

PHD SCHOLARSHIPS 2026 – NOTICE – RECRUITMENT OF PHD STUDENTS

SUBJECT: 2026 PhD Scholarships - Memo - Recruitment of PhD students

Job Information		
	Organisation / Company	University of Rouen Normandy
	Field of research	History of Law
	Researcher profile	Early-career researcher (R1)
	Country	France
	Application deadline	<p>Thursday 4 June 2026, 3 pm</p> <p>Send the single document (PDF) by email to the DROIT NORMANDIE Doctoral School. The acknowledgement of receipt will not constitute proof of the application's admissibility.</p>
	Type of contract	Temporary
	Employment status	Full-time
	Is the post funded by the EU Research Framework Programme?	NO
	Is the post linked to a staff position within a research infrastructure?	NO

Job description		
	Description of the post and the PhD project (specified and funded)	<p>Funded thesis topic.</p> <p>Musical artefacts during the two world wars: looting, claims and restitution</p> <p>Brief rationale.</p>

		<p>Whilst the issue of the restitution of cultural property has been the subject of numerous studies, the field of musical artefacts—whether musical instruments or collections of sheet music—has largely been overlooked by researchers. The very definition of musical artefacts remains to be established, with certain instruments, due to their value, rarity and age, being treated as cultural artefacts, whilst others, of lesser artistic value, are regarded as everyday objects.</p> <p>Restitution procedures carried out after the Second World War often prioritised the material value of the looted instruments, without regard for their cultural, historical or sentimental value. The lack of a specific legal definition of musical artefacts has not facilitated restitution and compensation for the families who were dispossessed.</p> <p>This research project therefore addresses the issue of the legal definition of musical artefacts and the restitution procedures associated with the phases of confiscation and spoliation. Chronologically, the aim is to examine the various mechanisms of confiscation, dispossession and restitution implemented from the First World War to the present day in order to assess how these have evolved. The conclusions of this research may enable the proposal, at national level, of a precise legal framework defining what constitutes a musical asset in order to ensure its protection and restitution. This study cannot be limited to a national scope. Due to the circulation of musical property linked to wartime confiscations and spoliations, it will require a comparative law approach to highlight the obstacles preventing restitution, the constraints specific to national laws, and the mechanisms facilitating the identification and restitution of musical property.</p>
Requirements	Salary	€2,100–2,300 per month
	Eligibility: academic requirements	To apply for the targeted PhD project

		<p>funded by the University of Rouen Normandy, candidates must be French-speaking and hold a Master's degree in law, preferably with a specialisation in property law or legal history (or be on track to obtain one by¹September 2026). A distinction (AB, etc.) must have been obtained in the second year of the Master's degree.</p> <p>In addition, candidates must have studied, as part of their university degree, courses in the history of law and institutions, heritage law, comparative property and heritage law, cultural law, and the history of cultural heritage law.</p>
	<p>Admission requirements</p>	<p>Following an interview with the candidate before a panel on Tuesday 9 June 2026, from 1.00 pm. 45, and following deliberation by the Select Committee of the ED Droit Normandie, the student who meets the following admission requirements will be admitted to undertake a thesis on Musical Assets during the Two World Wars:</p> <p>(1) Hold a Master's degree in Law (preferably specialising in heritage law or the history of law) by¹October 2026, with honours, and have followed an academic pathway relevant to the funded thesis project.</p> <p>(2) Be able to articulate their position on the thesis topic to demonstrate their aptitude for undertaking doctoral research on the specified subject.</p> <p>(3) Be able to present, during the interview, their academic background, the merits of their analysis of the topic, and the research schedule for the three-year duration of the doctoral contract.</p> <p>(4) Have written a law dissertation on a topic related to the thesis subject, in a format that meets academic standards. If the Master's degree is currently in progress, the candidate must present and justify their dissertation topic, a detailed argument, research avenues, the methodology followed and a bibliography.</p> <p>(5) Be a French speaker</p>
<p>Applications</p>		

		<p>The application must be submitted as a single PDF document with pagination. The document must include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) A cover letter briefly describing the candidate's research interests and explaining the reasons for their application to the thesis project. (2) A description of the three-year research programme. (3) A curriculum vitae (CV). (4) Copies of academic transcripts, diplomas and documents certifying the completion of courses and the award of a Master's degree in law (private or public). (5) The contact details of two referees or individuals able to recommend the candidate for the designated and funded doctoral research project. (6) The research thesis
Place(s) of work		University of Rouen (Normandy, France) UFR DESP 3 Avenue Pasteur, 76 000, Rouen
Who to contact?		Doctoral school email: gilles.raoul-cormeil@unicaen.fr
Contact		Email address of the supervisor or thesis supervisor: helene.courreges@univ-rouen.fr