



Ministerstwo
Edukacji i Nauki

ENGLISH

Foundation of the Development of Higher Education, invite applications for **two PhD/MA students positions (JUNIOR RESEARCHERS)** under the Ministry of Higher Education and Science grant "Cooperation, integration, sovereignty in Anglosphere. Development perspectives for AUKUS and CANZUK" (no. Nds-II/SN/0038/2023/01, project leader: dr hab. Jarosław Szczepański)

Job title: JUNIOR RESEARCHER

Scope of work:

- research in the field of political science, IR and/or law concerning cooperation processes or comparative analysis in narrowly understood Anglosphere **in either England or Polish**, in line with the project's assumptions;
- writing min. 1 article on the above-mentioned subject, and continuation of the research as a part of a research team;
- cooperation in the preparation of book publication.

Requirements:

- excellent knowledge of the English language
- interest in Anglosphere studies;
- strong motivation for scientific work and for the preparation of publication.
- readiness to work in a team, and to contribute towards the organization of conferences and workshops.

Employment conditions under the grant:

Form of employment: civil contract

Scholarship amount: 3000 zł gross

Duration of the scholarship: 6 months

Starting date: 1 June 2025

Required documents (IN ENGLISH or POLISH):

1) research proposal within a field of Anglosphere studies concerning cooperation processes in Anglosphere or comparative analysis within Anglosphere studies.

– Proposal should include: presentation topic, hypothesis, proposed theoretical approach and methods, schedule and review of relevant literature

2) **curriculum vitae** with a list of publications and other scientific achievements,

Deadline for applications: 25.05.2025

Please send applications: j.w.szczepanski@uw.edu.pl

Short description of the project

INTRODUCTION

The processes of cooperation and integration within the Anglosphere have accelerated following the United Kingdom's (UK) exit from the European Union (EU). Brexit, in line with slogans promoted by conservative and Eurosceptic politicians, has become a catalyst for the revival of the concept of a closely cooperating Anglosphere and the emerging possibility of advancing integration processes based on existing agreements, such as the Trans-Tasman Travel Arrangement. These agreements, in the Anglo-Saxon spirit, respect the principle of state sovereignty and adopt the supremacy of national parliaments as a starting point. The most developed concept in this regard is the idea of CANZUK, an integration project between Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the UK, proposed since the mid-2010s. In terms of deepening strategic cooperation, the latest agreement is AUKUS, a trilateral U.S.-UK-Australia pact, which was a flagship initiative of Prime Minister Johnson, alongside the UK's accession to the Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), preceded by trade agreements with Australia and New Zealand. These agreements create new frameworks for defense, technological, and economic cooperation among key Anglosphere states.

The above initiatives and the UK's pivot toward the Anglosphere also represent a geostrategic shift. The heart of these new structures is beginning to beat beyond the Euro-Atlantic region, with a focus on the Indo-Pacific. This region is where the interests of the future integrated Anglosphere are expected to converge. The proposed project involves conducting analyses in two key areas:

- **Political-legal:** concerning socio-economic integration based on respect for sovereignty and cultural proximity – CANZUK.
- **International-strategic:** concerning the deepening of defense and strategic cooperation among Anglosphere states, tied to the Indo-Pacific pivot – AUKUS.

1. RESEARCH PILLAR

The proposed project in this first area focuses on analyzing case law (dogmatic analysis) within comparative legal studies (public law), supplemented by interdisciplinary research in political science with insights into the axiological foundations of various political systems. The main objective is to assess the degree of similarity among the legal systems (constitutional and administrative) of the Anglosphere and evaluate the prospects for greater cooperation within the proposed CANZUK framework.

In the last decade, several publications have addressed interdisciplinary studies of the Anglosphere, most focusing on politics (Wellings, Mycock) and political philosophy/theory (Vucetic, Bell). Little attention has been given to comparative legal studies and the axiological foundations of constitutional systems. It is commonly assumed that the Westminster and Whitehall frameworks were adopted by former dominions, leaving little room for comparative analysis. However, the unfinished constitutional reform in the UK in 2005 provided evidence of what is referred to as “reverse constitutionalism” – the reverse flow of legal institutions and concepts from former dominions to the UK (see Szczepański: 2022). While the UK's constitutional and administrative systems have become partly petrified and partly Europeanized, former dominions have evolved, developing original solutions (Westminster and Whitehall).

