

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

READVERTISEMENT

PHD POSITION FOR BANGLADESHI NATIONAL

CLIMATE CHANGE AND GLOBAL VALUE CHAINS IN THE EUROPEAN AND BANGLADESH GARMENTS AND TEXTILE INDUSTRIES

Locations: There is vacant PhD position available at a Danish University under a large-scale research project titled “Climate change and global value chains in Bangladesh” funded by Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA). This joint PhD scholarship is reserved for a Bangladeshi national and is offered by Copenhagen Business School/Roskilde University Denmark and BRAC University, Bangladesh, as part of the Danida-sponsored project to develop knowledge capacity of Bangladeshi scholars on climate change in global value chains in the garment and textile industry. During the PhD study, the PhD student will be required to stay in Bangladesh (app. 60% of the time) and Denmark (40% of the time). As a minimum, the PhD student must take an equivalent of 30 ECTS of PhD courses/academic dissemination that can be accredited by the Danish university. Some of these will be obligatory courses in their Danish university. While in Bangladesh, the PhD student will be based at Centre for Entrepreneurship Development, BRAC University, and take some PhD courses at the Institute of Business Administration, University of Dhaka. Assuming that the PhD student completes all of the requirements of the PhD program and successfully defends his/her PhD thesis, the student will be awarded a PhD degree from either Roskilde University or Copenhagen Business School, Denmark.

Expected Start Date: 1 December 2022

Duration: 3 Years

Applications Due: 5 October 2022 at midnight CET (see details of application process at bottom of document)

Stipend/Funding Package: The PhD student selected will receive a Bangladeshi stipend for 3 years during their employment at the Center for Entrepreneurship Development, BRAC University, Bangladesh. An additional DFC-Standard (Danida Fellowship Center) stipend will be given to the PhD student for the time spent at one of the universities in Denmark (Copenhagen Business School or Roskilde University).

DANIDA Research Project Overview

This research and capacity building project uses cutting-edge social science methods to investigate how the garment/textile value chains connecting Europe and Bangladesh are being reconfigured in response to climate change. The garment and textile industries account for around 10% of global CO₂ emissions, and their fast fashion approach consumes huge amounts of water in production and processing stages. While the fast fashion model incentivizes the overproduction/consumption of clothes, more sustainable solutions lie in the reconfiguration of value chains towards slow fashion (durable products produced on demand) and the introduction of circular business models. Such a transformation will have consequences for the environment, workers' conditions, and economic development. This is particularly the case in the light of COVID-19, which led to a temporary disruption in the global garment and textiles value chains as stores closed in Europe and the United States in the spring of 2020. The cancellation and non-payment of garment orders particularly affected suppliers and workers in Bangladesh, leaving hundreds and thousands of workers without jobs and possibly facing destitution. Global value chain research can provide a unique insight into this process of transformation, by focusing on the re-configuration of production and its developmental consequences. At a time when both the European and Bangladesh garments/textiles industries are struggling to survive, and have to align their businesses with calls for decarbonization and more sustainable forms of production, our research asks,

'How are the garment and textile value chains connecting Europe and Bangladesh being reconfigured in response to climate change, and what are the consequences for economic, social, and environmental upgrading in the garment and textile industries of Bangladesh?'

The project will create new academic and policy relevant knowledge by developing a conceptual framework that bridges global value chain and climate change analysis to answer six sub-questions:

- 1) Who are the actors driving climate change mitigation and adaptation in these industries during and after COVID-19?
- 2) Which economic, social and legal drivers/barriers shape these actors' responses to climate change?
- 3) What practices (reach, form, scale) are undertaken by actors in relation to emissions classed by the Greenhouse Gas Protocol as Scope 1 (direct emissions), Scope 2 (emissions from purchases of energy) and Scope 3 (emissions upstream and downstream along the value chain)?
- 4) What novel forms of experimentation (around practices and relations along the value chain) are actors engaging in?
- 5) How can brands, suppliers, governments, and other actors develop effective policy responses to address the challenges posed by climate change, during and after COVID-19?
- 6) How is the reconfiguration of value chains affecting economic, social, and environmental upgrading among garment and textile firms and workers in Bangladesh?

