Graduate Research Assistantship in Measurement of Utility & Risk Preferences

A graduate research assistantship for a PhD candidate will be available in the Marketing & Decision Sciences Group in the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). This assistantship is available in the area of risk behavior, in particular risk preference elicitation methods. This research will be conducted in collaboration with the Department of Marketing at the McCombs School of Business, University of Texas at Austin (UT). Travel to UT will be required for short periods. Project leaders are Professor Joost M.E. Pennings (UIUC) and Professor Frenkel Ter Hofstede (UT).

Duties and responsibilities are: 1) comparing existing risk preference elicitation techniques, 2) developing new risk preference elicitation techniques, 3) testing these risk preference measures empirically and 4) investigating how utility functions may differ across decision makers and circumstances.

The applicant for this assistantship should demonstrate interest in the field of risk measurement and have strong statistical, psychometric or econometric skills, in particular Bayesian MCMC estimation methods. Applicants must meet the admission requirements of the Graduate College at the University of Illinois (see http://www.ace.uiuc.edu/Academics/grad/admissions.html).

The initial appointment will be in the form of a 50% graduate research appointment for two academic year semesters and two summer months. The appointment is renewable for up to three additional years depending upon successful academic and assistance performance and funding availability. The candidate is expected to complete the degree requirements (see http://www.ace.uiuc.edu/academics/grad/phd-prog.html#requirements) in the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign within these four years.

Please contact Dr. Joost M. E. Pennings at 217/244-1284 or jmpennin@uiuc.edu for more information about the position and about application procedures.