International Doctoral Programme Sheffield University
Management School & Kobe University, Japan

The International Doctoral Programme provides an opportunity for excellent PhD students to benefit from cross-cultural experience. Students spend time studying at both Sheffield University Management School (UK) and Kobe University (Japan), and benefit from supervision at each. Upon graduation, students will be awarded PhDs from the University of Sheffield and Kobe University.

Project Description:

Glocalisation and Translation of Management Practices & Organisational Knowledge

While globalisation has increasingly led to an economic and industrial homogenization, Japan continues to maintain resilience to manufacturing business partly because of its challenges to these ubiquitous dynamics and its approach to glocalisation. Having originated from the concept of ‘dochakuka’, glocalisation refers to the applied local character and regional strengths aimed at enhancing global competitiveness. However, such glocalised management practices have not been sufficiently translated beyond Japan. This studentship is designed to explore the ways in which norms, value systems and codes of conducts in Japan have shaped the practices, while examining how their organisational knowledge can be translated and applied in a different socio-cultural context.

The study also examines the research methods and practices used to translate glocalised management practices and organizational knowledge. Potential topics might include but are not limited to:

1. Megaproject Management

Japan has had a number of ‘megaprojects’, including its future High-Speed Rail project. However, little has been known regarding how megaprojects are planned, managed and actually delivered. We will welcome proposal exploring this management process and how the issue of risk, cost, innovation, and sustainability have been dealt with in its social context in Japan.

This project will be supervised by Dr. Chantal C. Cantarelli and Dr Andrew Brint in Emerging Technology Supply Chain Research Centre and Dr Naoko Komori in the Centre for Research into Accounting and Finance in Context. This project underpins its objective to explore of the theoretical and practical interdisciplinary challenges faced by industry in integrated business and society. The examination in Japan helps understand the following points in a different political, socio-cultural context: how the factors of risk, cost/finance, uncertainty, flexibility are managed; and the factors and processes that have created the gap between the plan and actual delivery.

2. Innovating for Sustainable Agriculture: Learning from Japanese methodology

While the innovative nature of Japanese management practices is well-known in the corporate sector (e.g. JIT, Total Quality Management, Lean Production), little is known how these are translated in the agriculture sector and how they shape farming practices and sustainable food supply chains. The country has some innovative philosophers who has inspired the global movement to natural farming. We will welcome proposals that aim to explore how these philosophies are
emerged and constructed the nature of Japanese agricultural practices, how these are changing under the influence of globalization, while helping achieve Sustainable Development Goals. The innovative nature of Japanese management practices is well-known in the corporate sector (e.g. JIT, Total Quality Management, Lean Production), yet little is known how these are translated in the agriculture sector and shaping their farming practices to shape sustainable food supply chains.

This project will be supervised by Dr Sanjay Lanka, Prof Frank Birkin and Dr Naoko Komori in the Centre for Research into Accounting and Finance in Context.

**Application Process:**

Applicants should submit a 1000 word research proposal which directly addresses the theme and/or specific topic to which they are applying. The proposal should contain a brief background to the topic, which demonstrates knowledge of existing work in the field, and potential contributions to knowledge. It should also explain the proposed research methods and include a plan of the research, and a timeline.

We are seeking applications from exceptional UK/EU/International students with an outstanding academic record (distinction/high merit or equivalent) as well as a proven record in research training. Scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis - applications are assessed on the basis of academic success and qualifications, experience, research background, a clear well-articulated research proposal, the potential impact of the research and a good match with supervisor/departmental expertise.

Closing date for applications is 17.00 (UK time) on Friday 7th December. Interviews will be held week commencing 7th January 2019.

**Funding Notes:**

These scholarship is offered on a full-time basis for three years from 1st February 2019 subject to satisfactory progress. It will provide a tax free bursary of £14,777 and cover the University tuition fees for UK/EU/international students.