RADMA
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

Call for Doctoral Studies Applications

Deadline: 28 February 2017

RADMA (Research and Development Management) has issued a call for proposals under its Doctoral Studies award programme. The award provides up to three years funding to talented prospective or mid-study PhD students, offering an opportunity to concentrate on the studentship for the period of the award. The expectation is that candidates will have a Masters degree in a relevant field or an excellent first degree or equivalent. Candidates will be expected to complete yearly progress reports and to make a copy of their thesis available to RADMA upon its completion.

Applications are welcome across the breadth of the research and development management discipline. RADMA particularly encourages applications that explore important relevant issues or further understanding in the following areas:

1. Management and exploitation of scientific and technological activity within firms and public bodies;
2. Determinants of organisation-level performance in research, development, product design and innovation;
3. The interaction of organisation-wide processes such as strategy formulation and human resources with R&D;
4. The relationship between organisation-level activities and performance, and national and regional innovation systems or technology, science and industrial policies

For example:

- **Drawing lessons from the divergent forms of globalisation model in R&D**. A form of globalisation of R&D has been occurring alongside globalisation more generally. Looking at successful companies reveals quite different levels of R&D globalisation even in companies which are global in other ways. For example, Apple has a concentrated its R&D efforts in California, with its first non-US R&D activities only starting in 2012. Siemens, however, has numerous research centres around the world. Such a PhD would seek to help make sense of the contrasting models of R&D globalisation being pursued and identify what lessons can be drawn.
- **Where new technologies demand new forms of R&D practice.** The management of R&D is connected to the type of R&D being undertaken. Many of the accepted practices in R&D management had their origins in the large military and industrial engineering companies of the twentieth century. We are currently seeing the emergence of new technologies in many fields. The nature of these technologies may demand radical changes to R&D management practices. Such a PhD would look at how the distinctive features of a distinct and specific new technology are leading to correspondingly new R&D management practices.
- **Psychology and sociology of R&D – individual cognition and shared mental maps in the**

innovation process. Despite the level of formalisation often put in place around innovation processes, most innovation remains dependent on individual problem solving set in the context of teams. Such a PhD would look at the psychology or sociology of innovation and the cutting edge techniques being used in neuro science and/or behavioural economics.

- **How does public and private funding interact in the real world of corporate R&D?** Regional, national and multinational agencies are taking a major role in financing firm-level innovation. The rationale is often that R&D is subject to market failure and public funding is required to supplement firm-level funding which would otherwise be less than optimal. Such research is normally required to be 'pre-competitive' and exceptionally risky. In practice, firms tend to design R&D around the funding available, and also continue to fund their own R&D. The rationale for public funding may not be clear cut. Such a PhD would look at the co-existence of public and private R&D financing, getting beneath the surface of the strategies that are played out in practice.
- **Typologies of innovation strategy.** While mainstream management academia is awash with typologies and 'generic strategies' there have been relatively few such approaches in the innovation world. Beyond rather simple axes such as leader/follower, there is a relatively sparse language with which to provide insights into the distinctive ways in which different firms approach innovation. Such a PhD would look at the possibility of simple yet insightful typologies or models by which firms can debate, explain and formulate their approach to innovation.

RADMA is keen to see an impact on practice. Applicants for PhD studentships are encouraged to involve industrial collaboration or sponsorship ('industrial' includes private and public sector practice).

To be eligible for funding candidates must be accepted for PhD study at a UK university and must not be in their writing up year. Applications must be supported by the candidate's PhD supervisor. Awards will be granted to and administered through the institution, not individual candidates.

The award will cover costs related to fees and specified living expenses up to a maximum of £18,000 per academic year (pro-rata for part time students; partial funding is a possibility) and conditional upon the receipt of acceptable annual progress reports.

Applications and associated documentation can be downloaded from the RADMA website at http://www.radma.ltd.uk/funding-opportunities