FILIP LESTAN
PhD Candidate (4th year, expected graduation spring 2026)
Department of Innovation and Entrepreneurship
Nord University Business School
Bodo, Norway
Voice: +421-915-529-229
Email Address: filip.lestan@nord.no

Friday 31st January, 2025

Re: NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp July 11-17, 2025

Dear Professors Bryan, Ganguli, and Myers,

I am writing to express my keen interest in participating in the NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp, to be held in Cambridge, MA, from July 11–17, 2025. As a late-stage PhD candidate in Strategy and Innovation at Nord University Business School (Norway), I am eager to take advantage of this unique opportunity to refine my research and dissertation while contributing to scholarly discussions under your guidance.

Please find attached my (i) curriculum vitae, (ii) transcripts of all completed PhD courses, and (iii) one-page essay describing my research, dissertation, and motivation for attending the boot camp. Additionally, I have included a (iv) letter confirming my relationship with my recommendation letter writer.

Professor Randall S. Peterson (rpeterson@london.edu) from London Business School will submit a recommendation letter by the February 6, 2025, deadline. I had the privilege of being a visiting PhD student under Professor Peterson from November 2023 to January 2024.

Thank you for considering my application. I would be honored to contribute to and learn from this enriching event. Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information.

Sincerely,



Filip Lestan

FILIP LESTAN

Born: 26 November 1997 **Citizenship**: Slovakia **Residence**: Morkvedveien 18, 8020 Bodo, Norway
Voice: +421-915-529-229 ◇ **Mail**: filip.lestan@gmail.com ◇ LinkedIn ◇ Publications ◇ Biography

EDUCATION

NORD University Business School — Bodø, Norway
PhD in Business Economics. — *Aug 2022 - Present*
MSc in Global Management. — *Aug 2020 - Jul 2022*

MGIMO - Moscow State Institute of International Relations — Moscow, Russia
MA in International Business in the Oil and Gas Sector. Red Diploma. — *Aug 2020 - Jun 2022*

HAMK Häme University of Applied Sciences — Hämeenlinna, Finland
BBA in International Business. — *Aug 2018 - May 2020*

RESEARCH & TECHNICAL EXPERIENCE

Nord University Business School — Bodø, Norway
Research and Teaching Fellow — *Aug 2022 - Present*

University of Campinas — Campinas, Brazil
Visiting Scholar — *Dec 2024 - Feb 2025*

Government office of the Slovak Republic — Bratislava, Slovakia
Member of the Expert Working Group (EWD) - Research and Innovation — *Sep 2023 - Dec 2024*

University of Pretoria — Pretoria, South Africa
Visiting Scholar — *Feb 2024 - Mar 2024*

London Business School — London, England
Visiting Scholar — *Nov 2022 - Jan 2024*

Government Office of the Slovak Republic — Bratislava, Slovakia
Innovation Research Fellow — *Jul 2023 - Aug 2023*

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) — Paris, France
Finance Analyst Intern - GOV/CMU — *Sep 2021 - May 2022*

Professor Sajal Kabiraj, PhD, MBA — Valkeakoski, Finland
Research assistant — *Jan 2019 - May 2022*

GLOBSEC (Non-governmental organisation) — Bratislava, Slovakia
Executive & Research Assistant — *Apr 2021 - Aug 2021*

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Slovak Ice-Hockey Federation — Slovakia, Sweden
Professional Athlete: Ice-hockey Player — *2015 - 2017*

· 3 x Represented Slovak National Ice-hockey Team at World Junior Championship.

HAMK Häme University of Applied Sciences — Hämeenlinna, Finland
University Ambassador — *Aug 2019 – May 2020*

TECHNICAL STRENGTHS AND INTERESTS

COMPUTER:

Programming:	R, Python.
Markup:	HTML, CSS.
Scripting:	LaTeX, R, Python, MS Office.
Statistics:	R Studio, STATA, IBM SPSS, some experience with MatLab.
Applications:	NVivo, EndNote, Tableu, PowerBI, SAP Business Objects, MS Office.

LANGUAGES:

Fluent:	Slovak (native); English, Russian, Swedish (fluent).
Developing:	Finnish, Norwegian, French (basics).

INTERESTS: Tennis, Track & Field (Running 100m, 200m, 400m), Chess.

VOLUNTEERING: EYP – European Youth Parliament (Board Candidacy).
NORDPLUS – Nordic Council of Ministers (Student Ambassador).
GLOBSEC – Bratislava Forum 2019 & 2020 (Supervisor of side-events).
SMS – 43rd and 44th Annual Conferences (Reviewer).

