

Project title: PEACERETURN: *The Peaceful Return of Victims of Forced Displacement*

PhD theme: Displacement and Return in Ukraine

Supervisors: Professor Neophytos Loizides (University of Warwick)

Project Overview: The Department of Politics and International Studies, University of Warwick welcomes applications for an independent project focusing on the institutional trade-offs involving returnees in a future international mediation in Ukraine and/or the global impact of the Russian invasion on displacement. Candidates will be considered for a full-time, 3.5-years PhD position plus stipend at UKRI rates. Positions are open to both home and international students through a grant funded by the UKRI-Horizon Europe Guarantee (ERC) project PEACERETURN (PI: Professor Neophytos Loizides) at the University of Warwick. Preference will be given to an eligible Ukrainian candidate at risk or fleeing scholar from Ukraine or another conflict area.

PEACERETURN focuses on victims of forced displacement and their decisions to return home proposing a comparative research program that investigates how return is negotiated and implemented in ways that are voluntary, peaceful, and sustainable in seven countries: Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Colombia, Cyprus, Ethiopia, Rwanda and Ukraine. The successful applicant will also benefit from the project's broader multi-method interdisciplinary approach that cuts across comparative politics, social psychology, and conflict and gender studies, using a combination of archival research, expert interviews, surveys and experiments, citizen-led mediations/simulations, and focused comparisons of case studies. Partners of the project include the University of Cyprus, Sabanci University, University of Kent and The Centre for Sustainable Peace and Democratic Development (Seed).

Eligibility:

- A Master's degree (at least 2:1 classification) in political science or a related social science discipline also accepted. Students currently completing their Master's degree are also encouraged to apply.
- An overall score of 7.0 in the International English Language Test Score (IELTS) with no individual element scoring less than 6.0;
- The PhD fees covered by the funding are either UK home or international fees: this opportunity is therefore open to international students
- Although there is preference to a Ukrainian researcher, other candidates from post-conflict societies (or researchers at risk) and/or with a personal/family history of displacement are particularly encouraged to apply.

Funding Details:

- Starts 1st September 2025 or soon thereafter
- 3.5-year award
- Funding covers full tuition fees (UK/International home fees) plus non-taxable stipend at UKRI rates) including fieldwork, conference and training support

How to apply:

To apply, please click the "[Apply](#)" button. Create your account, and use the link sent by email to start the application process.

Important notes

- 1) Please include your CV, all University transcripts (undergraduate and postgraduate) and 2 reference letters as attachments.
- 2) When the application system prompts you to submit a research proposal please enter PEACERETURN: *The Peaceful Return of Victims of Forced Displacement* in the research proposal box and move on to the next step as a proposal is not required for this call.
- 3) Please quote the reference 'PEACERETURN in the 'Scholarships applied for' box which appears within the *Funding Section* of your on-line application.

Application Deadline: 14th April 2025

Further Enquiries:

Please note that, where a candidate is successful in being awarded funding, this will be confirmed via a formal studentship award letter; this will be provided separately from any Offer of Admission and will be subject to standard checks for eligibility and other criteria.

For further details please contact **Professor Neophytos Loizides** at neophytos.loizides@warwick.ac.uk