

PhD fellowship in Economics

Research unit SMART-LERECO seeks well-qualified applicants for a PhD research fellowship on the subject: *How does the changing EU trade environment affect the agricultural and food sectors of France and Brittany region? Focus on Brexit.*

Project. UK's decision to leave the EU in June 2016 marks a turning point in European history and raises many questions on future economic relationships between the UK and its partners. This PhD thesis aims to identify the new challenges faced by French agricultural and food producers after Brexit, and to pinpoint the sectors and the categories of firms expected to bear the largest effects. Particular emphasis will be attributed to how Brexit will affect the competitiveness of French products on the intra-EU market and main extra-EU markets. The consequences of Brexit will be analyzed under different scenarios on the outcome of the EU-UK trade negotiations. The resilience of French sectors and firms will also be investigated in terms of the effects of Brexit on investments and employment. The results of these analyses will be used to formulate recommendations that will permit to limit the negative effects of Brexit on the economy of France and of the Brittany region. The thesis will also examine alternative financing schemes for the EU common agricultural policy (CAP) post Brexit, building on the existing literature on trade agreements and agricultural policy.

Selection criteria. The candidate should hold a master's degree in economics (obtained no later than September 2017). We are particularly interested in candidates with a solid background in *international economics and econometrics*. We also expect the future PhD candidate to be fluent in English and have very good writing skills. Prior experience in applied economics and interest for the agricultural and food sectors are appreciated.

Supervision. The PhD candidate will join the SMART-LERECO research unit in Rennes, France. SMART-LERECO is a joint research unit of the departments of Economics of the French National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA) and of Agrocampus Ouest, a French elitist public higher education establishment specialized in agriculture, food science, horticulture & landscape (https://www6.rennes.inra.fr/smart_engl). The PhD thesis will be supervised by **Marilyne Huchet-Bourdon** and **Angela Cheptea**. The PhD candidate will benefit from a network of international collaborations, in particular with Université Laval (Quebec, Canada).

Scholarship. The PhD fellowship covers 3 years and is funded by INRA (50%) and the Brittany region (50%). The monthly salary is about 1,450 €. Applicants are invited to submit a motivation letter, a CV, and university transcripts with a description of the grading system to **Marilyne Huchet-Bourdon** (marilyne.huchet-bourdon@agrocampus-ouest.fr) and **Angela Cheptea** (angela.cheptea@inra.fr) by **June 20th, 2017**. The PhD thesis should start no later than 1st October, 2017.