

# PhD position in critical border studies, migration deterrence and international policy transfer.



A fully-funded 4-year PhD position is available at University College Dublin (Dublin, Ireland) in the [School of Geography](#) to begin no earlier than September 2023 (and no later than January 2024). The student will be under the supervision of [Geoff Boyce](#), Assistant Professor of Geography, University College Dublin.

Candidates who are committed to social justice and who are interested in qualitative or mixed-methods research in critical border studies are invited to apply.

- Candidates should have a demonstrated capacity for independent, original inquiry and a commitment to interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary methods and analytical frameworks.
- Methods could include community-engagement, ethnography, archival research, critical data analysis, critical cartography, scholar activism, or participatory action research.
- Candidates with personal and/or political connections to directly-impacted communities through social movements, solidarity, human rights and/or humanitarian work; or who have the skills and knowledge to productively engage with directly-impacted communities, are especially encouraged to apply.
- A Bachelor's or Master's degree or significant coursework in the social sciences (e.g., geography, anthropology, sociology) is preferable, but not required – as is relevant research and/or professional experience.

The overall topics addressed by the applicant's research might include any of the following:

- the circulation of deterrence-related policy innovation between the European Union, the United States and across other jurisdictions (Australia, Israel, the United Kingdom, etc.);
- border security-related business incubation, R&D, and contracting;
- migrant detention, remote asylum-processing, and "safe third party" agreements;
- "hostile environments," Attrition Through Enforcement, and other attacks on migrants' social reproduction;
- border externalization;
- terrain denial and the weaponization of climate and environment;
- the innovation and operational deployment of surveillance technologies;
- public information campaigns and psychological operations targeting migrants and their families;
- the criminalization of civilian/NGO humanitarian intervention;
- data access and transparency related to border and migration governance;
- genealogical intersections between counterinsurgency, colonialism, and deterrence;
- implications of deterrence practices for human rights and international law;
- sanctuary / no border / diasporic / migrant-led freedom movements

The successful appointee will be expected to undertake the following:

- Conduct literature reviews, develop research questions, employ research methods, and conduct analysis,
- Present the outcomes of their research in project meetings, national and international conferences,
- Prepare deliverable reports and journal manuscripts.

Benefits of the position include:

- A Salary of €18k per annum,
- Funding support of €4k per annum for research costs and travel to conferences and workshops,
- Waived fees for EU or Non-EU,
- UCD career building and networking opportunities,

Applications are to include:

- Letter of interest (1-page)
- Research proposal statement (1-page)
- CV
- Two (2) contact details for letters of reference (name, position, affiliation, and email)

Please submit applications and queries to Geoff Boyce at [geoff.boyce@ucd.ie](mailto:geoff.boyce@ucd.ie)

The review of applications will begin immediately and the shortlisted candidates will be asked to appear for an online interview.

At UCD we understand that being diverse makes us better which is why we support a culture of respect and equal opportunity, and value diversity at the heart of what we do. We wish to increase the diversity of researchers, and strongly encourage applications from women, underrepresented minorities, and individuals with disabilities.