PhD studentship, 50%

The Institute of Economic Research (IRENE) at the Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Neuchâtel, invites applications for a PhD studentship (“assistant-e doctorant-e”). The position is located in Neuchâtel, Switzerland, which provides an inspiring working environment with excellent conditions for research.

Starting date: 01.10.2017, or by agreement

Contract duration: 4 years, renewable each year

Job description: The objective of the position is to write research papers in applied economics, combining theory and empirical analysis to inform the design of public policies, and ultimately earn a PhD in Economics. The successful candidate will work under the supervision of Prof. Daniel Kaufmann (www.dankaufmann.com) and is expected to conduct policy-relevant economic research in her/his area of interest. The PhD research topic will be selected during the first year, with mutual agreement between the candidate and the supervisor. As part of her/his doctoral work, the candidate will be required to complete core graduate training in economics (e.g. http://www.szgerzensee.ch/courses/doctoral/swiss-program/).

State funding for the PhD position is aimed at teaching assistant duties. Therefore, while the main focus of the position will be on research, the successful candidate will be asked to contribute to the economics teaching program of the University. The gross salary corresponds to 50% of the regulatory doctoral assistant salary at the University of Neuchâtel (https://www2.unine.ch/srh/page-37388.html), with six weeks of annual holidays. Application for external research funds to reach full-time salary will be actively supported.

As part of the Institute of Economic Research, the doctoral assistant will be asked to:
• Participate in teaching classes and organizing examinations;
• Collaborate to ongoing research projects within the Institute;
• Supervise students; and
• Participate to the academic activities of the Institute (e.g. attend seminar presentations).

Applicant profile: The candidate should have a master degree in economics, although exceptional candidates who hold a master degree in other social sciences (e.g. political science, sociology, psychology, with quantitative inclinations), in mathematics, physics, statistics, or engineering will also be considered. Candidates with thin background in economics will be expected to showcase substantial interest in applied economic research and might be required to take additional courses in economics and econometrics. The candidate will demonstrate a strong potential to produce high-quality research, which demands an excellent command of English. Knowledge of French is an advantage.
**Application procedure:** Applications should include a short cover letter, a CV (with at least two academic referees who could be contacted for reference letters), a 1-2 pages statement of motivation including research interests (we do not expect a thorough research proposal), a transcript of grades from the master, GRE scores (if available), and the candidate’s master dissertation. Please send your application as a single pdf file to pasqualina.lassagne@unine.ch with the subject name “PhD applied econ [your name].” Candidates who have not taken the GRE should be prepared to do so in fall 2017.

The deadline for applications is September 15, 2017. We will only consider complete applications, and will contact each of the considered applicants personally with the outcome of the review process.

For further information please contact Prof. Daniel Kaufmann (info@dankaufmann.com).