As Daniel Hannan (now a conservative lord) stated during a reception in Canada: vineyards once brought from Europe flourished in the New World, while those in his homeland declined. Now is the time to reintroduce them to Europe. This paraphrase of a longer statement perfectly captures the

proposed concept of reverse constitutionalism, which may be (as hypothesized) part of the post-Brexit Anglosphere. The perspective of Europeanization and re-Anglicization of the UK will emerge with its renewed engagement in cooperative processes within the Anglosphere, whose center now lies in the Indo-Pacific. Early steps toward relocating the UK (politically, not geographically) to this region were taken with its accession to the CPTPP.

The proposed study is a comprehensive project aimed at providing a comparative analysis of the public, legal (constitutional and administrative) systems of the UK, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. The last thorough study of this kind, for example in public administration, was conducted in 2004 (*Civil Service Systems in Anglo-American Countries*, ed. J. Halligan). In Poland, the last complete analysis of the UK's constitutional system was carried out in 2004–2012 (*System polityczny Zjednoczonego Królestwa*, ed. P. Biskup, M. Kaczorowska). Both internationally and domestically, there remains a post-Brexit research gap in this area that needs to be addressed.

However, comparative analysis is a means to an end. It will be complemented by an analysis of the Trans-Tasman Travel Arrangement in a comparative perspective with relevant European frameworks, to determine whether this Antipodean cooperation is an appropriate response to British dissatisfaction with the European project. This section will involve a younger researcher with IR experience to ensure a broader understanding of cooperation processes.

All proposed legal-political analyses will aim to answer questions about the future de-Europeanization and re-Anglicization (through reverse constitutionalism) of the British system, as well as the degree of legal and axiological proximity that could lead to new cooperative processes within the Anglosphere.

2. RESEARCH PILLAR

The goal of this project in the second research area is to analyze the role of Anglosphere state cooperation in shaping the aforementioned systemic change in the international order. This includes analyzing the (re)consolidation of this group within the framework of international agreements in security and economic cooperation, and, for some, constitutional cooperation, as well as analyzing economic, demographic, and political trends to build scenarios for the development of cooperation with third countries, particularly Poland. To this end, the research will focus on international-strategic analysis.

In the area of international-strategic research, the proposed project will focus on a functional analysis of the system of economic and security agreements linking Anglosphere states and third countries, shaping the foundations of a new strategic bloc. In particular, the analysis will cover military, technological, and intelligence agreements under AUKUS (U.S., UK, Australia), changes in the functioning of the Five Eyes intelligence alliance (U.S., UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand), and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), which, following the UK's accession in February 2023, gained global reach and centers on strategic cooperation among the UK, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, and Japan. The UK is also developing a sixth-generation fighter jet program with Japan. In the future, the cooperation between the renewed NAFTA economic bloc (U.S., Canada, Mexico) and the CPTPP, which originated from Obama's TPP initiative (and was abandoned by Trump), will be crucial.

The project's objectives in the international-strategic area will be achieved through study visits to the UK, U.S., Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, during which structured in-depth interviews will be conducted with representatives of academic, analytical, and political communities responsible for strategic debates, as well as participation in academic conferences. The project will also include organizing expert seminars, either online or in-person in Poland, with the participation of the

aforementioned expert communities from Anglosphere states. The ultimate goal in this regard is to establish a permanent Polish expert consultation network with Anglosphere countries.

In theoretical terms, the project aims to verify the assumptions of the imperial devolution model for studying Anglosphere cooperation, examined in the context of the emancipation policies of British settler colonies and the UK's European policy from 2011–2015, as part of the NCN project No. N N116 712540, titled *The Impact of Devolution on the United Kingdom's European Policy – From Imperial to Post-Imperial Solutions*, conducted by a research team led by Prof. Dr. Hab. F. Gołembski (P. Biskup as the main researcher: P. Biskup (ed.), *The Impact of Devolution on the United Kingdom's European Policy*, Warsaw 2015).