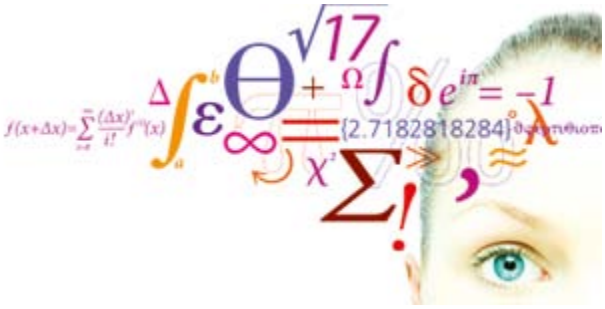
PhD scholarship in Eco-innovation dynamics in the energy area – new perspectives in innovation studies



The Department of Management Engineering at the Technical University of Denmark invites applications for a PhD position with start 1 October 2011 and for a period of three years.

The Department intends to intensify its research about innovation system dynamics in the areas of energy innovation, eco-innovation and sustainability. One of the major efforts in this direction is the "EIS – Strategic research alliance for Energy Innovation Systems and their dynamics" which contains a number of PhD projects and other research projects that all create new knowledge about the energy innovation systems in Denmark, seen as part of an international context.

The aim is to critically assess the characteristics and dynamics of the energy innovation systems and their efficiency of moving towards the long-term societal goal of renewable and sustainable future energy systems. Moreover, it is a goal to assess to what extent the ambitious societal plans and agendas about green growth, competitiveness and innovation for sustainability are realistic.

Job description
The PhD project shall investigate eco-innovation dynamics with energy innovation as exemplifying area.

In recent years a row of new conceptualisations of innovation in connection with the climate and sustainability challenges have appeared, attempting to unify environmental and economic goals. Besides 'eco-innovation', related concepts as e.g. 'sustainable innovation', 'green growth', 'green economy' also appear. The aim of the project is hence to analyse whether and how energy innovation activities reflect such new conceptual frameworks.

The project is expected to empirically draw on a number of existing studies of energy innovation dynamics and to build up new empirical knowledge in relation to energy efficiency in buildings. Through the analyses it is the intention that the project shall contribute to the further theoretical and conceptual discussion of eco-innovation.

It is a hypothesis for the project that energy innovation can be seen as part of a new paradigm of innovation (eco-innovation) that differs from traditional innovation by having a more pronounced or advanced way of including environmental, climate and sustainability perspectives. The differences appear both concerning the set of actors involved in the specific contents and organisation of the innovation activities (e.g. in the specialisation in the value chains) and in the political support and legitimation of the activities.

As part of the EIS research alliance you will work in the Department's Section for Innovation Systems and Foresight. Supervision will be provided by senior staff in the section. Moreover, advice and feedback can be expected from other scientists in the EIS alliance, from PhD colleagues, and from relevant user organisations. Active participation in the PhD network and PhD course in EIS is part of the job.

Qualifications
Candidates must have a Master's degree in social science or engineering or a similar degree with an academic level equivalent to the master's degree in engineering. Moreover, they should:

- Demonstrate knowledge in innovation studies
- Show an interest in developing the conceptualisation of eco-innovation within a broader framework of innovation theory / evolutionary economics
- Be interested in both qualitative and quantitative innovation analyses
- Be interested in and capable of communicating and discussing knowledge about eco-innovation and energy innovation systems with EIS colleagues, with other scientist, as well as with relevant practitioners and policy makers
- Be proficient in English
- Have good grades – a weighted average of at least 8 (7 grade scale) in addition to a high grade on the Master's thesis (10 or 12).

We offer
We offer an exciting and challenging job in an international environment with a good team spirit and good possibilities for professional and personal growth. We are a family-friendly organisation with flexible working hours.

Approval and Enrolment
The scholarship is subject to academic approval, and the candidate will be enrolled in the Department's PhD school. For information about the general requirements for enrolment and the general planning of the scholarship studies, please see the DTU PhD Guide.

Salary and appointment terms
The salary and appointment terms are consistent with the current rules for PhD degree students. The period of employment is 3 years.

Further information
Further information may be obtained from Senior Researcher Mads Borup, phone (+45) 4525 4530, mabo@man.dtu.dk or Senior Researcher Maj Munch Andersen, mmua@man.dtu.dk, phone (+45) 4525 4532 or (+45) 2814 9846. Due to summer holidays there will be periods of July where contact is not possible.

Application
We must have your online application by **4 August 2011**. Apply online HERE.Please open the link "apply for this job online", fill in the online application form and attach the following documents;

- A letter motivating the application (cover letter)
- Curriculum vitae
- Grade transcripts and BSc/MSc diploma
- Excel sheet with translation of grades to the Danish grading system (see guidelines and excel spreadsheet here)

Candidates may apply prior to obtaining their Master's degree, but cannot begin before having received it.

All interested candidates irrespective of age, gender, disability, race, religion or ethnic background are encouraged to apply.

DTU Management Engineering carries out research, education and dissemination of knowledge within the fields of planning, innovation and management. The Department comprises a staff of 235 persons. Every term, 3000 students are enrolled at courses taught by the Department. The EIS alliance has contributions from ten universities and research institutions in Denmark and abroad. It is funded by the Danish Council for Strategic Research and the involved research institutions. See more on www.man.dtu.dk and www.eis-all.dk.