

Delft University of Technology has four job openings as part of the research project New Technologies as Social Experiments: Conditions for Morally Responsible Experimentation. A complete description of the project can be requested, or is available on the website www.ethicsandtechnology.eu.

The project will be carried out in close cooperation between the four researchers to be appointed and the project leader dr.ir. Ibo van de Poel. The overall aim of the project is to conceptualize the introduction of new technologies in society as a form of social experimentation and to explore under what conditions such experiments are morally acceptable. The project will focus on three technological domains: nuclear energy, biotechnology and nanotechnology. In each domain a PhD project will be carried out. In addition, the implications for the regulation and governance of new technologies will be investigated in a postdoc project.

Post-doc: New Technologies as Social Experiments

Engels -- Faculty/department Technology, Policy and Management

Level PhD

Maximum employment 38 hours per week (1 FTE)

Duration of contract 3 years

Salary scale €2,379 to €3,755 per month gross

The key objective of this research project is to investigate the implications of adopting a conceptualization of technological development as a social experiment for the regulation and governance of technological hazards. The project will have three phases:

- In phase 1, a literature study will be carried out on dilemmas of regulation under uncertainty and ignorance, and on strategies for dealing with these dilemmas and challenges.
- In phase 2, the conditions for responsible experimentation that have been proposed in the other projects will be evaluated for their feasibility and adequacy by comparing them with the strategies proposed in the literature and with the opinions of experts and stakeholders.
- In phase 3, the implications for hazard regulation and governance will be investigated.

The candidate will also be involved in the teaching activities of the department.

Requirements

- A PhD in philosophy, law or STS, preferably in a topic related to the research project
- A demonstrable interest in applied ethics and the regulation and governance of technology
- Relevant knowledge about the regulation or governance of emerging technologies
- Good analytical and reasoning skills, as demonstrated by earlier publications
- Willingness and ability to work in an interdisciplinary team
- Ability to present his or her ideas clearly also to people with another disciplinary background
- Openness to criticism
- Productive and dedicated, as witnessed by earlier publications and successful research projects
- Good command of both written and spoken English

Conditions of employment

TU Delft offers an attractive benefits package, including a flexible work week, free high-speed Internet access from home, and the option of assembling a customised compensation and benefits package (the 'IKA'). Salary and benefits are in accordance with the Collective Labour Agreement for Dutch Universities.

Information and application

For more information about this position or to apply, please contact Dr. ir. Ibo van de Poel, phone: +31 (0)15-2784716, email: i.r.vandepoel@tudelft.nl. To apply, please e-mail a detailed CV along with a letter of application by 15 October 2011 to vacature-tbm@tudelft.nl.

When applying for this position, please refer to vacancy number ATTBM11-011.

3 PhD students: New Technologies as Social Experiments

Engels -- Faculty/department Technology, Policy and Management

Level PhD

Maximum employment 38 hours per week (1 FTE)

Duration of contract 4 years

Salary scale €2,042 to €2,612 per month gross

Each of the PhD projects focuses on a specific engineering domain. It specifies and tests the conditions for responsible experimentation for that technological domain. Each project will consist of two more specific case studies and a further theoretical development of the notion of social experimentation adapted to that domain. The project will combine conceptual, ethical and empirical investigations.

The candidate will carry out doctoral research which will lead to a dissertation, and will also produce relevant publications. The candidate will participate in the PhD program of the 3TU.Centre for Ethics and Technology. More information on this program can be found at:

<http://www.ethicsandtechnology.eu/teaching/phdprogram/>

The candidate will also be involved in the teaching activities of the department.

Possibly, one of the positions may be converted into a 3-year postdoc project. So, also people with a PhD can apply for these positions.

Requirements

- A master degree in philosophy, engineering or a relevant socio-scientific discipline, like STS (science and technology studies).
- A demonstrable interest in applied ethics and in technology.
- It is recommended that the candidate has had experience in carrying out empirical research and has knowledge of the relevant technological domain studied in the PhD project.
- Good analytical and reasoning skills, as demonstrated by, for example, a master thesis
- Willingness and ability to work in an interdisciplinary team
- Ability to present his or her ideas clearly also to people with another disciplinary background
- Openness to criticism
- Productive and dedicated
- Good command of both written and spoken English

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When applying for this position, please refer to vacancy number ATTBM11-010.

Research will be accommodated within the 3TU Centre for Ethics and Technology, one of six Centres of Excellence of the three universities of technology in the Netherlands (Delft, Eindhoven and Twente). The Centre's mission is to carry out high-quality research into ethics and technology. For further information please see www.ethicsandtechnology.eu.