Needham Research Institute, Cambridge

The Soon-Young Kim Studentship in the History of East Asian Science and Technology

The Trustees of the Needham Research Institute invite applications from suitably qualified candidates for a Soon-Young Kim Studentship in the History of East Asian Science and Technology, to be held in the University of Cambridge. The Studentship will be tenable from October 2012.

The purpose of the Studentship is to support students who have been admitted to work for a PhD degree in the University of Cambridge in the areas of study specified below. In the case of a student admitted directly to work for the PhD degree, the award shall be for three years at maximum. In appropriate cases, where the student is initially admitted to work for an MPhil preparatory to beginning work for a PhD, the Trustees may be prepared to consider making the award for up to four years at maximum. In all cases the continuation of the award from year to year will be conditional on the student making satisfactory progress in the view of the Trustees. The successful candidate will be given working space in the Needham Research Institute (www.nri.org.uk), which has unparalleled research facilities in the fields of the history of science, technology and medicine in East Asia. The Studentship is associated with Darwin College, and the successful award holder will normally be admitted to full membership of the College for the tenure of the Studentship.

The amount of the Studentship will consist of payment of university fees and college dues for the candidate, plus an amount for living expenses. Where appropriate, fees will be paid at the rate for non-EU students.

Priority in making awards of Studentships will be given to applicants who propose to carry out research in the following areas, which are given in order of priority:

(1) The history of science and technology in modern Korea
(2) The history of science and technology in modern Japan
(3) The history of science and technology in modern China, or the history of modern medicine in any of the above three countries

It is expected that candidates will apply for admission to a department of the University that can provide the specialist supervision and disciplinary training appropriate to the particular topic chosen. Suitable departments might include the Department of History and Philosophy of Science (http://www.hps.cam.ac.uk/), or the Department of East Asian Studies (http://www.ames.cam.ac.uk/deas/). Candidates are encouraged to make informal enquiries of the relevant department at an early stage before making a formal application, in order to see whether their choice is appropriate. Candidates thinking of applying to a department other than the two named here should first contact the Needham Research Institute to discuss their plans.
The word ‘modern’ here designates the period after 1850, and ‘science’ is taken to include mathematics, whether pure or applied. Strong preference will be given to projects centering on the 20th century or later. Any holder of a Studentship who wishes to make a substantive change in the topic of his or her research after taking up the Studentship must first obtain the agreement of the Trustees, failing which the Studentship may be withdrawn.

Applications for this award will be treated separately from applications for admission to the University of Cambridge. Candidates should therefore:

(a) Apply as soon as possible for admission to the University of Cambridge in the normal way. For guidance, see the University website at http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/gradstud/prospec/apply/; please address all queries about the University admission process to the appropriate part of the University, not to the Needham Research Institute. Candidates may however mention in their application that they are applying for this Studentship. Candidates should normally give Darwin College as their first choice of college. Candidates should note carefully the University's demanding requirements in regard to English language ability: for instance, in IELTS applicants must have a band score of 7.0, with not less than 7.0 in speaking, listening and writing, and 6.5 in reading.

(b) Apply simultaneously to the Needham Research Institute for the Studentship. Candidates should send a full curriculum vitae, a detailed research proposal, and the name of two academic referees who are prepared to report in confidence on the candidate's work. In most cases the best thing will be for the candidate to send the Needham Research Institute a hard printed copy of their University application, together with any further material necessary to give a clear impression of the research they intend to carry out. Candidates should ensure that they produce evidence that they possess the language skills required for the purpose of their research.

(c) The University offers other financial support for PhD applicants: candidates must also apply for any such schemes for which they are eligible at the same time as applying for this Studentship, and inform the Trustees of these applications and of their result.

All applications will be carefully considered. No announcement or notification of award of the Studentship will be made before University admission procedures have been completed and candidates have been told whether they have been given a place at Cambridge. The Trustees reserve the right to make no award if in their opinion no suitable candidate of sufficient merit applies.

All enquiries and applications should be addressed to:

The Institute Administrator
The Needham Research Institute
8 Sylvester Road
Cambridge CB3 9AF
UK
email: admin@nri.org.uk
Frontispiece:

Detail of the illustration of the Jingdong Well [Salt Works] 景東井 in the “Illustrations on the Salt Production Methods of Yunnan” (Diannan yanfa tu 滇 南 盐 法 圖)

Courtesy of the National History Museum of China