

The [Unit Economic Geography](#) in the Institute of Geography, University of Bern, invites applications for the following position:

Post Doc in Economic Geography (SNF Project Industrial Towns)

The full-time position is funded for 18 months and it is part of an international [research project](#) on industrial towns in Switzerland and Slovenia. The project is funded through the Swiss National Science Foundation and it is called “Places that don’t matter? Socio-economic transformation of industrial towns in Switzerland and Slovenia” (SNF grant number [192764](#)). The Slovenian Science Foundation is funding additional positions that are based at the Anton Melik Geographical Institute in Ljubljana. The project is led by Prof. Dr. Heike Mayer and Dr. Arnault Morisson in Bern and Dr. David Bole in Ljubljana.

For this project, we examine industrial transformation processes in small and medium-sized towns. We analyze how these processes play out at the firm/sector level and how they affect communities (workers, families, civic society, etc.). Taking current crises such as Covid-19 into account, we will examine its impact on industrial culture, innovation dynamics and community response. We are conducting case studies in Switzerland and utilize qualitative and participatory research methods. The Post Doc will collaborate with the Slovenian research partners from the Anton Melik Geographical Institute in Ljubljana and can participate in joint workshops and visiting research stays in Slovenia.

We offer a stimulating and team-based work environment, which provides opportunities to present at national and international conferences and workshops, network with scholars and practitioners and develop skills in advanced research methods, analysis and writing, teamwork and leadership.

Applicants should hold a recent PhD in geography or economic geography or related fields or be close to finishing their doctoral thesis. The successful candidate has demonstrated her or his potential to conduct high-quality research through publications or working papers suitable for publication in international journals. The successful candidate is expected to contribute substantially to the SNF-funded project and to independently conduct academic and policy-relevant research and to collaborate in research and teaching activities. We will be using participatory methods and social skills are very important. Travel to reputable international conferences is encouraged and covered by a dedicated budget. A sound command of oral and written English is mandatory; knowledge of German, French or Italian is considered a plus.

The position

Starting date: January 2022

Workplace: Institute of Geography, University of Bern, Switzerland

The salary is according to guidelines of the SNF.

Your responsibilities

- Conducting research related to the research project
- Writing academic publications
- Supporting the group`s teaching and administrative activities

Your qualifications

- Candidates for the Post Doc position should hold a doctoral degree in geography or economic geography or in a closely related discipline (economics, socioeconomics, sociology, history, political science, etc.).
- Candidates should be able to conduct fieldwork using qualitative methods (case study and/or participatory workshops). Experiences in economic geography research and methods are an asset.
- Excellent language skills in English. German, French or Italian are a plus.

Your application

The application should include the following (one single PDF file):

- Letter of motivation
- Full CV
- Names and e-mail addresses of 2 references
- Copies of diplomas and diploma supplements
- Copy of the dissertation
- 1-page proposal about own research agenda and how it may relate to the SNF project

Deadline: October 22, 2021

The Post Doc position is part of the Unit Economic Geography in the [Institute of Geography](#) at the University of Bern (Professor Heike Mayer). The research group is active in the [Center for Regional Economic Development](#) (CRED) at the University of Bern. We currently work on a number of SNF-funded research projects. In addition, we are engaged in applied research and regularly provide expert advice to local, regional and national policymakers. For more information about the research group, please visit our [website](#).

The University of Bern has more than 19,200 students and offers a full range of fields of studies. For more information about the University as an employer, please visit this [link](#). Bern and the Bernese Oberland boast a high quality of life and offer numerous amenities such as urban swimming, hiking, skiing, etc.

For questions about the position, please contact Prof. Dr. Heike Mayer (mayer@giub.unibe.ch)

Please send your application to Therese Jost (therese.jost@giub.unibe.ch)