

The Department of Innovation Management & Entrepreneurship (MIE) of the École Polytechnique is looking to recruit 2 full-time Ph.D. students. This appointment is part of a newly launched “Chair of Technology for Change”. The candidate will become a member of the Management Research Centre (“CRG – Centre de Recherche en Gestion”) of École Polytechnique.

Chair Technology for Change

The Chair “Technology for Change” was established in 2021 with the purpose of researching the interrelationship between technology and sustainability. Specifically, the Chair focuses on research in Innovation and Technology Management. The chair looks for candidates with an interest in technology, innovation management and/or sustainable development.

The CRG research lab

The CRG (12 researchers, 18 associate researchers, 25 Ph.D. students), is a part of the CNRS (French National Research Council) Innovation Interdisciplinary Institute (i3, 85 researchers, 52 associate researchers, 21 postdocs, 120 Ph.D. students), France’s leading research institution on the areas of innovation, and one of the largest European research bodies devoted to this topic.

Ecole Polytechnique

Founded over 225 ago, École Polytechnique is one of the oldest STEM higher education institutions in the world. One of the famed French “Grandes Écoles”, and consistently ranked as the best STEM HE institution in France, École Polytechnique has been ranked 2nd best “small universities” in the World (behind CalTech) by the Times Higher Education for the third year in a row. It is also ranked 2nd in France and 15th best European University in the 2020 QS World University ranking, 4th worldwide in the THE Alma Mater Index 2017 (global business elite education) and 6th worldwide by Nature’s “Nobel Prize Alma Mater” institutions. Located in ‘Greater Paris’ on a 160+ hectare campus, École Polytechnique is now a part (and a founding member) of IP Paris University, along with four other leading “Grandes Écoles”: ENSAE, ENSTA, Telecom Paris, Telecom ParisSud.

Job Description – 1- : (Un)Sustainable Water Technologies

The Ph.D. candidate will work on a project to research, reflect, and understand the environmental sustainability of water-related technologies for reuse. The challenge of water scarcity is increasingly salient for companies leading to develop initiatives to reuse water either by closing the loop within companies or for (connected) uses in other companies. However, the multidimensionality of sustainability requires a systems perspective to understand to what extent and how water-related technologies that encourage circularity are sustainable.

The project will therefore be set in the domain of circular economy and sustainability management and requires a strong empirical logic. An interest for qualitative methodologies is required.

- During the first year, the student will be fully dedicated to research.
- During years 2 and 3 opportunities for teaching may be offered.

The candidate will be involved with an ongoing research project and will therefore be closely interacting with supervisors and any other researchers connected with the project.

Job Description – 2- : Technology Adoption for Innovation

The Ph.D. candidate will work on a project to research, reflect, and understand the technology adoption at the firm level and how it relates to innovation. New technologies are important to realize sustainable development in society, but to realize the benefits of emerging technologies, we need to better understand adoption mechanisms. The project will require a strong methodological background involving an interest in working with diverse data sets to understand the specific technologies in the project.

- During the first year, the student will be fully dedicated to research.
- During years 2 and 3 opportunities for teaching may be offered.

The candidate will be involved with an ongoing research project and will therefore be closely interacting with supervisors and any other researchers connected with the project.

Required Profile for the Ph.D. position

- A master's degree in business economics, management or similar
- Fluency in English,
- Interest in learning French,
- A passion for research,
- Strong methodological background
- Ability to work independently,

Candidates are selected on the basis of their motivation, CVs, references, and subsequent interview.

Conditions of employment

The PhD position is fully funded for a period of up to 3 years. The appointed Ph.D. will receive a salary of approx. EUR 1750 per month gross.

The Ph.D. positions are intended to start in September 2022. If necessary, there can be flexibility regarding the starting date.

How to apply

Please submit the following documents:

1. Motivation and background for taking up a research project
2. Curriculum Vitae
3. A synopsis containing a statement of project interest (which one) and some initial ideas how to shape the project. Add relevant methodological background and how it may be used in the project.
4. Reference letter (optional – preferred)

For additional information please contact Pilar Acosta, pilar.acosta@polytechnique.edu for position 1 and Professor Mette Praest Knudsen, mette.knudsen@polytechnique.edu> for position 2.

In the header of your e-mail, please clearly state: 'Ph.D. Application.