School of Computing, Engineering, and the Built Environment
Edinburgh Napier University

PHD STUDENT PROJECT

Funding and application details

Funding status: Self-funded students only

Application instructions:
Detailed instructions are available at https://www.napier.ac.uk/research-and-innovation/research-degrees/how-to-apply

Prospective candidates are encouraged to contact the Director of Studies (see details below) to discuss the project and their suitability for it.

Project details

Supervisory Team:
- DIRECTOR OF STUDY: Pritam Chita (Email: P.Chita@napier.ac.uk)
- 2ND SUPERVISOR: Peter Cruickshank

Subject Group: Applied informatics

Research Areas: Software Engineering, Project Management

Project Title: Agile Coaching and Organisational Learning

Project description:
There are currently many agile coaches and those tasked with mentoring remits within the software project delivery function. Little is known about the involvement and role of agile coaches regards the adoption and deployment of agile methods. The agile delivery domain typically consists of inconsistent approaches and varying levels of success, with organisations missing opportunities to learn from successes and failures in agile delivery.

This project will research how organisations facilitate the learning of agile methods in software delivery and the rationale and benefits of using agile coaches. It will examine leadership issues, agile coach selection, agile coaching skill sets and

agile coaching activity. It will also examine how organisations evaluate their agile adoption processes and the factors that influence agile coaching within a wider organisational learning context.

References:
[1] Stray, V. Memon, B. & Paruch, I. (2020) A Systematic Literature Review on Agile Coaching and the role of the Agile Coach. Int Conf on Product-focused Software Process Improvement.

[2] Chita, P., Cruickshank, P. Smith, C. & Richards, K. (2020) Agile Implementation and expansive learning: Identifying contradictions and their resolution using an activity theory perspective. Int Conf on Agile Software Development.

[3] Theobald, S., Prenner, N., Krieg, A. & Schneider, K. (2020) Agile leadership and agile management on Organisational Level - a systematic literature review. Int Conf on Product-Focused Software Process Improvement.

Candidate characteristics

Education:
A second class honour degree or equivalent qualification in Computer Science or Information Science

Subject knowledge:
- Computer Science
- Software Delivery
- Project Management

Essential attributes:
- Experience of fundamental computer science and project management academic literature and issues.
- Competent in qualitative research techniques such as interviewing, document analysis and focus groups.
- Knowlege of agile delivery approaches.
- Good written and oral communication skills.
- Strong motivation with evidence of independent research skills relevant to the project.
- Good time management

Desirable attributes:
- Software delivery background would be helpful