

CALL FOR DOCTORAL CONTRACT APPLICATIONS

Doctoral student (M/F) in History:

Environmental History in the 19th and 20th Centuries

General information about the job offer

Publication date: 20/03/2026

Name of scientific manager: Katja Doose

Type of contract: Doctoral contract

Contract duration: 36 months

Thesis start date: 01/12/2025

Working hours: Full time

Remuneration: €2,300 gross per month

Place of work: Université Lumière Lyon 2 - Campus Berges du Rhône

14 avenue Berthelot, 69363 Lyon cedex 07

Laboratory: Rhône-Alpes Historical Research Laboratory (UMR 5190)

Affiliated doctoral school: École doctorale Sciences Sociales

Languages spoken: English or French (The thesis can be written in French or English.)

Frequency of travel: occasional / international area

Driving license required: NO

Description of thesis subject

This doctoral project focuses on environmental history in the 19th and 20th centuries. It examines how relationships between societies and environments were shaped by industrialization, imperial expansion, technological change, and increasing pressures on natural resources.

The dissertation will explore how environments have been observed, transformed, governed, and debated, at the intersection of environmental history, history of science and technology, and social and political history.

No specific geographical area is required. Projects may focus on any region. Proposals related to Russia, Central Asia, or the Caucasus are welcome but not required.

The precise topic will be defined jointly with the supervisors based on the candidate's proposal. Methods may include archival research, printed sources, oral history, or other relevant historical materials.

Working environment

The PhD student will be recruited by Université Lumière Lyon 2 for a period of 36 months. He/she will be registered as a doctoral student in the Social Sciences doctoral school.

The thesis will be co-directed by Stéphane Frioux, Professor of Contemporary History at Université Lyon 2, and Katja Doose, Junior Professor of Environmental History.

The PhD student will be attached to the LARHRA (UMR 5190), "Environment, Territory and Health" and "Knowledge, Actors, Dynamics, Spaces" divisions.

A dedicated budget has been set aside for missions (conferences and research) abroad and within France.

Profile

- First thesis registration in **2026/2027**
- Not be enrolled in a doctoral program at another French or foreign higher education institution (excluding cotutelle).
- Hold a Master's degree in history and meet the eligibility criteria set by the doctoral school (see <https://edsciencessociales.universite-lyon.fr/>).

How to apply

Applications should be sent before **25 May 2026 at midnight (Paris time)** by email to:

katja.doose@univ-lyon2.fr

stephane.frioux@univ-lyon2.fr

The application file must include:

- a detailed CV;
- a cover letter (maximum 2 pages);
- a **preliminary PhD proposal (8,000–10,000 characters, including spaces)** outlining the research question, sources, methodology, and a short bibliography;
- transcripts from Bachelor's and Master's degrees;
- a summary of the Master's thesis (maximum 5,000 characters).

Timetable

20/03/2026: publication of call for applications

25/05/2026: deadline for receipt of applications

01/06/2026: eligibility

Juin 2026: auditions

Composition of the selection committee

- Mr. Stéphane Frioux
- Ms Katja Doose
- Mrs. Laura Pettinaroli
- Mr. Bruno Milly