PhD Project: Productivity, Policy and Place

Research Group: Centre for Regional Economic and Enterprise Development (CREED)

CREED is an interdisciplinary research centre based within Sheffield University Management School which undertakes international research into entrepreneurship and enterprise, small business and regional economic development. Our work analyses the institutional dynamics of economic development, by examining how regulation, norms and culture shape enterprise and entrepreneurship.

Project Description:

This studentship exploring Productivity, Policy and Place, is based at the Centre for Regional Economic and Enterprise Development (CREED), which is leading the ESRC funded Productivity Insights Network with which the studentship is associated. The appointed person will become an active member of the team, undertaking their PhD research and engaging in associated projects.

Productivity is one of the most important concepts in social science research. Productivity reflects how resources and factors are utilized in the production of goods and services, including all of the interactions with, and roles played by, the market, technological, institutional and cultural settings. National productivity is the observable outcome of all economic relationships operating between people, firms, organisations and institutions.

While the specific research questions will be developed by the successful candidate in conjunction with the supervisory team, potential questions might include but are not limited to:

- What institutional factors influence the productivity of firms between different places and sectors, and why?
- What is the role of business support in fostering the growth and productivity of small and micro-businesses?
- How does the leadership and management of small firms effect their growth and productivity?
- What is the impact of employee relations on the growth and productivity of small and micro-businesses, and why?
- How do the capabilities and capacity of firms to innovate effect their growth and productivity across different places and sectors?
- What is the role of national and regional policy in supporting the growth and productivity of small and micro-businesses?

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 2018. Interviews will be held week commencing 7th January 2019.

**Proposed Supervision Team:**

The supervisory team may include two of the following academics: Dr. Chay Brooks, Prof. Philip McCann, Prof. Tim Vorley, and Dr. Robert Wapshott. The selection of supervisors would depend on which project(s) is pursued and staff availability.

**Funding Notes:**

This scholarship is offered on a full-time basis from February 2019 for three years 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.