

Announcement for PhD fellowships at Bodø University College, Norway / Ruhuna University

Ruhuna University (RU), Sri Lanka and Bodø University College (BUC), Norway have been granted funding for 4 PhD fellowships by the Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Higher Education (SIU). SIU is an administrative agency under the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research (KD). SIU offers master (NOMA) and PhD (NUFU) fellowships.

The granted NUFU project aims at strengthening entrepreneurial skills and identifying entrepreneurial opportunities in the southern province of Sri Lanka. It does so by building upon local knowledge and opportunities. At the societal level, entrepreneurship is about creating new job opportunities and upgrading living standards. An investigation will be conducted in order to explore the level of entrepreneurship in Sri Lanka and to pinpoint the conditions and opportunities for entrepreneurship. At the business-level; entrepreneurship is about developing new products and services as well as creating new markets for such new products. One such a new product could be based on ornamental fish or consumable fish. There will be research linked to this biotechnology. Furthermore, it would be interesting to know how these new products could be positioned in the European market for ornamental fish or fish products. Other issues that could be researched are; how cultural differences between Europe (Norway) and Asia (Sri Lanka) influence trade relations or investigate the conditions for public sector reforms. Lack of knowledge regarding cultural differences influence on the ability to build efficient trade relations, and the conditions for public sector reforms affect the society's ability to embrace change.

Objectives:

1. To strengthen Business Studies research at UR within the fields of entrepreneurship, management, marketing, finance, accounting or strategy.
2. To produce local knowledge related to entrepreneurial opportunities in Sri Lanka.
3. To increase trade relations between Sri Lanka and Norway in a mutually beneficial way.
4. To provide “Asian exposure” for Norwegian students and staff.
5. To provide “European exposure” for Sri Lankan students and staff.

Research description:

Several topics will be addressed during the NUFU period. Entrepreneurship in Sri Lanka will be studied by one PhD student. During this work, Global Entrepreneurship Monitor investigation is to be launched in Sri Lanka as to compare the conditions for entrepreneurship there with more than 30 other countries (www.gemconsortium.org).

Likewise, issues related to utilization of local opportunities in an entrepreneurial way will be addressed. One such contribution to job creation in Sri Lanka could be the biotechnology related to farming of ornamental or food fish. A PhD addressing this

issue from a natural science point of view would add to the local knowledge and expertise regarding how such operations should be conducted in a Sri Lankan context.

Furthermore, in order to exploit these new opportunities, there is a need for knowledge regarding how such food or ornamental fish could be marketed and sold in the European markets. Likewise, addressing the conditions for public sector reforms allows an understanding of the potential for necessary changes in order to reap the full benefit from the entrepreneurial opportunities discovered by this initiative. These issues could be apprehended from a management, marketing, finance, accounting or strategy perspectives.

We then offer these PhD fellowship positions now:

1. Business Studies with focus on entrepreneurship,
2. Fishery studies with focus on fish farming /fish products
3. Business Studies with focus on management, marketing, finance, accounting or strategy.

Requirements:

The PhD candidate should have already obtained an MSc in a relevant discipline.

Fluency in written and spoken English is required.

Selected applicants are supposed to participate in international scientific research conferences and in PhD courses. The PhD has to be finished within 3 years time.

PhD Candidates are supposed to work hard and to be dedicated to their studies during the period of fellowship.

Timeline:

Three of the PhDs starts in autumn 2007 (Entrepreneurship, Fish farming/fish products and Business Studies with focus on management, marketing, finance, accounting or strategy) and the fourth one in Business Studies with focus on management, marketing, finance, accounting or strategy is scheduled to start autumn 2008.

All research fellows except the one in fish farming/fish products are to be enrolled in the PhD studies at Bodø Graduate School of Business from September 2007. In the first year of the study programme, PhD candidates will stay in Bodø to search literature, complete PhD course work and to determine the content of his or her PhD project. The PhD candidates will stay in Ruhuna doing field work and writing further on your thesis during the second year. The third (last) year is divided between Bodø and Ruhuna finishing the PhD. The PhD in fish farming will be enrolled initially at the University of Bergen. The period of work between Bodø and Ruhuna for the fish farming/fish product PhD will vary from the other PhDs, depending on the scientific studies with the live animals.

Offers:

We will offer you three supervisors. Your main supervisor will be from Bodø and your local supervisor will be from Ruhuna. The third supervisor could be from Bodø,

Ruhuna or elsewhere. You will be provided necessary office facilities, travel and research budgets, access to literature and a network of researchers.

When you are in Sri Lanka, your research grant will be as same as your salary by being an employee at Ruhuna. (You are not supposed to do any work other than your research during the PhD period). As the living cost in Norway is high, you will be paid 8.000 NOK per month while in Norway.

How to apply:

Your application can be sent by e-mail to vc@admin.ruh.ac.lk and hbb@hibo.no.

Your application will consist of:

- A CV that lists undergraduate and graduate institutions from which you have received or will receive an academic degree, your professional qualifications, memberships in professional associates, titles and dates of published works (if any), special projects that you have participated in and that include a list of all employment experience in reverse chronological order.
- Certified copies of bachelor and master degree certificate with grades and marks.
- 2 referee reports from two senior academics.
- A covering letter

Your covering letter should clearly indicate which PhD you aim for

- Business Studies with focus on entrepreneurship,
- Business Studies with focus on management, marketing, accounting, finance or strategy.
- Fish farming

Likewise, the covering letter should give a description of the goals that you are pursuing by participate in this PhD program, and how your work could contribute toward an entrepreneurial region in the south of Sri Lanka (200-250 words).

Your application should reach us on or before 1st of May 2007.

N.B. SIU prefers to offer these scholarships to 2 females and 2 males.

For further information, please contact

Bjoern.willy.aamo@hibo.no or Chamara.Kuruppu@hibo.no

For the position in fish farming contact person is kiron.viswanath@hibo.no