

Histoire, sociologie, archéologie et anthropologie des religions | HiSAAR

Les Instituts thématiques interdisciplinaires
de l'Université de Strasbourg & Inserm
dans le cadre de l'Initiative d'excellence

Position description

1. Position identification

Title of post : ITI HiSAAR contract-research position

Type of contract : temporary position

Category (A,B or C) : A **Contract/project period :** 36 months

Expected date of employment : 01/10/2026

Proportion of work : 100 %

Workplace : ITI HiSAAR (Interdisciplinary Thematic Institute of History, Sociology, Archaeology and Anthropology of Religions)

Desired level of education : Master

Contact(s) for information on the position (identity, position, e-mail address, telephone) :
cutino@unistra.fr,

Date of publication : 16/03/2026

Closing date for the receipt of applications : 16/05/2026

2. Research project and objectives

As part of its research aimed at the critical study of religions through interdisciplinary collaboration in France, Europe and more broadly on an international scale, ITI HiSAAR offers three-year doctoral contracts for the completion of a specific research project falling within at least one of the institute's four areas of focus: [1] Text, Intertextuality and Tradition, [2] Identities and Otherness, [3] Religions and Politics, [4] Ritual Practices: Gestures, Objects and Representations.

The recruitment of a doctoral student on a contract basis aims to support the development of innovative scientific projects and is intended to be an enriching step in the young researcher's

professional career in terms of skills acquisition, scientific autonomy and career prospects. This recruitment will strengthen ITI HiSAAR's research activities, in particular by promoting interdisciplinary interactions. It also aims to contribute to research training through research, as well as to professionalisation, by involving the doctoral student in knowledge transfer, scientific organisation and supervision activities within the framework of ITI HiSAAR's university degree programme.

3. Selection criteria

Candidates who hold a Master's 2 research degree must first submit **a copy of the admission application** sent to the relevant doctoral school and **an application form** in order to apply for a doctoral contract with ITI HiSAAR. The doctoral schools affiliated with ITI are:

- Humanities and Social Sciences ([ED 519](#))
- Humanities ([ED 520](#))
- Theology and Religious Studies ([ED 270](#))

· External candidates who hold a French or foreign Master's 2 research degree must also submit **a copy of the special admission (admission dérogatoire) application** sent to the relevant doctoral school.

· Applicants must have defended their M2 thesis by the date of the interview, or, by way of exception, defend it by July 2026 at the latest.

· A minimum grade of 16/20 (and equivalent for external foreign applicants) is required for the defence of the Master's 2 thesis.

· The proposed doctoral thesis project must be supervised by an HDR teacher-researcher who is a member of ITI HiSAAR.

· The doctoral thesis project must be as interdisciplinary as possible, in relation to the main areas of ITI HiSAAR's four research axes and its cross-disciplinary actions/themes.

· Candidates must be enrolling in a thesis programme for the first time in 2026-2027.

· Successful candidates must agree to settle in Strasbourg or the surrounding area.

4. Criteria used to assess the written project

- The originality and scientific contribution of the project (coefficient 3).
- The interdisciplinary nature of the project in relation to the actions carried out within the four thematic areas of the ITI and the scope of the disciplines included in the ITI (coefficient 3).
- The quality of the project in terms of its writing, argumentation and methodology, including the presentation of the bibliography (coefficient 3).
- The consistency between the applicant's previous experience and the selected project, including knowledge of the modern or ancient languages required to carry out the project (coefficient 2).

- The feasibility of the project within the normal three-year timeframe, including the submission of a provisional timetable that can be reviewed with the selected candidates at the end of the first year of the doctoral programme (coefficient 2).

5. Environment and context of work

Presentation of the laboratory/unity :

The position is part of the Interdisciplinary Thematic Institute of History, Sociology, Archaeology and Anthropology of Religions (ITI HiSAAR) of the University of Strasbourg, whose objective is the critical study of religions through multidisciplinary collaboration in France, Europe and more widely internationally. The ITI HiSAAR's mission is to develop, on the one hand, interdisciplinary research in the field of the critical study of religious systems and, on the other hand, to provide university training through its HiSAAR University Diploma, which is open to master's and doctoral students and is composed of seminars, masterclasses and summer and winter universities.

The research and training of the ITI HiSAAR covers five axes: [1] Text, intertextuality and tradition, [2] Identities and alterities, [3] Religions and politics, [4] Ritual practices: gestures, objects and representations.

Special conditions of practice :

Residence in Strasbourg is required for the duration of the contract.

Monthly cost of employment (salaire coût chargé mensuel) :

3215, 86 euros

The text of the call and the application pack can be downloaded from:

<https://hisaar.unistra.fr/recherche/contrats-doctoraux-et-postdoctoraux>

To apply, the candidates must send by 12 a.m. noon on 16 May 2026 at the latest, for the attention of the ITI HiSAAR's coordinator Michele Cutino (cutino@unistra.fr) and the project manager Valérie Franck (valerie.franck@unistra.fr), the following documents:

1. A detailed *curriculum vitae*.
2. A copy of the Master's thesis (if available)
3. A provisional certificate/diploma of completion of the Master's 2 (if available).
4. A copy of the defence report indicating the mark obtained during the defence of the Master's 2 thesis (if available).
5. Details of the courses taken as part of the master's degree (transcripts).

6. A 10-page typed presentation (single-spaced, size 12) of the research project, with bibliography.
7. The detailed opinion of the teacher-researcher who has agreed to supervise the thesis.
8. A provisional 3-year schedule (feasibility of the project).
9. The duly completed [application form](#).

All documents listed above must be submitted as individual files in .pdf format, with the following information indicated at the beginning of each file: the eligible candidate's first and last name + the name of the document (e.g. Cutino Michele_research project).

Once all the required documents have been submitted, candidates will receive an email inviting them to attend an interview on **June 26th 2026**

The interview will last 20 minutes and will be structured as follows:

- **10 minutes project presentation**

This high-level scientific presentation may be accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation if necessary (Please let us know before the date of the interview).

- **10 minutes to answer questions or respond to comments.**

The interview will be in French.

For further information:

- Contact: cutino@unistra.fr
- Presentation of the ITI HiSAAR : <https://hisaar.unistra.fr/>