strategic direction and organisation of high-level events, workshops, and courses;
- managing relationships, including contract, budget, and deliverable management;
- quality assurance and compliance with project terms.

As a senior member of the team, you will work directly with the Director of Strategy & Operations and also contribute to the strategic orientation and further development of ESPI, our Engagement and Key Partner Management efforts.

As an **ESPI Research Manager**, 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 a Research Manager, 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 or PhD degree relating to the Institute's work and mission (e.g. Economics, Political Science, Law, Engineering, Physics, Business, Technology & Innovation);
- at least 12 years of relevant work experience (Consultancy, Think Tank, Industry, Agency, Ministry) with demonstrated experience in the space sector;
- demonstrated knowledge and understanding of the space sector and the space policy landscape;
- demonstrated project management, team development, and leadership skills;
- excellent analytical or writing skills, ability to work in teams, and intercultural competence;
- 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 Manager" **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 **€ 80,000 – € 85,000 gross per year** (paid 14 times a year). Given ESPI's status as a Quasi-International Organisation (QIO) 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](#).