LSSI Post Graduate Research Student Placement Opportunity

An exciting opportunity has arisen for a PGR student to work with the Leeds City Council and the Leeds Innovation District.

Innovation exists across the city; it is present in the traditional office core where law firms and financial services companies are adopting technology to transform their businesses, and in the Enterprise Zone where robotics and technologies are changing the face of manufacturing and logistics.

While innovation can be found across the economy, there is a natural nucleus in the north of the city centre, where major universities sit alongside one of the largest teaching hospitals in the country, and where new research talent is co-located with innovation space for high growth businesses.

This clustering has emerged as the focus of ambitions from the incumbent institutions to establish and foster an Innovation District, a model that has been proven as a driver of growth in key cities across the globe and which has been identified as an opportunity to focus economic policy and spatial interventions that can harness this growth potential for Leeds and the city region.

Details of the placement

In the context of Leeds City Council’s focus on inclusive growth, and the ambition to develop a compassionate city within a strong economy, Leeds City Council are interested in developing the following:

1. A benchmarking quantitative analysis of the city’s innovation assets and outputs, which provides national and international comparisons and provides a template for future analysis to enable impact evaluation to be undertaken
2. An assessment of the networks and relationships that facilitate economic multiplier benefits that might derive from the Innovation District, in particular the exchange of knowledge and ideas between institutions and organisations
3. A qualitative analysis of the city’s human and social capital, with particular regard to the component populations of the Innovation District (institutions, ‘users’ and residents)
4. An objective review of the relevance of social and economic inclusion to the innovation agenda, with the development of proposals for innovation-driven inclusive growth, harnessing the latent human and social capital in the Innovation District, with reference to international examples

The proposed activity will enable the formation of evidence based policy, in particular in relation to regional industrial strategy and local economic policy.

Skills Required

- Qualitative and quantitative analysis experience
- Literature review skills
- Knowledge of the local industrial strategy and local economic policy
- Ability to work independently and meet deadlines
• A high level of interpersonal and communication skills, including the ability to communicate effectively with relevant stakeholder groups.

Benefits and skills developed for the student
An opportunity to work directly with policy makers across the local authority and practical experience of developing evidence based policies that impact communities.

The anticipated output is the development The Leeds Innovation District Strategic Regeneration Framework. This Framework will be in formation through 2020 and early 2021 and will provide a holistic analysis and policy response to the economic, social and spatial challenges and opportunities in the Innovation District.

Timetable:
130 hours in total beginning March – July 2020
Weekly hours flexible and to be agreed
Student will receive a bursary of £1950 to cover their time and expenses on the placement

If you are interested in applying for this placement position, please send:
  • CV
  • Cover Letter
  • Email or signature from your Supervisor that they are happy for you to undertake the placement

To LSSI Coordinator Hannah Crow H.E.Crow@leeds.ac.uk by 5pm on the 18th February 2020.