

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

IGL PhD Workshop 2019

Field experiments on entrepreneurship, innovation and productivity

Amsterdam, 20 November 2019

Nesta's Innovation Growth Lab (IGL) is organising a workshop for PhD students and postdoctoral researchers on Wednesday, 20 November 2019 at the Tinbergen Institute in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Participants will learn about the latest experimental research on science, innovation, entrepreneurship and business productivity, and will be guided through the process of developing their own trial design to answer a research question in one of these areas. Click [here](#) to apply before 16 September 2019.

Who should apply

We welcome applications from PhD students and postdoctoral researchers who are curious to explore how field experiments can help us address policy-relevant questions related to entrepreneurship and business support, understand the drivers of innovation, and unpack the scientific knowledge generation process.

To ensure a balanced and fair representation, we will give priority to applications by women, people of colour, LGBTQ+, or non-binary or gender non-conforming people, people with disabilities, and other traditionally underrepresented groups.

Programme

Morning session I.: The pros and cons of using field experiments

Field experiments (or randomised controlled trials) are often considered the “gold standard of causal evidence”. We will discuss the unique advantages of this methodology, along with its limitations and ways to address them.

Morning session II.: Experimental research on science, innovation, entrepreneurship and growth

Does management quality matter for firm outcomes, and how to improve it? Are investors biased against female inventors? Can we use social networks to accelerate the diffusion of new technologies? How can we identify and support high-growth entrepreneurs? How do we incentivise creative work? These are just a few of the questions we will address through the lens of recently published experimental results.

Afternoon session I.: Design your own trial

In this interactive session, participants will sort into groups based on their research interests, and receive prompts and suggestions to create their own trial design.

Afternoon session II.: Present your trial

The teams will present their designs and receive feedback, including practical concerns and ideas for implementation partners and funding opportunities.

This programme plan is subject to change; the final agenda will be announced prior to the workshop.

Important dates

16 September 2019	Deadline for application
Early October	Notification of acceptance
10 November 2019	Detailed program and reading list shared with participants
20 November 2019	PhD Workshop

IGL Winter Research Meeting

On Thursday, 21 November 2019, we will be organising a [Research Meeting](#) at the Vrije Universiteit (VU) Amsterdam. The meeting showcases academic research that uses experimental methods to explore the drivers of innovation, entrepreneurship and business productivity, and to inform policies aimed at accelerating growth in these areas.

Registration is free, but all participants are responsible for their own travel and accommodation.

Please note that application for the PhD workshop does not automatically register you for the Research Meeting. For more information or to submit an abstract, please see the [Call for Abstracts](#).

About the Innovation Growth Lab

The [Innovation Growth Lab](#) (IGL) is a global hub based at Nesta where we design, test and promote evidence-based approaches to innovation, entrepreneurship and growth. We are a partnership of governments, foundations and researchers working to advance experimentation. We enable, support, undertake and disseminate high impact research that uses randomised controlled trials (RCTs) to improve the design of the programmes and institutions that help make our economies more innovative and entrepreneurial. IGL is run by a core team based at [Nesta](#), under the guidance of the IGL Steering Board, composed of representatives from all [IGL partners](#), and benefiting from the advice provided by the IGL Scientific Committee, made up of world-class researchers from around the world:

- Nick Bloom (Stanford University)
- Dietmar Harhoff (Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition)
- Karim Lakhani (Harvard Business School)
- Josh Lerner (Harvard Business School)
- Fiona Murray (MIT Sloan School of Management)
- Mark Schankerman (LSE)
- Scott Stern (MIT Sloan School of Management)
- John Van Reenen (MIT Sloan School of Management)

To find out more about our work and upcoming events, please visit our [website](#) and [blog](#), sign up for our [newsletter](#), or follow us on [Twitter](#).

Privacy and Use of Data

In connection with this Call for Applications, Nesta may share your details with members of the IGL's Scientific Committee (see above). *Find out more about how we use personal information in our [Privacy Policy](#).* For any enquiries relating to this call, please contact the IGL team at innovationgrowthlab@nesta.org.uk.