Department of Politics and International Relations

Research Internship Scheme – Job advertisement no.

Media and Foreign Policy Analyst for Professor Ben O’Loughlin

21 September 2017

Number of places available: 2

Time commitment: 10 hours for three weeks, 5 hours for a fourth week.

Project description:

Prof. O’Loughlin is completing a book about the 2015 Iran nuclear deal that explains how diplomats in the US, EU and Iran achieved a common narrative about cooperation. He has interviewed key White House and Iranian communications/diplomacy actors and analysed how diplomats used social media to build a sense of momentum towards peace. Analysis of media and policy documents has been completed for the years 2002-09 and 2013-15, up until the deal. The task for the student is to gather appropriate media and policy documents for the 2010-13 period to help ‘fill in the story’. The student(s) will:

1. Use RHUL’s Lexis Nexis media database to retrieve news reports
2. Use the websites of key nuclear-focused think tanks to retrieve policy documents
3. Use Twitter to identify important moments of confrontation and cooperation between diplomats on social media

Required level and skills: 3rd year or MSc

Learning outcomes: Ability to gather and organise news, policy and social media data; Ability to identify moments of diplomatic importance in long-term negotiations. Theoretical understanding of the role of communication in foreign policy.

Other: The student(s) will be thanked in the acknowledgements of the book.

Work location: Campus or at home via RHUL’s VPN.
**Deadline for application:** 23 October 2017

**Application:** Applications must be emailed to Ben.OLoughlin@rhul.ac.uk. Please send your CV and a cover letter explaining why your studies and your interests make you a suitable candidate for this role. If you have completed courses in Political Communication then please state your final grade on those courses, but previous study of Political Communication is not essential.