



## **Regional Innovation Systems (ref. PHD015 & PHD016)**

Applications are invited from students interested in studying for a PhD in the area of regional innovation systems

Pressures on innovation and competitiveness from the forces of globalisation have paradoxically brought about *increased* focus on the importance of regional factors as a key and sustainable source of industrial advancement.

Regional economies can enhance and support the innovative capacity of individual firms through external advantages. These advantages include the development of a specialised labour pools, inter-firm learning, access to local institutions and the upgrading impact of sophisticated local buyers, suppliers and competitors. Strong regional capabilities provide a platform for strong global competitors.

The regional innovation systems approach suggests that innovation by firms should not be explored at the level of the discrete actions of individual firms, but needs to also consider the interactions between firms and their external environment. These external conditions are a key influence on the generation and diffusion of knowledge by firms.

We are interested broadly in exploring the regional aspects of the dynamics of technical change, focussing on the role of regional actors and institutions in providing for the emergence of social capital, trust, norms, interactive learning processes and embedded capabilities to support firm innovative capacity and competitiveness. Specific research projects may be at the level of industrial policy aspects, on characteristics of regional innovation systems, or aspects of innovative behaviour of firms within a regional innovation system.

Students should have completed a Master's degree in a related area such as management, economics, commerce, sociology or social policy.

Salary: €16,000 in addition to fees and travel expenses

Informal enquiries about this position may be made to Dr Rachel Hilliard, CISC, NUI Galway. Email: [rachel.hilliard@nuigalway.ie](mailto:rachel.hilliard@nuigalway.ie) Tel: +353 (0) 91 492932 or Dr Paul Ryan, CISC, NUI Galway. Email: [paul.a.ryan@nuigalway.ie](mailto:paul.a.ryan@nuigalway.ie) Tel: +353 (0)91 492020

### **Application Procedure**

Applicants should submit a covering letter, full CV and the names and addresses of at least three and not more than five referees by post or email to: Tara Cosgrave, CISC, Cairnes Business School, National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland.

Email: [cisc@nuigalway.ie](mailto:cisc@nuigalway.ie) Tel: +353 (0)91 492817

Closing date for receipt of applications is Friday, November 30th 2007.

