Research studentship in Data Mining and Copyright Law

This 3 year full-time PhD studentship is offered with a start date of January 2012 or as soon as possible thereafter. The successful candidate will receive an annual stipend of £13,590 and a fee-waiver for those eligible for Home/EU fees (2011/12 rates).

This studentship will be co-supervised at Strathclyde University between the School of Law and School of Business. The research topic forms part of the work programme of a large four-year £8m CREATe, an RCUK Centre for Copyright and New Business Models in the Creative Economy, which is a consortium consisting of the Universities of Glasgow, Strathclyde, Edinburgh, Nottingham, St Andrews, UEA and Goldsmiths, alongside over 80 industry and public sector arts partners. The studentship will be co-supervised by Professor Lilian Edwards (Law) and Dr Stephen Tagg (Business). Profesor Edwards is also Deputy Director of CREATe, whose lead institution is Glasgow. It is expected the successful candidate will be given opportunities to interact with the rest of the CREATe team and its activities. The student will have access to facilities in both Faculties and be based physically at Strathclyde.

The project to which the studentship is attached is shared between Strathclyde and the Horizon Digital Economy Hub at Nottingham, and deals with the legal, technical and social issues around data mining and the cultural industries. Data mining allows new data to be extracted from old by automated means, i.e. from existing large sets of texts or data. Examples include mining existing databases to create profiles about data subjects for use in targeted advertising; police use of data-mining of social networks for law enforcement and surveillance; and research use of datasets, e.g., comparing incidences of words in variant texts of Shakespeare plays, or looking for new drugs by analysing existing papers on drug formulae. The recent Hargreaves report on copyright reform recommended a limited new exception to copyright for data mining, but this is opposed by industry players such as the publishers' association. The PhD candidate recruited will be expected to work on the copyright and other legal as well as business and cultural implications of data mining.

Applicants can come from any relevant background including science, technology, law or business, but a basic understanding of and interest in intellectual property law is desirable. Candidates should have at least a good 2:1 Honours first degree and a relevant Masters is desirable though not essential.

Deadline for receipt of completed applications: Monday 17th December 2012.

Informal enquires: Please contact Professor Lilian Edwards (lilian.edwards@strath.ac.uk)

For further project details and information on how to apply please contact:
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