

## CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR ONE FULLY FUNDED UNIBZ-NOI Ph.D. POSITION

The **Free University of Bozen-Bolzano** (Unibz) is a three lingual (English, Italian and German), international and research-led university. The **Faculty of Economics and Management** together with **NOI Techpark** invites expressions of interest from highly motivated candidates interested in enrolling in **the 4-year Ph.D. program** in Management and Economics starting in Fall 2020.

NOI Techpark is South Tyrol's growing innovation district. A campus of 120,000 m<sup>2</sup>. More than 40 scientific laboratories, workshops, open spaces, seminar rooms, space for new ideas. Here, all under one roof, we are shaping the future with Unibz, renowned research institutes, numerous companies and start-ups.

Research focus: **innovation and family business management**, inspired by the “**Nature Of Innovation**” (NOI) approach, which we refer to as a new understanding of how we should rethink accepted patterns of behavior, leverage and reinterpret old structures and dare to tread upon new paths. We are looking for candidates with a genuine interest in “engaged scholarship” (Van de Ven, 2007), which we interpret as **rigorous academic research** combined with strong **impact on practice**, for instance rooted in the **Innovation Through Tradition (ITT)** research stream.

Project title: **Toward a better management of innovation in family firms: Unpacking and revamping existing tools in a “nature of innovation” perspective.**

Supervisor (PI): Professor Alfredo De Massis

This is a fully funded and full-time research position at Unibz where the selected candidate will **leverage the network and assets of the NOI Techpark** to conduct academic research with impact on practice.

Project details: The project is centered on innovation management in family firms, which are the most ubiquitous form of business organization in any world economy, and especially in Italy and South Tyrol, where family businesses traditionally drive entrepreneurial activity and play a leading role in social and economic wealth creation.

The methods employed will be primarily **action research**, which combines research with action and participation in the field and is particularly appropriate to conduct research in a real-world environment.

Successful candidates should have the ambition and ability to do quality research leading to publication in top Management and Innovation and be committed to contribute to our Innovation and Family Business research focus. Moreover, they should have an attitude toward qualitative methods and action research and be interested in developing skills in this area.

The Unibz faculty publishes regularly in the leading management and innovation journals including the *Academy of Management Journal*, *Journal of Management*, *Strategic Management Journal*, *Journal of Management Studies*, *Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice*, *Journal of Business Venturing*, *Journal of International Business Studies* and *Journal of Product Innovation Management*.

The successful candidate will be working at NOI Techpark (<https://noi.bz.it/en>), the Bolzano's innovation park opened in 2017, together with the Unibz Centre for Family Business Management team, that is part of the Faculty of Economics and Management of Unibz, and the NOI AG.

Under the supervision of the Professor Alfredo De Massis, the successful candidate will become part of the international and interdisciplinary working research team. The **Unibz Centre for Family Business Management** is a reference point, both locally and internationally, for research, education and knowledge transfer activities in the field of family business. The Centre conducts international and interdisciplinary research, in collaboration with other research institutes, on the distinctive organizational goals, strategic processes, innovation, succession, and outcomes engendered by family involvement in business. By combining academic research excellence and practical relevance, the Centre is a natural partner for both international scholars and owners and managers of family businesses and business families, as well as for advisors and other actors interested in family enterprising. For further information see <https://cfbm.groups.unibz.it/>

#### Qualification requirements:

- Master degree or equivalent university qualification obtained from a foreign university in management, business administration, economics, psychology, sociology or related disciplines<sup>1</sup>;
- Language skills:
  - English level C1
  - Optional: Fluent Italian and/or German

Application: If interested, please send an expression of interest to Professor Alfredo De Massis: [alfredo.demassis@unibz.it](mailto:alfredo.demassis@unibz.it)

The official application must be done through the Unibz application website: Candidates should indicate that they apply for the NOI Techpark scholarship and the deadline for submitting the full application is **July 13, 2020**.

Candidates will have to fulfill the general application criteria that can be accessed here: <https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/economics-management/phd-management-economics/>

The final decision will be made by the Selection Committee of the PhD Program.

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<sup>1</sup> For people with an Italian degree, this means either a 'laurea specialistica' DM n. 509/1999 or a laurea magistrale DM n. 270/2004; or a Bachelor degree of the former Italian university framework ("vecchio ordinamento").