



# Seeking PhD candidates

## Entrepreneurial PhD

## Societal PhD

## Traditional PhD

*Are you seeking to make a difference?*

The Institut Mines Telecom Business School (IMTBS) is seeking 2 motivated PhD candidates to take up highly unique PhD positions under the supervision of A/Professor Todd Davey. You could pursue one of these three pathways: an 'Entrepreneurial PhD' (Entrepreneurial thesis and project), 'Societal PhD' (Societal impact thesis and project), or 'Traditional PhD' (Research thesis and project).

The selected people will be part of a major new knowledge-leadership initiative, including the development of new research in the field of regional innovation systems, the future of universities, university-industry collaboration, entrepreneurial universities, entrepreneurial ecosystems and entrepreneurial mindsets.

The successful candidates will be involved in the management and execution of European-funded projects for IMTBS, other research and outreach activities as well as the SEED Entrepreneurship Major within the Programme Grand Ecole at IMTBS.

### What we offer

- a full-time funded PhD position (3 years) within the prestigious Paris Saclay University
- a pioneering research topic relevant in both academic and practical settings
- an exciting internationally-focused project and ambitious research team
- a friendly and international work environment with flexible working hours
- a challenging position with a high level of independence
- an exciting opportunity to pursue your ambitions and own interest in an entrepreneurial, societal impact or traditional academic career pathway
- a high-quality research environment with the possibility to make a difference
- a gender-friendly and disruptor-welcome workplace

## Your profile

The candidate would ideally possess:

- a master in science, management, economics, marketing, communication, social and organisational sciences and be able to exhibit some evidence of research excellence,
- a demonstrable interest and passion for regional innovation systems, the future of universities, university-industry collaboration, entrepreneurial universities, entrepreneurial ecosystems and entrepreneurial mindsets,
- work experience (practical, consulting or research) in innovation, entrepreneurship, regional development, higher education management, tech transfer or ecosystem development,
- work experience in international project acquisition and/or management of European Erasmus+ Knowledge Alliances, Strategic Partnerships, European Universities or Horizon 2020 projects,
- a hands-on and outcome-orientated mentality, strong interpersonal skills and ability to work both independently as well as in a team,
- experience using Microsoft Office, SPSS, nvivo, MaxQDA and in handling large datasets.
- high spoken and written English skills (essential) as well as French language skills (advantageous).

## To apply or get further Information

Applications should be submitted **by 11am, 19th October 2020** and must include the following:

- A motivation letter and/or video
- A detailed curriculum vitae with list of publications and copies thereof, if applicable
- A transcript of concluded higher education studies
- A copy of your master thesis

**Position:** PhD Candidate

**Start date:**  
ASAP

**Location:** Evry, Paris  
France

We are looking forward to receiving your application or enquiries by e-mail and in English to Todd Davey ([todd.davey@imt-bs.eu](mailto:todd.davey@imt-bs.eu)).

# ABOUT

## **Project 1 - Unite for Horizon Europe**

While an increase in participation has been observed in the Horizon 2020 programme, the European Commission is looking to “raise the bar in the quality and widening of participation” in the current Horizon Europe programme period. It particularly aims to increase the involvement of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in innovation partnerships, as SMEs have struggled to adopt the right strategy, business processes, skills, or other resources to get involved in European funding partnerships. While participation of the higher education institutions (HEIs) and research has been strong, their involvement is deemed to be further enhanced by the provision of tailored support for collaboration with a more diverse range of stakeholders. In respect to this status quo, the European Commission-funded Unite for Horizon Europe project will help build strategic engagement capacity between European academics/researchers and SME representatives to increase the proportion of successful collaborative participation in the Horizon Europe initiatives. Through increasing engagement, the project aims to help deliver on a united approach to societal challenges, as well as help strengthen the means of funding for HEIs to be able to concentrate their efforts on the entire innovation cycle from research to market.

## **Project 2 - Urban GoodCamp**

The Urban GoodCamp is a European funded Erasmus+ project that aims to empower Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and their urban stakeholders to tackle pressing urban challenges by creating and actively engaging urban communities of practice, developing and implementing multidisciplinary learning interventions for university students, young researchers and life-long learners to develop real-life solutions to pressing urban challenges. The project will be conducted in seven European cities – and six of which are capital cities, grouped in three areas of urban focus: Circular economy - Waste Management, Urban Biodiversity, and Sustainable Communities. The project takes an integrated approach, where strong partnerships between local citizens, civil society, industry and various levels of government are deemed necessary. In this, the role of HEIs are crucial in taking the role of anchor organisations, and leading transformational change in their urban environments.

