

2 PhD Studentships in Innovation Studies

The Manchester Institute of Innovation Research at the Manchester Business School offers two scholarships commencing September 2010 to undertake postgraduate research leading to a PhD within the project *Understanding Public Procurement for Innovation*. Supervisors will be Professor Jakob Edler (project lead), Professor Luke Georghiou (project lead) and Dr Elvira Uyarra.

The aim of the 2-year project is to analyse rigorously how the public demand for goods and services in the UK is currently influencing innovation behaviour of suppliers and supply chains – and how this can be improved. It seeks to understand how demand is articulated and transmitted and how policy instruments may be used more effectively and with increased reach to business, including SMEs. The project will aim to get inside procurement decisions to understand why public sector buyers are often risk-averse and to identify the skills needed to handle buying an innovative solution. A particular interest is to show how this approach could work in a supply chain as this can be the only way that smaller companies with more flexible ideas can get a share of large contracts. Key methods used will be ethnographic case studies and a broad industry survey. The project is supported through the UK Innovation Research Centre initiative which is funded by the ESRC, BIS, NESTA and the Technology Strategy Board.

The PHD research within the project offers ample opportunities for methodological development both qualitative and quantitative and allows the holders of the studentships to work within a topic that is currently a focus of innovation studies globally. We expect the awardees to develop their own intellectual agenda within the broad remit of the project's aims and objectives and to be a part of a vibrant research group situated in a world-class research institute.

Manchester Business School Postgraduate Research Programme has been rated number 1 in the Financial Times' doctoral programme ranking for the second year running (2008 and 2009). The programme offers targeted research training in specific research skills whilst the School offers opportunities for involvement in the engagement activities of the Revans Academy based within MBS which provides the hub for the world-wide action learning community of academics and practitioners. The candidate will be encouraged to participate in the Academy's activities, as well as with the School's programmes of academic seminars and workshops in areas cognate to the project. The PhD students will be fully involved in the research and doctoral activities of the MIoIR and the MBS.

Funding: The three-year award covers Home tuition fee of £3,500 plus an annual stipend of £13,290 and a £750 research training grant per annum.

Eligibility: UK and EU applicants are invited and should have a First or Upper Second Class Honours degree or equivalent in a related discipline, and have obtained, or expect to complete by autumn 2010, a Masters qualification from an ESRC-recognised research training course or a Masters degree which includes a substantial research element or equivalent professional research experience.

Applicants must meet the entry criteria for the MBS doctoral programme and ESRC academic and residential eligibility criteria (please refer to ESRC Guidance Notes for Applicants).

The application must be made by submitting an application online for PhD Business and Management programme, specifying the MIoIR Innovation Research Centre scholarship and including a proposal for research in the broad area of the project. The criteria for selection will include potential for research, quality of the proposal and selection interviews will be held. Please refer to www.mbs.ac.uk/postgraduateresearch for details of the application process.

Deadline for submission of application: 26 March 2010

Informal enquiries may be addressed to Professor Jakob Edler Jakob.Edler@mbs.ac.uk about the research project and to Kate Barker Kate.Barker@mbs.ac.uk about the MIoIR doctoral training.