

JOB OFFER - RESEARCHER / POST-DOCTORATE

Post-doctorate in History (M/F):

History of the Earth Sciences in Central Asia and the Caucasus, 1880-2000 (ERC Starting Grant)

General information about the job offer

Publication date: 21/07/2026

Name of scientific manager: Katja DOOSE

Type of contract: Fixed-term

Contract duration: 34 months

Planned recruitment date: 01/02/2027

Working hours in %: 100%

Working hours: 37h/week

Remuneration: between 28,579 € and 48,208 € gross annually according to experience

Workplace: Université Lumière Lyon 2 - Campus Berges du Rhône / MSH Lyon St-Etienne 14 avenue Berthelot 69363 Lyon

Laboratory of affiliation: Laboratoire de recherche historique Rhône-Alpes - LARHRA

Experience: beginner with completed PhD accepted

Languages spoken: English, French, Russian

Travel frequency: frequent, international area

Driving license required: NO

Mission/research project description

Description of the research project

The contract is part of the **ERC Starting Grant ENVIROSHIFT – *Shifting Perspectives on Environmental Change: A History of the Earth Sciences in Central Asia and the Caucasus, 1880–2000***, funded by the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon Europe programme.

The project is hosted by **Université Lumière Lyon 2** and the **Laboratoire de Recherche Historique Rhône-Alpes (LARHRA, UMR 5190)**. ENVIROSHIFT investigates how Earth scientists contributed to the production of environmental knowledge and the transformation of mountain environments in Central Asia and the Caucasus from the late Russian Empire to the end of the Soviet Union.

The research team consists of the Principal Investigator and three postdoctoral fellows.

Description of missions

As part of this project, you will develop an original research project within the ERC Starting Grant ENVIROSHIFT, contributing to our understanding of how Earth sciences shaped environmental knowledge, resource extraction and state-building in Central Asia and the Caucasus from the late Russian Empire to the end of the Soviet Union.

Applicants should propose a research project within **one** of the project's three case studies:

- **Soviet Kyrgyzstan:** uranium mining, geological expertise and environmental transformation;
- **The Tajik Pamirs:** scientific expeditions, geology and resource exploration;
- **The Caucasus (Georgia and Armenia):** seismology, environmental risk and state planning.

Working within one of these case studies, you will collaborate with an international research team while pursuing an independent programme of historical research.

Assigned activities

- Develop and conduct an independent research project within one of the ENVIROSHIFT case studies.
- Carry out archival research in European and, where relevant, Central Asian or Caucasian archives.
- Undertake fieldwork where appropriate.
- Analyse historical sources and prepare research publications.
- Present research findings at seminars and international conferences.
- Contribute to the organisation of workshops and other project activities.
- Participate in regular team meetings and collaborate with the Principal Investigator and the other postdoctoral fellows.
- Contribute to the dissemination of research results.

Candidate profile

Applicants should have:

- a PhD in History completed before the starting date (between February and June 2027);
- research experience on the nineteenth- and/or twentieth-century history of the Russian Empire, the Soviet Union or their successor states;
- excellent command of English;
- ability to conduct independent archival research using Russian-language sources;
- experience conducting archival research;
- the ability to develop an independent research project and work collaboratively within an international research team.

How to apply

Please note that applications consisting only of a CV will not be considered.

Applications must be submitted as **one single PDF file** and include:

- cover letter indicating the fellowship for which you are applying;
- curriculum vitae;
- list of publications;
- PhD diploma (or proof that the PhD will be completed before the starting date);
- contact details of two academic referees;
- a **250–300-word** project abstract;
- a statement (maximum **200 words**) explaining how the proposed project contributes to ENVIROSHIFT;
- a statement (maximum **200 words**) outlining the principal archival sources, languages and research methods.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to submit a **1,500-word research proposal** before the interview and to present their proposed project during the interview.

Applications should be sent by email as a single PDF to: katja.doose@univ-lyon2.fr

Application deadline: 21 September 2026, 23:59 CET