

Large-scale EU project Innovation Incubator Lüneburg

Sub-measure 1.4 Leuphana Graduate School

Profile paper for the position of Visiting Research Professor for entrepreneurship in regional enterprises in the convergence region of Lüneburg (W-2/W-3)

1. Designation

The W-2/W-3 position has been designated as a research-oriented professorship in the following field:

Entrepreneurship in regional enterprises (W-2/W-3)

The position is limited to a maximum period of four semesters. Applicants should have a proven international track record in research.

2. Large-scale project Innovation Incubator Lüneburg and allocation of the position to sub-measure 1.4 Leuphana Graduate School

The Innovation Incubator, developed by the Leuphana University of Lüneburg and the German Federal State of Lower Saxony, is a project that is unique in Europe. Over the next six years, with an investment volume of around EUR 100m, it will jump-start regional economic development through innovative research cooperation, cutting-edge training and development measures in College, Graduate School and Professional School as well as through infrastructure measures. The Innovation Incubator is funded by the European Fund for Regional Development (EFRE) and the German Federal State of Lower Saxony. The Graduate School of the Leuphana University of Lüneburg is a permanent institution, which was established with a view to strengthening the research capacity within the region through two essential channels: firstly, through the master's and PhD students, and secondly, through the Visiting Research Professors, who will be recruited internationally.

To increase the research capacity within the region, the Leuphana Graduate School is advertising four positions for Research Professors as part of its sub-measure of the Innovation Incubator Lüneburg. The Professors will act as an interface between the regional economy and Graduate School students by harnessing their research expertise and international profile for the region. In return, the close cooperation with the regional economy is expected to enhance the practical focus of selected study elements and/or programs of the Graduate School. The training that is based on this application-oriented research will have a long-term effect on the region's innovation capacity.

The Visiting Professors, who will be recruited internationally, will have an economically oriented approach and explore issues that are of practical relevance to the region. In addition, the Visiting Professors will be responsible for identifying high-potential candidates among the master's and PhD students and promote their project studies and practice-oriented theses/dissertations with a regional focus.

The Visiting Professors will not be involved in academic lecturing. Instead, they will provide individual research advice to master's and PhD students within their respective academic field and be able to offer application-oriented research colloquiums. An additional aim is to develop new relevant study formats for the Graduate School, such as special career services, integrated practice formats or new research-led teaching projects, in collaboration with individual private and state enterprises within the region. Furthermore, the Visiting Professors will initiate joint research projects and conferences together with private and state enterprises and offer them scientific project consultancy.

3. Profile for the position of Visiting Research Professor

3.1 General profile

The Visiting Research Professor will act as a knowledge transfer interface between companies and students within the sub-measure. This will enable him/her to identify highly qualified students and PhD candidates – ideally stipend holders – and support them in preparing their seminar papers and final projects. At the same time, a network will be established between these high-potential candidates and the cooperation partners of the regional economy and/or state enterprises to identify opportunities for knowledge and technology transfer. The aim is to place a maximum number of Graduate School students in the regional labor market once they have completed their studies. At the same time, the Visiting Research Professor will be expected to link his/her own research activities to those of the regional cooperation partners, initiating joint research and consultancy projects (in which the students can participate). Another relevant responsibility of the Visiting Research Professor will be to identify and develop new practice-oriented study formats for the Leuphana Graduate School, with a view to enhancing the students' qualification in line with the requirements of regional companies.

Overall, the Visiting Professor will strengthen the research focus and international profile of the Graduate School and help to direct the focus of the master's and PhD programs toward the requirements of regional companies, thereby acting as an interface between economy and university.

3.2 Subject-specific profile for the position of Visiting Research Professor for entrepreneurship in regional enterprises

The Visiting Research Professor position is located within Faculty II (Economics, Behavioral Science and Law) and, more specifically, the Department of Business Administration; his/her work will support the science initiative "Management and Entrepreneurship." The Visiting Research Professor is expected to strengthen the research capacity, reputation and international networking within the field of business administration; the preferred focus of the Visiting Research Professor is in the area of "Innovation and Entrepreneurship" and should build on existing research activities at the Leuphana University.

3.3 Positioning of the research field of entrepreneurship in regional enterprises in a national and international context

The scientific process in the field of business administration has changed considerably in the last decade. Research productivity is measured less in terms of contributions to edited books and authoring of textbooks with a focus on German-speaking countries. Instead, scholars now have to demonstrate that they are active members of the international scientific community by presenting their academic work at international

scholarly conferences and publishing in internationally refereed journals. Furthermore, receiving external support for one's research from highly renowned funding agencies such as the German Research Foundation or the Volkswagen Foundation after having demonstrated first-class preliminary work. Foundations play an increasing role in institutional and individual research assessment exercises.

Apart from these "external" changes, there has been a growing pluralization of research strands in the field of business administration. While some researchers strive for a closer link to economic theories, others favor ties to neighboring disciplines such as sociology, cultural studies, political science or psychology. The research field of the Visiting Research Professor – in entrepreneurship – has developed rapidly over the last decades, featuring both heterogeneous and interdisciplinary research approaches. At the core of entrepreneurship research are psychological and socio-economic processes of identifying and exploiting (business) opportunities leading to the creation and diffusion of innovations. These innovations become the driving force for individual, organizational and social dynamism.

The research topics of the Visiting Research Professor could relate to the following areas:

- Business start-ups and business growth,
- Innovation strategies, structures and processes of small and medium-sized companies,
- Intrapreneurship and strategic change,
- Innovation diffusion and knowledge brokering,
- Management of knowledge-intensive companies,
- Internationalization of regional companies,
- Entrepreneurship in regional and entrepreneurial networks
- Mechanisms of theory-practice transfer.

In addition to conducting an active research program in one or more of the above mentioned research areas, the Visiting Research Professor should have broad experience in the use of either quantitative or qualitative research methods.

4. Equipment and allocation of funds

The Visiting Professor will be provided with an office equipped to a high standard. In addition, he/she will have access to material resources as well as funds for translations and extensive funds for the establishment of a technical reference library. Each Professor will be provided with a research assistant based on 20 hours per week. The project team of the sub-measure, consisting of 3.25 full-time positions, will provide additional support with the integration into the EU project and the operational implementation of the results mentioned above. There is an administrator in charge of office and financial management.

5. Employment criteria

The profile for the Visiting Professor position can be summarized as follows:

- PhD in the relevant disciplines
- The criteria for the appointment of professors according to the provisions of the Lower Saxony Higher Education Act (NHG) apply
- Proven track record of research in the Visiting Professor's given fields based on relevant publications

- Experience in knowledge transfer and/or non-university cooperation

6. Financing

The (international) position of Visiting Research Professor will be financed through funds from the EU Innovation Incubator project. Subject to confirmation of funding, the professorship will be financed for a maximum of two years.

7. Equal opportunities for male and female scholars

The Leuphana University of Lüneburg sees the implementation of the equal opportunities policy as an integral quality and profile element of teaching, research, transfer, organizational and personnel development. The Leuphana University of Lüneburg aims to increase the percentage of female employees, and applications from women are therefore particularly encouraged.

8. Employment

The Visiting Professor position is available with immediate effect.

9. Applications

Applications should be sent to the Vice President Prof. Dr. Müller-Rommel, Graduate School, Scharnhorststr. 1, D-21335 Lüneburg/Germany. Please send e-mail applications to petra.dehm@inkubator.leuphana.de. The deadline for applications is September 20, 2010.