

ICFR PhD Network on Financial Regulation

Objectives of the Network

The main objective of the PhD Network is to support and encourage innovative research on financial regulation through collaborative Network of PhD students, linking them to practitioners, policy makers and senior academics.

The initiative was launched in response to lessons drawn from meetings of the ICFR Academic Panel. The Panel highlighted that despite an abundance of students researching financial regulation, very few opportunities for collaboration and constructive engagement exist.

Students conducting research on financial regulation tend to be spread across a large number of different academic institutions. Only very few academic institutions are capable of attracting a critical mass of students conducting research on financial regulation, and also in these instances, the students are often spread across different academic departments (e.g. economics, law, political science, etc.). In a similar way, the venues in which doctoral students have an opportunity to present their work tend to be divided along disciplinary lines, and only a limited number of conferences and publication outlets exist specifically focusing on financial regulation. As a result, doctoral candidates have limited opportunities to engage with their peers conducting research on similar themes in different academic institutions or in different departments within the same academic institution.

Moreover, an even wider gap exists between students conducting research on financial regulation, industry practitioners and regulators involved in financial policymaking. This is particularly relevant because there are huge benefits to be gained by all parties if academics are able to share their research with regulators and practitioners, but also receive feedback.

Indeed, academic research has traditionally represented a source of new ideas for practitioners and policymakers and one of the main warning bells regarding the shortcomings of existing regulation. In the same way, achieving exposure to policymakers and practitioners represents a resource for research students seeking to identify what problems and research subjects will forward the needed research on regulatory issues.

Thus, this collaborative PhD Network aims to fill the gaps currently characterised within doctoral research on financial regulation by:

- **Bringing students together:** Through the creation of an *inter-disciplinary* Network, this initiative aims to encourage an interaction and exchange of ideas among students carrying out research on financial regulation globally.
- **Creating outlets to disseminate research:** In addition to creating channels for students to interact with their peers, the Network aims to create opportunities for students to disseminate their research with the rest of the Network through presentations during workshops and through sharing of work on the web-based platform.

- **Creating networking opportunities with senior academics, practitioners and regulators:** The Network seeks to create opportunities for researchers to interact with senior academics, practitioners and regulators, both by inviting senior academics, practitioners and regulators associated with the ICFR to events related to the PhD Network, and also allowing students to participate to ICFR events relevant to their research. Indeed, as an independent centre created to foster dialogue between policymakers, market practitioners, and academia, the ICFR is well positioned to perform this role.

Building the Network

We aim to develop the Network by focusing on the below criteria:

- **Stage in PhD:** The Network is open to all PhD students, both those at an advanced stage of their doctoral studies and students at earlier stages of their research.
- **Geographical scope:** Financial regulation is a global issue, and we will seek to reflect this in the locations of the workshops. Initial workshops will take place in London, with future locations to be decided as the network develops. Besides these workshops, a web-based platform has been created to allow researchers to share their research and other research resources with the rest of the Network.
- **Interdisciplinary nature:** The Network will be explicitly interdisciplinary in its approach. Most obviously it extends to students of Economics and Finance, Law, Political Science, International Political Economy, Science and Technology Studies, Sociology and other social sciences, though students from other areas may also want to be involved.

Output from the Network

- **Thematic workshops**

One of the main outputs of this project will be the organisation of a series of regular workshops where PhD students involved with the Network will have an opportunity to present their research and receive feedback. Tentatively, these workshops would be held at least once every academic term, starting from January 2012, but the frequency will be adjusted, according to the demand from the students willing to present their work.

These workshops will be organised either within the ICFR premises or on the premises provided by our partners in London, in order to facilitate participation of invited practitioners, regulators, members of the ICFR Academic Panel and other academics, as well as students.

The workshops will be organised around specific themes, thus favouring a more fruitful exchange between the researchers, and allowing us to invite academics, practitioners and regulators working in that specific area.

- **Keeping the Network alive**

Besides the workshops, as already mentioned above a web-based platform has been created to allow researchers to share their research and other research resources with the rest of the Network. We encourage students to use this group to publicise recently published work, to circulate draft versions of work in order to receive feedback, to post calls for papers, fellowships and scholarships related to financial regulation, and any other research related material.



The International Centre for Financial Regulation

5th Floor
41 Moorgate
London
EC2R 6PP
United Kingdom
Telephone: +44 (0) 20 7374 5560
Facsimile: +44 (0) 20 7374 5570
E-mail: enquiries@icfr.org
Website: www.icfr.org