Assistants for policy research project

Utrecht University's Graduate Student Think Tank is looking for student assistants to help create a best practices database on interdisciplinary course initiatives and to form an information platform of graduate level communities within the UU. As an informal platform, driven by Masters students and PhD candidates, the Think Tank proposes ideas, concepts, designs and solutions to support the implementation of the Graduate Agenda. Its central aim is to provide input to the Dean of Graduate Studies and the Graduate Agenda.

The project aims to create coherent and effective policy to promote interdisciplinary approaches within graduate education, and to create an overview of relevant communities at the graduate level. The student assistants will create a database with already existing initiatives, will analyze best practices, and will report their results in writing and presentations.

- Student assistant
- 8 hours per week
- For an initial course of three months, starting in January (with chance of prolonging based on results)
- Hours are flexible, with peaks in the first half of March

The project consists of:

- Coming up, in broad terms, with proposals for creating interdisciplinarity and community feeling at the graduate level
- Developing a taxonomy of possibilities for interdisciplinary courses and graduate communities at UU, with attention to possibilities for implementation
- Researching which policy initiatives exist within the UU faculties with regard to these themes, in cooperation with faculty policy makers
- Desk research: creating a database of existing UU courses with an interdisciplinary component, as well as initiatives centering on communities at graduate level
- Writing a report with an analysis of the results

Besides this research project, the assistants will also participate in the Graduate Student Think Tank, and will be able to contribute substantially to the final policy advice. As part of this project, you will present ongoing results to relevant bodies within the UU.

We are looking for two MA students who want to gain experience within public policy making, and who already have some experience with policy research, either from previous internships or relevant (extra)curricular activities. We expect you to be able to work independently, and offer you flexibility in return.

Profile:

- Interest in academic policy/creating new ideas about the university
- Strong writer
- Hands-on and able to work independently
- Team player
- Not afraid to speak in public
- Optional: Knowledge of/experience with policy research

We offer:

- A three-month appointment as student-assistant, with the possibility of contract renewal based on experience
- Payment according to experience, through Top Select

Please send a short motivation and your background before December 22nd to s.lek@uu.nl. For questions or more information you can e-mail as well.