

## **The Professor Sir Richard Trainor PhD Scholarships 2017-18**

### **Project Title: Robotic Singulation of Tangled Plants**

#### **Partner Organisations: Vitacress**

King's is now inviting applications for one of the Professor Sir Richard Trainor PhD Scholarships in the Department of Informatics at King's College London in collaboration with Vitacress. The scholarship will commence from October 2017 onwards and is open to new incoming PhD students only.

#### **Project Description:**

The project will develop new methods by which robotic systems can be programmed by non-expert users in the context of the industrial production of fresh herbs for the retail market. It will develop new methods for data-driven analysis of hand motions associated with singulation of bunches of herbs from larger bundles/boxes. Based on this analysis, new controllers will be developed for soft robotic systems to reproduce these movements on the production line. It will also study how humans learn these skills, forming new theories of neuromuscular control and skill learning. The project will be part funded by Vitacress, a large producer of herbs and salads for UK and European supermarkets.

In the 2014 REF, 88% of research activity by the Department of Informatics was assessed as 'world leading or internationally excellent'. It is a research-led department with a strong reputation for contribution to scholarship, teaching and practice. The Department is located on the Strand Campus of King's College London where the studentship will be based.

#### **Supervisors:**

Lead Supervisor: Dr Matthew Howard

Second Supervisors: Dr Hongbin Liu

Partner Organisation Supervisors: Chris Moncrieff

**Application documentation:** applicants must complete and submit:

- a CV
- personal statement explaining why they would be suitable

to [graduateschool@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:graduateschool@kcl.ac.uk) by 11:59pm (UK BST) on 18 June 2017. The subject line of the email should read 'RT Scholarship 1718 – [*include the relevant project title*]

**All documents should be submitted as a single pdf.**

Two academic references **must** be received by the deadline for the application to be eligible. Candidates are responsible for instructing referees to submit their references to [graduateschool@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:graduateschool@kcl.ac.uk) using the subject line 'RT Scholarship 1718 – [*name of applicant*]'.

**Selection:** Please note that as part of selection, short-listed candidates will be invited for interview.

**Funding Details:** The scholarship will provide an annual payment of £15,000 which can be used to cover tuition fees and/or living costs. In addition, £8000 per year will be provided towards the student's conference travel.

**Length of Award:** 3 years (PhD)

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