“If you can survive the fortnightly PhD seminar, the viva will be a piece of cake!”

PhD Graduate
PhD Programme at CEPMLP

The Centre for Energy, Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy (CEPMLP) is a globally-leading institution of high level academic research and training in the field of natural resources law, policy and management. Our researchers carry out their work in a challenging time when:

- increasing global uncertainties about security of access to energy and other natural resources is posing serious challenges to peaceful international relations
- the relationship between producing and consuming nations is left to the fluidity of power politics rather than the relative certainty of international law
- the environmental challenges directly emanating from the consumption of conventional energy resources have led to an intensified search for more environmentally friendly alternatives, thereby putting under question the security of demand for these products and the resulting export revenues for exporting countries
- relationships between multinational enterprises, national governments and local communities often require careful political management but are often left unaddressed for so long that extractive industries and human rights violations become two faces of a single coin
- disputes relating to the property rights of investors, environmental harm and the like are left in the hands of a fragmented system of dispute settlement through a variety of forums, etc.

In order to address the many challenges facing us today, we need new, original and innovative thinking to challenge conventional wisdom, to advance scholarship and to help address concrete regulatory and policy problems. The PhD programme at CEPMLP adopts a deliberately multidisciplinary ethos to research and scholarship so as to prepare the new generation of analysts and thinkers for the multi-faceted challenges of the natural resources industry. With well over 40 PhD students at any one time, CEPMLP has established itself as the leading institution in its field for this type of high-level and cutting-edge research.

Destination of our Graduates
PhD students must complete their studies within a maximum of four years. Our PhD graduates usually join academia, energy and mining companies, law firms, consultancies, governments and international organisations (e.g. the OPEC Secretariat and the World Bank).

Research outputs
PhD students are encouraged to engage with their peers and the wider academic and professional community throughout their studies in Dundee. A large number of PhD theses completed at the Centre are subsequently published as monographs and/or articles in academic and professional journals. Indeed many PhD researchers publish articles in peer-reviewed journals, either alone or jointly with their supervisors, while they are still in Dundee and thereby contribute to the development of a vibrant research and academic culture at the Centre.

To apply
Applicants should normally have a good taught Masters degree or equivalent in a relevant discipline from a recognised university.

As part of their application package, candidates should supply a 5-10 page outline of their proposed research topic (general area of interest). This will enable the Director of the Programme to confirm that the proposed topic lies within the field of interest of the Centre and that adequate supervisory arrangements are in place from the outset. The main priority for the Centre is that the student is adequately supervised and is able to progress at a satisfactory rate throughout the duration of the PhD.

Further information, contact
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