## **Project 3 - RE\_Valorise**

Funded by the European Commission through Erasmus+, the RE\_Valorise project will deliver a programme of valorisation support and training for researchers wishing to explore the entrepreneurial and social potential of their Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) research, a research area often overlooked when it comes to creating value from research. In addition to engendering entrepreneurial and engaged SSH researchers, it will professionalise valorisation activities by addressing specific SSH valorisation skills gaps of knowledge and technology transfer (KT/TT) professionals, who act as the first point of contact for SSH researchers in academic entrepreneurship and social engagement activities at universities. Ultimately, the RE\_Valorise project will increase the capacity for valorising SSH research and the probability of successful valorisation, signposting the possible options to spin-out high potential new companies as well as creating immediate social value.

## **Project 4 - SMEGrowth**

Small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) are the backbone of the European economy, and improving the competitiveness of SMEs has been a main objective of European cohesion, R&D, industrial and ICT policies, among others. However, European SMEs are currently struggling to find the human capital with the skills they need to innovate and thrive in the marketplace. Higher education institutions (HEIs) are positioned as one of the key actors to improve educational and network capacity of the SMEs to tackle these issues, and the SMEGrowth project, funded by the European Commission through Erasmus+, aims at empowering HEIs to enable them to support

regional SMEs with their growth challenges. The project will facilitate SME growth and competitiveness via focusing on innovation capacity development in 5 partner regions of Norte (Portugal), Ile-de-France (France), Muenster region (Germany), Tartu County (Estonia) and County Cork (Ireland).

#### **Project 5 - Engagement Readiness Monitor**

There is widespread consensus that the potential for HEIs to make meaningful contributions to their cities, regions and nations remains underdeveloped. The Engagement Readiness Monitor project places an emphasis on measuring the readiness of the university to engage, rather than just addressing standard indicators measuring only the quantifiable outputs of engagement and cooperation activities of universities with businesses. It places more effort in expanding on these metrics to cover a wider set of engagement activities including not only traditional research and education, but also valorisation and governance. The self-assessment tool will allow for measuring the readiness of HEIs to cooperate in different activities and through provision of the tools, roadmap and further materials created as a result of the project will help increase their readiness with the intention to ultimately turn them into engagement ready and subsequently into engaged universities.

#### **Project 6 – STEM\_Valorise**

It has been found that 50% of PhD students do not complete their PhD and up to 50% of PhD research is not converted into publications let alone products or services (Council of Graduate Schools, 2010), however the potential to leverage this latent to create useful products and services as well as partnerships and jobs has been recognised (OECD, 2017). This is mainly because researchers, especially those in STEM, are not being trained to think and act entrepreneurially and on how to valorize their research (Alexandar et al., 2019). Given this background, the STEM\_Valorise project will develop valorisation capabilities amongst first stage STEM researchers by developing and delivering its 4 intellectual outputs. IO1 Valorisation Training Investigation Report, IO2 Digital Gallery of Success and Fail Stories of Academic STEM Entrepreneurs, IO3 Valorisation Training Programme and Toolkit, and IO4 Valorisation Training Pilot Test and Validation. The project will offer first stage researchers the necessary skills to create a commercial and societal value from their STEM research.

#### **About the Entrepreneurship Major (<https://seed-entrepreneurship.com/>)**

The new Entrepreneurship Major (SEED) is in its first year and supports students to develop entrepreneurial mindsets and new business ideas through a programme that mixes seminars and a full-time (entre-) internship. Commencing in September 2019 and running for three weeks, students in the third year of the Grand Ecole programme will work 3 weeks a month in developing an idea for a start-up and to build their entrepreneurship experience whilst working within at the IMT Starter incubator.

#### **About the School**

Institut Mines-Télécom Business School (formerly known as Telecom Business School) is a French state-funded Management School, a member of Institut Mines-Telecom, the number one group of engineering and management graduate schools in France. The school offers programmes taught in French or English, from bachelor level to PhD. Its main programme is the Masters in Management programme (aka Programme Grande Ecole). The graduates from this programme are highly reputed among recruiters in France and abroad for their ability to work with engineers. It was ranked 59th (2017) by the Financial Times.