PUBLICATIONS

Scientific manuscripts:

- **Lestan, F.**, Kabiraj, S., & George, B. (2023). Preliminary Impact Assessment of Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism on Russian Economy. FIIB Business Review. Link
- **Lestan, F.** (2023). How Much Does Innovation Capability Matter in Firm Performance? DRUID Doctoral Students Academy. Link
- **Lestan, F.**, George, B., & Kabiraj, S. (2021). Economic Performance and Composition of Nordic Bioeconomy Sectors (NBES). Journal of Risk and Financial Management, 14(9), 418. Link
- Malik, T. H., Kabiraj, S., & **Lestan, F.** (2022). Prestige of the Decision Ecology and Risk-taking in R&D Project in the Biopharmaceutical Sector. Global Business Review. Link
- Kabiraj, S., **Lestan, F.**, Stevens, J., Nikbakht, M., Ludwig, A.F., Smith, E., Knauff, C. (2021). Grand Social Challenges and Opportunities to Business in China. Finnish Business Review. Link

Book chapters:

- **Lestan, F.**, & Kabiraj, S. (2022). Green Economic Transition Scenarios in the Arctic Region. Progress in Green Economics. Bentham Science Publisher. Link
- Kabiraj, S. and **Lestan, F.** (2020), "COVID-19 Outbreak in Finland: Case Study on the Management of Pandemics", George, B. and Mahar, Q. (Ed.) International Case Studies in the Management of Disasters (Tourism Security-Safety and Post Conflict Destinations), Emerald Publishing Limited, Leeds, pp. 213-229. Link

Working papers:

- **Lestan, F.** (2025). Innovation Pays Off, but How Much and Where Matters: A Meta-analysis of 320,000+ Firms from 19 Countries.
- **Lestan, F.** & Clausen, T.H. (2025). How Much Do Big Firms Differ In R&D Behaviour: An Empirical Analysis Of The Worlds Biggest Firms.
- **Lestan, F.** & Peterson, R.S. (2025). The Impact of Innovation Committees on Organizations and Performance: Symbolic—or Substantive Value?

One page essay - NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp 2025

Filip Lestan

January 2025

My research focuses on the intersection of innovation and corporate strategy, particularly in examining how firm-level capabilities, size, and governance structures influence innovation outcomes in firms. In my dissertation, I explore three key aspects of innovation in firms.

First, I conduct a meta-analysis of over 320,000 firms from 19 countries to understand the relationship between innovation capabilities and financial performance, finding a surprisingly weak correlation. Second, I investigate how size-based theories fail to fully explain variation in R&D strategies among large firms, emphasizing the dominant role of firm-level factors over industry and country-level effects. Finally, I analyze the causal impact of board committees on firm performance, highlighting the role of innovation committees and decision-making dynamics in shaping strategic agility and long-term success.

Building on this foundation, my future research will examine the mechanisms that drive innovation in firms, particularly in the context of leadership and governance. I intend to further research how—and how much—corporate boards help or hurt innovation capabilities and the extent to which institutional and policy environments shape firm-level innovation strategies. In addition, I plan to expand my empirical work on innovation committees by investigating their role across different industries and geographies, employing advanced econometric methods and experimental designs to isolate causal effects.

Attending the NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp would be an invaluable opportunity to deepen my knowledge of innovation economics and connect with leading scholars in the field. The weeklong program and exposure to frontier research align closely with my academic interests, providing insights that will enhance both my theoretical and empirical contributions. In addition, the opportunity to engage with faculty and peers from diverse backgrounds will help refine my research agenda and foster potential collaborations. The structured environment of the boot camp, combined with participation in the NBER Summer Institute Innovation Policy meeting, will provide a unique setting to discuss methodological challenges, gain feedback on my research, and stay at the forefront of innovation scholarship.

With a strong foundation in innovation and strategy, and experience across academia, policy, and industry, I am eager to contribute to and learn from the NBER community. I am confident that this experience will not only refine my research, but also equip me with new perspectives and tools to advance the study of firm innovation and its broader economic implications. Additionally, my experience advising the Slovak government in the establishment of living labs to enhance economic competitiveness has deepened my understanding of the practical applications of innovation policy, reinforcing my commitment to bridging academic research with real-world impact.

London Business School

London Business School
Regent's Park
London NW1 4SA
United Kingdom
+44 (0)20 7000 7000
london.edu

17 January 2024

To Whom It May Concern

RE: Mr Filip Lestan

This is to confirm that Mr Filip Lestan has been accepted at the London Business School as a visiting doctoral student from 01 November 2023 to 31 January 2024.

He was invited by Randall S. Peterson, PhD Professor of Organisational Behaviour.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or my colleagues.

Yours faithfully

SHaines

Sue Haines
PhD Programme Administrator
Email: sjhaines@london.edu
Tel: 020 7000 8975

London Business School

Official Transcript of Records

Print date
2023-12-05

Name	Personal identity number
Filip Lestan	19971126-T652

Completed courses

Code	Name	Scope	Grade	Date	Note
FME3547	Advanced Quantitative Methods in Entrepreneurship and Innovation Research	5.0 hp	P	2023-12-05	1

Summation

Total	included credited parts	Credited education
5.0 hp		

Notes and information

60 credits (hp) represent a full academic year. The system is compatible with ECTS credits (the European Credit Transfer System) as one credit is equal to one ECTS credit.

