ONTOLOGY OF BIOMIMETICS

PhD studentship in the School of Mathematics and Computer Sciences in collaboration with the School of Engineering & Physical Sciences, Heriot-Watt University.

A 4-year PhD studentship is available immediately for the development of an ontology in biomimetics using concepts from classical problem-solving systems. Although based at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh (Scotland), the student may spend some time at Oxford University and the University of Strasbourg.

The ontology is to be developed to serve as a bridge between biology and technology. Although the main outline of the ontology has been established, the student will develop techniques and software to partially automate its development and application to biomimetic design.

In addition, knowledge of classical logic or programming ability in web-based software, Java, MySQL, Python, data mining and text analysis would be strongly desirable. Relevant programming courses in computer science will be available for the successful candidate, if needed.

The successful applicant will have a First or strong Upper Second degree in Biology, Engineering or Design. He/she will officially study towards a PhD degree within the Department of Computer Science, School of Mathematical & Computer Sciences, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, under the formal supervision of Dr. Jessica Chen-Burger and Prof. Marc Desmulliez.

Because of the conditions of the funding, the applicant must be a UK or an EU citizen. Overseas students are not eligible for this funding. For additional enquiries regarding the required Computer Science background, please contact Dr. Jessica Chen-Burger at y.j.chenburger@hw.ac.uk. For enquiries related to the ontology, please contact Prof. Julian Vincent at julian.vincent@zoo.ox.ac.uk .

Candidates should apply directly to the Computer Science Department at the Heriot-Watt University, and fill in the online Ph.D. application form that can be found at:
http://www.hw.ac.uk/schools/mathematical-computer-sciences/research/phd/phd-opportunities.htm

Title of Ph.D. and mention of Dr. Chan-burger as the supervisor should be indicated in the form.

Application should include a CV, motivation letter, transcripts of previous degrees, and two letters of reference.

The position is available immediately and the student is expected to start early September 2015.