PhD project title
Management in the non-profit sector

Supervisors
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Research centre
IWP

Project description
The proposed PhD project explores management issues within the non-profit sector with the aim of deepening our understanding on how management science can contribute to strengthening organisations engaged with social change and transformation.

Mainstream management thinking has pervaded the non-profit sector, and its language and practices have become part and parcel of everyday work in charities, cooperatives, NGOs and other organisations committed to social and economic transformation. Non-profit management literature is predominantly made up of contributions that assume that more and better management is needed for non-profit organisations to strengthen their position in and contribution to societies. However, a small yet growing body of research invites us to scrutinise the uncritical adoption of management models in the non-profit sector. Central to the critiques found in this literature is the idea that, rather than strengthening organisations as advocated by policy makers and mainstream management literature, increased pressure toward a market orientation and its associated business-like approaches is actually undermining non-profit organisations’ engagement with social transformation agendas.

The PhD would explore this literature and these issues in a practical context and could be focused on NGOs, charities, social enterprises, foundations and other types of organisations in a variety of contexts.

PhD candidate profile
The PhD candidate should meet the following requirements:
- Be enthusiastic, well-organised and have good inter-personal skills.
- High motivation and a keen interest in the research area.
- A first degree that is equivalent to a UK classification of upper second class honours or above. In addition, a good masters level qualification of merit or above, with a minimum of 60 per cent in the dissertation, research project element or equivalent experience. We also accept an MBA from an accredited school where the candidate can demonstrate that a significant research element has been undertaken. For further information on entry requirements, please see: http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/management/study/researchdegrees/howtoapply

Duration and start dates
Full or part time study for 3 or 6 years is available, and remote location study is also possible. We have two start dates a year for PhD students. Our preferred start date is 1 October, however we do recognise that not everyone will be able to commence studies at that time, so we also offer a second start date of 1 February. If you are unable to start in October or February, it may be also possible to start your PhD at a different time of the year.

Closing date for applications
Applications will be considered until a suitable candidate has been identified. For the 1 October start date, a full application must have been received by 15 July. For 1 February start date, a full application must have been received by 15 November.
How to apply
See http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/management/study/researchdegrees/howtoapply for full details of how to apply

For an informal discussion about this opportunity, please contact Emanuela Girei at e.girei@sheffield.ac.uk, or Diane Burns at d.burns@sheffield.ac.uk.