

Vacancy for a PhD position in economic and rural history, studying (a region within) the UK (pre-industrial period)

Job description

We are pleased to announce a fully funded PhD research scholarship. The successful applicant will join an international research team to complete a PhD within the context of an interdisciplinary, comparative project in the CORN* research group. The project is funded and coordinated by Ghent University (Belgium) and titled “Economic growth and inequality. Explaining divergent regional growth paths in pre-industrial Europe (Late Middle Ages-19th century).” In this project four ‘junior’ researchers, each working on a different country and region of Europe, are guided by a team of professors from Ghent University.

The position is open to all applicants from the UK, EU or elsewhere who are suitably qualified and have outstanding potential as a researcher. The position is well paid according to Belgian standards (see below).

The dissertation will be dealing with aspects of the relationship between rural economic development and inequality in an area of England, in the *longue durée* between c. 1300-1800. This study will fit into a wider project on the roots of modern economic growth. The project is supervised collectively from the Departments of History and Economics at Ghent University.

The precise region to be studied within the context of this theme is open, and can be determined in agreement with the project supervisors, based on the qualifications and interests of the applicant, and according to the regionally available sources.

Profile of the candidate

What we offer

We offer a full-time, fully funded and well-paid PhD scholarship (three to four years), starting October 1st 2016.

Depending on the relevant work experience, the minimum *net* salary will be around 1,800 Euro per month (= c.1400 British Pound). Extra funding is also available to cover necessary working expenses.

The successful candidate will have the opportunity to join a stimulating and interdisciplinary research environment with a strong expertise in pre-industrial economic history at Ghent University.

If residing in the UK, the selected PhD student will *not* be required to relocate to Belgium, as only during a limited number of months per year physical presence at Ghent University is required. Substantial archival and literature-based research should be done in the UK during the duration of the project.

To give extra-support to the student in the UK, a co-supervisor in the UK, being a member of the international research network CORN, can be designated in agreement with the PhD student.

What we expect

Applications are invited from students with a Master’s degree (or its equivalent) in history, economics or other social sciences, and with a clear interest in economic and social history.

Students in the last year of their Master's programme, finishing their thesis before October 2016, can also apply.

Preference will be given to candidates with skills in working with English primary source materials (Middle Ages or early modern period to c.1800).

How to apply:

In order to apply, please submit applications only via email before July 30th 2016 to wouter.ryckbosch@ugent.be. Please mention clearly in the subject/mail title "application for economic history vacancy."

The application should include a cover letter (with motivation of the application), a cv, and the contact details of one or two referees who are familiar with your work/studies.

Further information about the can be obtained from prof. Erik Thoen (erik.thoen@ugent.be) or dr. Wouter Ryckbosch (wouter.ryckbosch@ugent.be), co-ordinators of the project.

**CORN (Comparative Rural History Network) is a well know international network of economic historians studying the European countryside from the middle ages to the 20th century in a comparative way.*