

The School of Management and Governance strives to a leading position in the field of Business and Social Sciences within the mission of the University of Twente. The school's education focuses on Business Administration, Industrial Engineering and Management, Public Administration, Health Sciences, Science & Technology and Business & IT. Scientific research focuses on themes such as management and governance of innovation and technology, governance-issues and entrepreneurship. Applied research is carried out in various branches, such as industry, health care, higher education, banking, and services business. Research is accommodated within the research institutes of the university, such as IGS, CTIT, MIRA, MESA+ and Impact. The school has approximately 360 staff members and 2,200 students.

The Department of Science, Technology, and Policy Studies (STePS) takes the dynamics, governance and assessment of innovations and emerging sciences and technologies (contemporary, historical, and future) as its central theme of teaching and research. STePS considers in particular strategic issues that require multidisciplinary approaches to developments in science, technology, politics and society. Studies conducted within STePS link analytical and normative perspectives, and consider not only technological innovations but also innovations in governance. The department STePS has a vacancy for a post-doctoral and 3 PhD positions. All positions are part of the Dutch national research programme NanoNextNL.

Post-doctoral position

Socio-technical scenarios and strategy articulation for key application areas of nanotechnology

(full-time for the duration of 18 months)

The challenge

While the shape of nanotechnology applications and their eventual effects on society and economy are uncertain, controlled speculation about applications and impacts is possible with the help of socio-technical scenarios. Socio-technical scenarios as a constructive technology assessment approach built on insights from science, technology and innovation studies and on stakeholder knowledge (see the results of the TA NanoNed program in the predecessor of the NanoNextNL program, www.nanoned.nl). The postdoc will develop scenarios and organize stakeholder workshops aimed at articulation of strategic implications and potential impacts for areas of nanotechnology worked on in NanoNextNL. The project will be conducted in cooperation with a parallel project at the University of Utrecht.

Our offer

We offer a very challenging position in an inspiring multidisciplinary environment. The Department of Science, Technology and Policy Studies is renowned for its excellent research and has been evaluated accordingly. It is one of the leading centres conducting constructive technology assessment and research on nanotechnology & society. As a postdoctoral researcher you will be appointed in a full-time position (38 hours/week) for a period of 18 months, a part-time arrangement with a corresponding prolongation of the employment is possible as well. The gross salary will amount maximally € 4.374,00 per month (in accordance with the Collective Labour Agreement for Dutch Universities). Furthermore, the University of Twente offers additional attractive employment conditions.

Your profile

The position is open to people with an interest in an analytical perspective into current socio-technical dynamics of nanotechnologies and an interest in the interaction with practitioners in the field as well. The ideal candidate will have a background in science, technology and innovation studies (PhD degree). Experience in scenario-building, workshop organization, qualitative interviewing and prior research related to nanotechnologies is an asset.

Information and application

For more information on this position, please contact dr. Kornelia Konrad, e-mail: k.e.konrad@utwente.nl, phone: +31 53 489 3906.

To apply for this position, please fill in the application form including your resume and list of publications on www.utwente.nl/vacatures/ or www.utwente.nl/vacatures/en/ before March 3, 2011.

PhD position

The co-evolution of sectoral and industry structures and nanotechnologies
(full-time for the duration of 4 years)

The challenge

Nanotechnology is often presented as a breakthrough technology that may profoundly change sectoral and industry structures. However, to what extent this will happen and what may be the specific implications for certain sectors and industries is unclear. At the same time, current structures provide important context conditions for nanotechnology-enabled innovations, which may be more or less conducive for nanotechnologies in general and for specific directions. The successful candidate will investigate these questions for selected cases by means of qualitative and, where appropriate, quantitative approaches. On the basis of the analysis, possible broader economic and societal impacts and strategic implications will be estimated.

Our offer

We offer a very challenging position in an inspiring multidisciplinary environment. The Department of Science, Technology and Policy Studies is renowned for its excellent research and has been evaluated accordingly. As a PhD candidate you will be appointed in a full-time position (38 hours/week) for a period of four years, at the end of which you must have completed your PhD thesis. The gross monthly salary for a PhD increases from € 2042 in the first year to € 2612 in the final year (in accordance with the Collective Labour Agreement for Dutch Universities). In addition, the University of Twente offers additional attractive employment conditions. As a PhD candidate you will join the programme "Governance of Knowledge and Innovation" of the Twente Graduate School (<http://www.utwente.nl/tgs/programmes/innovationandgovernancestudies/>). The GKI programme provides participants with the necessary qualifications to contribute to comparative research in the governance of science, technology, innovation, higher education and research, seeking to understand social, cultural and historical dynamics conceptually and empirically.

Your profile

The ideal candidate will have completed a master's degree related to science, technology and innovation studies or a master's degree in a pertinent discipline as sociology, economics, geography etc. and got acquainted with the field in some other way (courses, projects etc.). Acquaintance with sector-level analysis, qualitative and quantitative research methods, nanotechnology are an asset. Candidates with a relevant natural science or engineering background may qualify as well when there is a demonstrable interest in social science and innovation studies.

