Centre for Vocational Education Research

PhD Studentship

University of Sheffield – Department of Economics

The Department of Economics comprises around 33 full-time academic staff, 12 support staff, and a strong cohort of post-doctoral Research Associates and PhD students, all housed in a newly refurbished departmental building close to the centre of Sheffield. We are seeking a PhD student to undertake research within the Centre for Vocational Education Research (CVER: http://cver.lse.ac.uk), funded by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

You will join the CVER research team at the University of Sheffield, led by Professor Steven McIntosh. Your PhD research will combine education economics and applied econometrics to make use of large scale administrative data from learners, education and training providers, and businesses.

Applicants must have successfully completed, or be close to completing, an MSc degree in Economics, or a masters degree with a high Economics content, from a UK university or have a comparable international qualification from a recognised institute of higher education. You should have experience of data handling and quantitative methods, specifically microeconometric methods, preferably using STATA. While some familiarity of the academic literature and policy in the area of UK and EU vocational education is strongly desirable, this is not essential.

The successful applicant will have their PhD fees paid at the appropriate rate for 3 years and will also receive an annual tax-free maintenance stipend at the standard UK Research Council rate (£14,296 in 2016/17) over this period.

Applicants should send a letter of application setting out why they should be considered for the post to Professor Steven McIntosh (s.mcintosh@sheffield.ac.uk).

Before sending a letter of application, applicants must also submit a formal application for a place on the department’s PhD programme. Details of how to apply online for a PhD place can be found at: www.sheffield.ac.uk/postgraduate/research/apply

Your PhD application will need to include:

(i) Academic transcripts for your previous degrees;
(ii) Two academic references;
(iii) A summary of a research project that you have undertaken, for example a masters dissertation. The summary should include a discussion of the methodology used, the results and the implications of the findings.
(iv) English language proficiency certificate for students whose first language is not English; the minimum requirement is IELTS 6.5 with no component less than 6.0, or equivalent.

Note that there is no need to provide a research proposal with this application. The exact topic of your research within the area of vocational education will be discussed and agreed after you start.

Further information:
Any enquiries should be directed to Professor Steven McIntosh (s.mcintosh@sheffield.ac.uk)
Closing date: Wednesday 18th May 2016; expected interview dates: week beginning Monday 23rd May.

The University of Sheffield offers a full training and professional development programme for PhD students. Training can be advanced level discipline-specific (for example advanced econometrics), more general training for social science researchers (for example research ethics), or provision of general professional skills (for example time management or teamworking skills). Most commonly, students engage in all three types of training. PhD students’ training needs are assessed at the start of each year, and their individual-specific training programme devised.

The University of Sheffield is part of an ESRC-funded Doctoral Training Centre (DTC) together with the universities of Leeds and York, called the White Rose DTC. This offers further training opportunities as well as collaboration potential, across the three universities.