Industrial Organisation and Supply Chain Management  
- ESRC DTP Joint Studentship

Aston University and Loughborough University

The Midlands Graduate School is an accredited Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP). One of 14 such partnerships in the UK, the Midlands Graduate School is a collaboration between the University of Warwick, Aston University, University of Birmingham, University of Leicester, Loughborough University and the University of Nottingham.

We are now inviting applications for an ESRC Doctoral Joint Studentship between Aston University (where the student will be registered) and Loughborough University to commence in October 2018.

The PhD project will examine common supply chain practices between retailers and their suppliers. Using applied game theory and case studies, it will seek to understand the effects that these practices have on businesses and market competition. It will look to identify the conditions under which such practices enhance/restrict competition. This will provide important insights for competition policymakers into how these business practices should be regulated.

The project will contribute to active research areas in industrial organisation, supply chain management and competition law. The PhD will provide great potential to generate academic publications and offers an excellent platform to pursue a career working in academia, government agencies, industry regulators or competition consultancies.

The ideal candidate will have an MSc in Business Economics or a related subject, with a high level of competency in mathematics, and some knowledge of game theory and/or operations management.

Research environment

The successful applicant will become a member of the Economics, Finance and Entrepreneurship Department within Aston Business School and have close links with the School of Business and Economics at Loughborough University. The applicant will benefit from a thriving research community and well-established links with policymakers, businesses and academics working in the field.
Supervisors

Dr Matthew Olczak and Dr Luke Garrod

The supervisors have excellent research profiles within the area of competition policy, with a track record of timely completion of research projects to an internationally-recognised standard, both together and separately, and experience working with UK competition policymakers.

Entry criteria

Candidates for entry to the Research Degrees Programme normally hold a First or Upper Second Class Honours Degree from an approved University.

Candidates with an approved Master’s Degree should usually have an average of at least 65% in both taught and dissertation elements. Candidates without an approved Master’s degree must undertake the DTP Masters in Social Science Research at Aston University before proceeding to PhD study.

Applicants from non-English speaking countries, must have taken either the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL score of 101) or the British Council IELTS test-score of 7. However, if the Candidate holds a Master's degree from a U.K. University, this requirement may be waived.

Application Process

To apply, please complete the Joint Studentship application form available online here. Then email it with your CV and a cover letter to Irene Bubb rdp@aston.ac.uk. Shortlisted applicants will also be required to provide two references upon request.

Application deadline: Wednesday 28th February 2018

Midlands Graduate School ESRC DTP

Our ESRC studentships cover fees and maintenance stipend and extensive support for research training, as well as research activity support grants. Support is available only to successful applicants who fulfil eligibility criteria. To check your eligibility, visit: www.mgsdtp.ac.uk/studentships/eligibility/

Informal enquiries prior to application can be directed to M.Olczak@aston.ac.uk