Information and application

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PhD position

Practices, institutionalization and impact of responsible innovation in nanotechnology
(full-time for the duration of 4 years)

The challenge

The notion of 'responsible innovation' or 'responsible development' has become a widespread concern in the context of emerging nanotechnologies, especially in policy context. There are instances of responsible innovation already, like the development of codes of conduct, the setting-up of public engagement processes, the willingness of firms and laboratories to be transparent. Actual practices of 'doing responsible innovation' may spread and stabilize, i.e. become institutionalized, or turn out to be merely transitory phenomena. The PhD student will investigate to what extent and how responsible development has evolved as a rhetorical practice and as more substantial practices related to research, development or production and to what extent and how this affects ongoing innovation processes. Furthermore, s/he will inquire, if, how and where certain practices become institutionalized at different levels. This may turn out differently for different sectors and/or national contexts.

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Your profile

The ideal candidate will have completed a master's degree related to science, technology and innovation studies or a master's degree in a pertinent discipline as sociology, policy studies, business administration, etc. and got acquainted with the field in some other way (courses, projects etc.). Acquaintance with qualitative research methods and nanotechnology are an asset. Candidates with a relevant natural science or engineering background may qualify as well when there is a demonstrable interest in social science and innovation studies.

Information and application

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PhD position

Governance of promises and risks in nanotechnology (full-time for the duration of 4 years)

The challenge

While nanotechnology is full with far-reaching promises mobilizing researchers, funding agencies and innovation actors, concerns about potential risks emerged as well. Promises and risk concerns are forms of expectation-building, and both are shaped and coordinated in societal discourses and in dedicated forms of systematic expectation-building as foresight and technology assessment. These diverging forms of expectation-building can also be described as different modes of governing promises and risks (see also www.utwente.nl/mb/steps/people/scientific/konrad/EASST_2010_Konrad_Governance_of_and_by_expectations.pdf). How exactly the different forms of expectation-building and coordination as part of societal discourses, foresight and technology assessment programmes have evolved, how they interact and how they affect the development of nanotechnology is the topic of this PhD project. The PhD student will also examine how various innovation actors from research, industry and policy have been affected by different modes of expectation-building and how they contribute to their further evolution.

Our offer

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Your profile

The ideal candidate will have completed a master's degree related to science, technology and innovation studies or a master's degree in a relevant discipline such as sociology, policy studies or business administration and got acquainted with the field in some other way (courses, projects etc.). Acquaintance with qualitative research methods, discourse analysis and nanotechnology is an asset.

Information and application

For more information on this position, please contact Dr. Kornelia Konrad, e-mail: k.e.konrad@utwente.nl, phone: +31 53 489 3906.

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*The core theme of the research and teaching of the **Department of Legal and Economic Governance Studies (LEGS)** is 'Regulation, Europe and Innovation' (REI). This theme is studied from the (joint) perspective(s) of legal and economic disciplines, with a focus on multi-actor and multi-level governance. In the REI-theme regulatory governance of technologies is one of the key research focuses. Currently, multidisciplinary research projects on the regulation of nanotechnologies and medical technologies are conducted (for more information, see <http://www.utwente.nl/mb/legs/>). The department LEGS has a vacancy for a PhD position. The position is part of the Dutch national research programme NanoNextNL.*

PhD position

Challenges and opportunities of soft nano-regulation (full time for the duration of 3 years)

The challenge

To date, nanotechnologies have been regulated specifically only by various instruments of 'soft' regulation (such as codes of conduct, self-reporting schemes, standardization, bench marks). These regulatory tools are not legally binding, but can have nevertheless important effects in regulatory practice. It is not clear, however, whether and how soft nano-regulation can contribute to responsible nanotechnological development. The PhD student will explore the effectiveness of examples of soft nano-regulation (case studies). She/he will analyze effectiveness problems in the context of emerging governance structures and existing governance arrangements. To explore the opportunities of effective soft nano-regulation lessons from other examples of (technology) regulation will be evaluated.

Our offer

We offer a very challenging position in an inspiring multidisciplinary environment. You will be part of a larger group of PhD students, Postdocs and senior researchers doing research on risk assessment, governance and ethics in the context of the NanoNextNL programme. As a PhD candidate you will be appointed in a full-time position (38 hours/week) for a period of three years, at the end of which you must have completed your PhD thesis. The gross monthly salary for a PhD increases from € 2042 in the first year to € 2612 in the final year (in accordance with the Collective Labour Agreement for Dutch Universities). In addition, the University of Twente offers additional attractive employment conditions.

Your profile

The position is open to students with a master's degree in law or social sciences. A strong interest in the regulation of technologies is a prerequisite. Experience with empirical research is an asset.

Information and application

For more information on this position, please contact Dr. Bärbel Dorbeck-Jung, e-mail: b.r.dorbeck-jung@utwente.nl, phone: +31 53 489 3252.

To apply for this position, please fill in the application form including your resume and list of publications on www.utwente.nl/vacatures/ or www.utwente.nl/vacatures/en/ before March 3, 2011.