



Doctoral Award in Business and Economics 2013-2014

The Kirby Laing Institute for Christian Ethics and Transforming Business invite applications for an award to a Christian doctoral student working on Business and/or Economics in a UK university and intending to be resident in the UK for the majority of their studies. The award will be worth **up to £2,500 per year** and will be renewable annually for up to three years, subject to satisfactory progress. Preference will be given to candidates who are able to start their work by January 2014.

Background

The Kirby Laing Institute for Christian Ethics (KLICE, www.klice.co.uk) is a Cambridge-based educational and research organisation whose vision is to contribute a Christian perspective to public debates in the UK. KLICE is delighted to be partnering with Transforming Business (www.transformingbusiness.net) in this new initiative to stimulate theologically astute, entrepreneurial leadership in business and economics.

Public Leadership Programme

KLICE is investing in the long-term formation of Christian thought-leaders in various fields of public life. The goal of the KLICE Public Leadership Programme is **to identify and 'seed' Christians into academic work** which will make a practical difference to wider society. It does this by equipping doctoral students who display strong academic potential and faith commitment to develop and effectively communicate authentically Christian approaches to key challenges of our time.

KLICE and Transforming Business are based in Cambridge but Leadership Programme participants can be located in universities anywhere in the UK and in a range of departments such as business, economics, law, or theology. Students joining the Leadership Programme are supported in their academic and professional development by participating, for instance, in termly seminars in Cambridge to share research with one another and receive feedback in a supportive fellowship. During their participation in the programme, students are specifically trained to engage in **public communication** of their research through relevant channels within and beyond the academy. The first cohort of five students supported in this way are now occupying teaching posts in the UK and USA.

Business and economics partnership in the Public Leadership Programme

In the vital area of **business and economics**, KLICE and Transforming Business (TB) have formed a partnership with a group of business leaders in order to seed thought-leaders into business schools and university departments. This group is generously providing the funding for the award.

Research framework

The successful applicant's research project will focus on the **purpose of business** and will contribute towards shaping a theologically informed account of **the vocation to business** and **the vocation of business** with a particular focus on **business solutions to contemporary problems**.

Research for a university doctoral degree has to meet certain formal requirements, including the approval and cooperation of a supervisor. While maintaining full respect for all such requirements, candidates for the Programme who focus on the **purpose of business** are asked to consider the following basic research questions that are of particular interest to KLICE and TB as sponsoring partners. They are designed not so much to restrict the scope of the proposed research as to help frame it. This is of particular importance to a field of Christian engagement that has been largely overlooked.

- What are the components of a theology of entrepreneurship and what practical value would such a theology have?
- How do Christian business leaders understand their vocation and how can they inspire and equip those considering a call to business?
- How does Christian belief and practice foster innovation, integrity, justice, responsible risk-taking and entrepreneurial aspirations?
- How does the convergence of Christian faith and enterprise help tackle contemporary problems, such as poverty?

The current global entrepreneurial revolution and rapid rise of Christianity ensure that these questions are crucial to the future of the planet and its people.

Selection and ongoing relationship

Selection of students will be conducted by a Selection Committee including the Director and Associate Director of KLICE, the Director of TB, an external evangelical business academic and a representative of the group of supporters. The *ideal* applicant will have had a previous record of academic excellence and experience in business or economics and is likely to be in their twenties or thirties. However, those without such business/economics experience are still warmly invited to apply. A high premium will be placed on the student's aptitude to communicate in a reliable, accessible manner. Once appointed, the student would maintain a relationship with the supporting group, providing progress reports either in person or in writing. We plan to interview candidates in the second half of September.

Application

To apply by 30 August 2013 please visit either the KLICE website: www.klice.co.uk/index.php/leadership-programme/business-award or the Transforming Business website: www.transformingbusiness.net to download and complete the application form available.