The theoretical framework for the project will probe these factors at the level of product design/manufacturing/distribution/consumption & recycling of products, across different scales (international/national/regional & local), in particular places in the global North (DK/UK) and global South (Bangladesh), and over time. Fieldwork will be undertaken in both Europe and Bangladesh.

Project Partners

Copenhagen Business School (CBS)-DK, Roskilde University, DK, Aalborg University-DK, BRAC University, Bangladesh, Durham University, UK, the Danish Ethical Trading Initiative, and Danish Fashion and Textile.

PhD positions and Research Themes:

The PhD student will - as part of the project - work on one or more of the following themes.

a) Climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies in the European and Bangladesh garment and textile industries.

This PhD position will focus on how lead firms, suppliers, and other stakeholders in Europe and Bangladesh are seeking to adopt climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies in the garments and textile industries.

b) Climate change and garment/textile workers in Bangladesh

This PhD position will explore the impacts of climate change and/or related interventions on garment/textile workers. Studies may draw on global value chain and global production network perspectives. Topics may be related to workers' experiences, collective action, and governance mechanisms.

Minimum Requirements

a) To be considered, the candidate should have successfully completed the Master's level education (5-year of tertiary education with research experience for example the 3-year bachelor+2-year research-based Master's education as per the Bologna process).

c) Applicants will have demonstratable research experience either in Master's thesis (E.g., received an equivalent grade of 10 (A-) or higher on the Danish grading scale for their Master's thesis) or publications with high impact. An equivalent of minimum grade point average of 8.2 on the Danish grading scale must have been achieved for the relevant Bachelor's degree and the Master's degree combined.

d) The applicant must be fluent in written and oral English. Applicants who do not have English as a first language or who have not completed an English language-based Master's program (or an equivalent educational achievement in English) shall provide documentation that they have passed one of the following official tests with the respective minimum score:

- IELTS (band score): 7
- TOEFL (paper-based): 600

- TOEFL (internet-based): 100

The language test must be no more than five years old at the time of the application.

Application Process

If you are interested in applying for the PhD position in this project, please submit the following documents electronically to Professor Peter Lund-Thomsen (pl.msc@cbs.dk) by 5 October 2022.

1. Research proposal within one of the two themes described above (climate change mitigation/adaptation; and climate change and workers in Bangladesh garments and textile industries) (maximum five pages). This research proposal should contain a presentation of an original research question, a description of the initial theoretical framework and methodology, a presentation of the suggested empirical material as well as a work-plan.
2. Copies of a Master's degree certificate or other certificates of a corresponding level along with a grade transcript
3. Brief curriculum vitae (CV)
4. List of papers and publications
5. One copy of a selected written work (e.g. Master's thesis)
6. Documentation for English language skills (where applicable)

Recruitment Procedure

The recruitment committee expects to shortlist at least three applicants for the position to be assessed by the assessment committee. All applicants will be notified of their status in the recruitment process shortly after the application deadline. Applicants selected for assessment will be notified about the composition of the assessment committee and later in the process about the result of the assessment. Short-listed candidates will be required to participate in interviews via zoom/teams.

Once the recruitment process is completed, applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application. It should be noted that once the project team has selected a candidate, the candidate will have to go through the formal admission process of CBS or Roskilde University and pass an internal academic quality evaluation at CBS/Roskilde before s/he can start the PhD studies.

As the PhD stipend is part of a Danida-financed research and research capacity development project, applicants are expected to return to Bangladesh after completing the PhD program.

Any questions related to the PhD scholarship should be directed to Professor Peter Lund-Thomsen, Copenhagen Business School at the following email address: pl.msc@cbs.dk