

**Hosting Offer for MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship - University of Groningen, Faculty of Law,
Department of Legal Methods**

Contact: Prof. Michelle Bruijn (*l.m.bruijn@rug.nl*)

We are looking for an ambitious and motivated postdoctoral researcher to jointly apply for a **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship (MSCA-PF)** at the University of Groningen.

This fellowship offers the opportunity to develop your own independent research project within a growing and innovative research line on **housing, human rights, and urban governance**, in a collaborative and internationally oriented environment.

Research theme and project ideas

We particularly welcome proposals related to the theme:

<p><i>Governing Housing: Urban Development, Land Use Regulation, and Social Exclusion in a Human Rights Perspective</i></p>
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This research line explores a key but underexamined question: *How do urban planning and land-use regulations shape access to housing, determine who can remain in their home and whose rights are at risk?*

While housing law has traditionally focused on eviction and tenancy, these approaches capture only the most visible forms of interference with the right to housing. Increasingly, it is recognised that urban development, zoning, and land-use regulation play a fundamental role in structuring access to housing and property and residential stability, and may produce exclusionary or unequal outcomes that remain largely overlooked in legal research.

State interventions through planning and urban governance can:

- exclude specific social groups from certain neighbourhoods,
- indirectly displace residents through redevelopment or gentrification,
- restrict access to affordable or adequate housing, and
- reshape property relations in ways that affect both housing security and ownership.

This project aims to better understand how such regulatory mechanisms affect housing and property rights, and how legal frameworks can be improved to strengthen their protection.

Possible research directions

Candidates are encouraged to develop their own project within this theme. Possible directions include:

- Conceptualising how urban development and land-use regulation constitute forms of interference with housing and property rights.
- Analysing how planning and zoning laws align with international and European human rights standards.
- Examining how legal instruments produce patterns of social and spatial exclusion.
- Identifying gaps in the protection of housing and property rights in practice.

Research methods

The project can be tailored to your expertise and interests. Possible approaches include:

- doctrinal legal analysis;
- comparative legal research;
- empirical analysis of planning decisions, policies, or case law;
- interdisciplinary approaches drawing on socio-legal studies, urban studies, or geography.

We are looking for a candidate who:

- holds a PhD in law or a closely related discipline;
- has a maximum of eight years' experience in research, from the date of their awarded PhD degree (*Marie Curie eligibility criteria*);
- has not resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the Netherlands for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the call deadline (*Marie Curie eligibility criteria*);
- has a strong interest in housing law, human rights, planning law, or urban governance;
- has experience with legal research methods (comparative, doctrinal, or empirical);
- is proficient in spoken and written English;
- enjoys working both independently and collaboratively;
- is willing to move to Groningen, the Netherlands.

Experience with empirical or interdisciplinary research is an advantage. Knowledge of Dutch or other languages is welcome but not required.

Support for your MSCA application

We provide support to develop a competitive MSCA proposal, including:

- feedback on your research idea and proposal drafts;
- guidance on structuring the Excellence, Impact, and Implementation sections;
- two online workshops to support the development of a strong and competitive proposal;
- support throughout the full application process.

Research environment

The fellow will be embedded in the Department of Legal Methods at the Faculty of Law, University of Groningen, and supervised by Prof. Michelle Bruijn. The position is part of a broader research programme on human rights, public order law, housing law, and empirical legal studies, including the NWO-funded Veni project [PROHOUSE](#): Understanding the Impact of Housing and Property Rights in Dutch Eviction Cases (PI: Michelle Bruijn), and the recently completed ERC-funded [EVICT-project](#) on the role of the right to housing in preventing evictions (PI: Michel Vols).

You will join an interdisciplinary and collaborative research environment with expertise in human rights law, housing and property law, public order law, and empirical legal research. The research group is well connected both nationally and internationally, offering opportunities for collaboration with leading scholars as well as engagement with policymakers and practitioners.

Interested?

If you are interested, please send:

- your CV
- a short research idea (max. 5 pages)
- a brief motivation

to l.m.bruijn@rug.nl **before the 25th of May 2026.**

We particularly encourage candidates with an interest in interdisciplinary and innovative approaches to housing and human rights to apply.

Please note: As part of the MSCA application support at the University of Groningen, the selected candidate will participate in two online training webinars (together with the supervisor) on 15 and 16 June (09:00–12:00 CEST). These sessions are mandatory. We therefore kindly ask applicants to keep these dates available.