

Research Associate – Public Research & Innovation Policy
Department of Engineering, School of Technology, University of Cambridge
£27,428-£35,788 pa
Limit of Tenure: 24 months

Industrial-Innovation Policy Research

The Division of Manufacturing & Management (Cambridge University Engineering Department) is developing a new applied policy research programme to advance understanding of ‘industrial-innovation systems’ – in particular the dynamics of translating novel science and engineering research ideas into new technologies, industries & economic wealth.

The research will be carried out in close collaboration with public sector research and innovation organizations, ensuring its relevance to S&T research programme design and policy needs; and the rapid dissemination of new ideas, frameworks and approaches.

Overview of role

Applicants should have a background in one or more relevant research domains (e.g. technology management, technology innovation systems theory, economic history, science & technology policy).

Successful applicants will be expected to carry out research into the downstream impact of public research base activities on national and regional industrial-innovation systems. Particular research themes of interest include: modes of industry engagement with the public research base, intermediate R&D institutes; higher education innovation strategies; industrial-innovation leadership & mobility; and international comparative analysis of technological innovation systems.

Responsibilities of role

- Undertaking research in a relevant aspect of industrial-innovation systems policy under the guidance of Dr Eoin O’Sullivan
- Applied research targeting both leading peer-reviewed academic journals as well as practical policy-related outputs, including: policy briefing notes, international benchmarking studies, policy development frameworks and tools
- Engaging with policy-making partners to inform the research agenda in terms of policy needs and practice; and to ensure the practical relevance of the research endeavour

Experience and competencies

- Strong background and publication record in one or more relevant research domains (e.g. technology management, innovation systems theory, economic history, S&T policy)
- Expertise in qualitative research (case study, interviews, comparative analysis, etc)
- Experience in combining quantitative and qualitative analyses
- Capability to combine disparate conceptual and methodological approaches
- PhD in a relevant specialist subject and/or equivalent policy research experience
- A primary degree in engineering or the natural sciences and/or experience of research projects with detailed scientific or technical content would be an advantage
- Experience of engaging with public sector research & innovation agencies and/or relevant government departments would be a significant advantage

Closing date: 9 January 2012

Interview dates: Interviews with selected candidates will be held as soon as possible after the closing date.