PhD Research on the Energy Management Team at GEM

PhD candidates on GEM’s Energy Management Team work closely with faculty, investigating how the energy sector is changing in response to technological innovations and to global developments in energy and climate policy, and how enterprises can and should respond to this change.

We are a growing team of inter-disciplinary researchers interested in advancing theoretical and applied understandings of how to manage the world’s current and future energy resources.

Enterprises of all kinds have a role to play in this challenge, which is why our research takes a wide range of approaches and perspectives:

- Corporate management of energy transitions
- Clean energy innovation and sustainable and social venturing
- Institutions and governance of a low carbon society
- Drivers and impacts of energy technology diffusion

Our Team’s Methods & Approach

We are an interdisciplinary group with a range of methodological skill sets. Important research questions come in all forms and the correct methods approach is the one that is well-tailored to the research question.

To that end we have individuals building statistical models and formally testing hypotheses using patent data, original primary survey data, R&D spending data, and firm-level technology adoption data.

We also use in-depth interviewing, network analysis, institutional analysis, policy analysis and other forms of qualitative investigation to understand the reasons underlying people’s and organizations’ actions, understandings and beliefs.

All GEM PhD students train rigorously in research methods and are encouraged to attend faculty-led quantitative and qualitative research seminars to see methods being applied in real research.

“Being interested in energy systems and smart cities, choosing GEM guaranteed to me that I would be at the center of a vibrant ecosystem: Grenoble is a real living lab, home to many research projects, industry consortia and startups.”

- Laurent Javaudin

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Information on applying to GEM’s PhD Program:
http://en.grenoble-em.com/phd-business-administration
Study in a World-Leading City for Energy Innovation

Grenoble is a center of science and technology innovation, including:

**Businesses**
- Schneider Electric, EADS (Airbus), Siemens, HP, Alstom, Air Liquide, ST Microelectronics

**Competitive/Scientific Clusters**
- GIANT, Minatec, Tenerdis, Minalogic
- Systèmes Énergétiques et Marchés (SEM)

**Research Facilities**
- French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA)
- National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS)
- Eur. Synchrotron Radiation Facility (ESRF)

**Energy Team Links to Business and Industry**

GEM is the business school member of the GIANT (Grenoble Innovation for Advanced New Technologies) campus, a master-planned community that includes 250 hectares of world-class research in fundamental science, technology, and economic commercialization.

Grenoble is also known as the “Silicon Valley of France” and GEM was created by the local chamber of commerce to provide management research and education in support of the many companies that have located here. Energy Team researchers enjoy immediate institutional links to these and other partner organizations.

The Energy Team runs the GEM Energy Market Barometer, which surveys energy industry experts in France on where energy markets are heading. PhD students are closely involved in this twice-yearly research.

The Energy Team also collects data on technology-based ventures in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region, to understand how they pursue opportunities in sustainable venturing and environmental issues.

Training for a Career in Research

Energy Team PhD graduates gain the key qualification for a research career in:

- Teaching and researching in Academia
- Research-led policy making in European and international institutions
- Managing energy transitions in industry

**Skills, Knowledge, and Values for the Job**

Energy Team PhD graduates gain a set of research-related skills, knowledge and values that ready them for the academic and broader job market.

Research skills include the ability to identify important research problems and frame them in answerable ways, and to address those questions by applying a range of research methods.

Candidates will also gain knowledge of cutting-edge issues in energy management and innovation, smart grids, energy technology adoption behavior, energy economics and public policy, sustainable venturing and sustainable transport.

Values of academic rigor, creativity and originality are promoted throughout the taught and research-based program components.

**High Quality of Life in Grenoble**

- Large, international population of scientists, researchers and students
- Vibrant historic city center full of culture and commerce
- Friendly and creative city that is welcoming to foreigners
- Easy access to world-class winter and summer recreational opportunities
- Walkable with excellent public transport
- Paris and Marseille in 3 hours by TGV.

**Grenoble the City**

Grenoble is commonly known as the “Capital of the Alps.” It is full of cultural and recreational life with a dense historical center full of shopping, eating and entertainment opportunities.

The city is surrounded by the Alps which invite world-class winter and summer sporting possibilities, as well as splendid year-round views from just about everywhere. Yet, the city itself is one of the flattest in Europe and is extremely walkable and bikeable. It also has excellent public transportation and excellent train, air and road connections to the rest of the world.

Culturally, Grenoble is youthful and modern, with a large population of students and international businesspeople from many countries. Creativity and entrepreneurial spirit are always on display. The friendliness of the people makes it an easy and welcoming city for foreigners to live in.

“In no other sector is disruption happening at a larger scale than in energy. I find it exciting to study this development from the many managerial perspectives there are to it. The GEM PhD program provides us with all the tools and resources to do so and build a toolkit and profile in the process.”

– Mark Olsthoorn

“GEM has both really challenged me and really supported me over the course of the programs. The professors work closely with me every step of the way. No matter what struggle you are having, there is somebody who can share their experience on something similar or give you another perspective.”

– Greg Molecke