

PhD fellowship in Economics, specializing in International Trade, Fully funded, 3-year position.

Lille Économie Management (LEM), a research unit of the University of Lille, France, invites applications for a **fully funded, three-year PhD position in Economics**, with a focus on International Trade. The position will begin in September 2025.

Research Project:

The New Trade Routes Post-Brexit: The PhD student will undertake a doctoral thesis in the field of International Trade. While the candidate will be encouraged to pursue their own research interests, the primary focus of the proposed project will be to analyze the emergence and development of new trade routes following Brexit.

Since Brexit, the implementation of new trade regulations has disrupted traditional trade routes, redirected trade flows, and significantly affected European supply chains. This is the case, for example, with trade between Ireland and the EU, where a significant portion of trade flows previously transited through the UK but is now being redirected directly from Ireland to France.

The project will adopt an empirical approach, leveraging highly disaggregated French customs data at the transaction level (by firm, product code, region, mode of transport) matched with firm-level data. The PhD student would be given access to French customs and firm-level data through the Secure Data Access Centre (CASD).

The project will explore two interrelated themes. It will first identify the factors driving the redirection of trade flows between the EU, the United Kingdom, and third countries. It will then examine how multinational firms are reorganizing their global value chains in response to these shifts, with particular attention to the role played by rules of origin. Finally, it may examine how ports and other logistics infrastructures across continental Europe are at the center of investment efforts aimed at adapting to this unprecedented situation. These investments also reflect national and regional strategic choices, where the ability to redirect new trade flows is seen as a lever for economic development.

To quantify the effects, the analysis will build upon extensions of the Melitz (2003) and Eaton and Kortum (2002) models, as developed by Tintelnot (2017) and Antràs, Fort and Tintelnot (2017), which allow for the incorporation of triangular trade—where one country or region functions as an export platform to a third destination.

Qualifications

- A Master's degree in economics or econometrics.
- Strong background in economics and econometrics, with a particular focus on international trade.
- Excellent command of written and spoken English, as the research will be conducted in English.
- Proficiency in econometric software such as Stata, R, or SAS is highly desirable.
- A collaborative mindset and strong team spirit.

Working Conditions

The successful candidate is expected to begin the position in September 2025. The PhD student will be employed under a three-year doctoral contract, in accordance with the regulations of the French research system. The average net monthly salary for a PhD student in France under such a contract is approximately €1,700, with no teaching obligations.

The position is based in Lille, a vibrant and well-connected city in northern France. By train, Lille is just 1 hour from Paris, 1 hour 20 minutes from London, and 35 minutes from Brussels.

The PhD student will have full access to the facilities of the Lille Économie Management (LEM – UMR 9221), a CNRS research unit, through its affiliated academic institutions. The PhD student will also take part in the structured doctoral training program offered by LEM in collaboration with the SESAM Doctoral School.

Supervision of the PhD Candidate and the Research Team

The PhD student will be supervised by Professor Fabrice Defever. In addition, the candidate will benefit from ongoing interactions with members of the Lille Économie Management (LEM) research unit, particularly those involved in the "Economics and Financial Flows" research axis.

Application procedure and deadline

Interested applicants should submit the following documents:

- A curriculum vitae (CV)
- Transcripts of marks from undergraduate (Bachelor's) and postgraduate (Master's) studies
- Two academic referees, including their contact details, who may be contacted—with your permission requested in advance. If already available, letters of recommendation from these referees are also welcome.
- A sample of previous research work (e.g., Bachelor's or Master's thesis)
- A motivation letter outlining the candidate's reasons for pursuing a PhD in this field

Please send these to Fabrice Defever (fabrice.defever@univ-lille.fr) by **May, 9th, 2025**.

A first round of interviews will take place from May 12th to 16th with selected candidates.

The chosen candidate will present their project to the university panel on May 23rd.