1 Grading scale: Pass (P), Failed (F)

The above is an excerpt from the student registry.

Printed by

Ann-Sofie Jogenstedt

Postal address
KTH Royal Institute of Technology
100 44 Stockholm

Contact information
https://www.kth.se/en

vitnemålsportalen
diploma registry

Name: **Filip Lestan** National identification: 261197 25320

Filip Lestan has chosen to share the following results with you.

Higher education

BI Norwegian Business School

Results (6 ECTS)

Course		Semester	Credits	Grade	Grade distribution A B C D E
DRE 6003	Contemporary Topics in Organizational Behavior	Spring 2024	6 ECTS	Pass	

The distribution of grades is shown by the percentage for courses using the graded scale A-F. Fail (F) is not included in the distribution. All results from the last five years are included in the calculation. The distribution is also shown for courses that have been active for less than five years. There has to be at least 10 approved results during the period.

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Name: **Filip Lestan** National identification: 261197 25320

Nord University

Results (31.5 ECTS)

Course		Semester	Credits	Grade
ECO9002	Theoretical Foundations and Current Topics in Business Research	2023 Spring	2.5 ECTS	Pass
MET9003	Literature Review for Academic Writing in Business and Innovation Management	2023 Spring	4 ECTS	Pass
MET9000	Research Design and Scientific Methods in Business Research	2023 Spring	7.5 ECTS	Pass
MET9010	Introduction to Academic Writing	2023 Spring	2.5 ECTS	Pass
VT409E	Philosophy of Science and Research Ethics	2023 Spring	7.5 ECTS	Pass
MET9011	Advanced Academic Writing	2024 Spring	7.5 ECTS	Pass

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Name: **Filip Lestan** National identification: 261197 25320

Norwegian University of Science and Technology

Results (7.5 ECTS)

Course		Semester	Credits	Grade
IØ8902	Innovation Research - From Origin to Current Frontier	2022 Autumn	7.5 ECTS	Pass

The distribution of grades is shown by the percentage for courses using the graded scale A-F. Fail (F) is not included in the distribution. All results from the last five years are included in the calculation. The distribution is also shown for courses that have been active for less than five years. There has to be at least 10 approved results during the period.

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vitnemålsportalen
diploma registry

Name: **Filip Lestan** National identification: 261197 25320

University of Oslo

Results (4 ECTS)

Course		Semester	Credits	Grade
UV9216	General course in meta-analysis and systematic review	2023 Spring	4 ECTS	Pass

The distribution of grades is shown by the percentage for courses using the graded scale A-F. Fail (F) is not included in the distribution. All results from the last five years are included in the calculation. The distribution is also shown for courses that have been active for less than five years. There has to be at least 10 approved results during the period.

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vitnemålsportalen
diploma registry

Name: **Filip Lestan** National identification: 261197 25320

University of Stavanger

Results (7.5 ECTS)

Course		Semester	Credits	Grade
DSV610	Quantitative Research Methods in Innovation Studies	2022 Autumn	7.5 ECTS	Pass

The distribution of grades is shown by the percentage for courses using the graded scale A-F. Fail (F) is not included in the distribution. All results from the last five years are included in the calculation. The distribution is also shown for courses that have been active for less than five years. There has to be at least 10 approved results during the period.

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London Business School

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A Graduate School
of the University
of London

31st January 2025

Subject: Recommendation for Filip Lestan – NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp 2025.

Dear Brett Maranjian, Professor Bryan, Professor Ganguli, and Professor Myers,

I am writing to support Filip Lestan's application for the NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp 2025. Filip was a visiting PhD student at London Business School from November 2023 to January 2024, during which time I started collaborating with him on three research projects. We have recently submitted two of them for publication, and one is still a working paper.

Filip's work on innovation and corporate governance is rigorous and impactful. His research integrates advanced econometric methods (e.g., meta-analysis) with practical insights, shedding light on the role of firm-level factors in shaping innovation outcomes. His dissertation, particularly our co-authored work on the influence of board committees on strategic agility (i.e., the paper that is still a manuscript), reflects both theoretical depth and empirical precision. The NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp 2025 will provide Filip with a valuable opportunity to further develop our co-authored paper on different types of innovation-related committees, refining its theoretical framework and empirical methodology through engagement with leading scholars in the field.

Beyond his technical abilities, Filip is a highly motivated and collaborative scholar. His intellectual curiosity and engagement in discussions made him an absolute joy to work with. Given his strong analytical skills, research acumen, and commitment to advancing knowledge in innovation economics, I have no doubt that he will greatly benefit from and contribute to the NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp 2025.

I highly recommend Filip to you.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any other questions or concerns about anything I have written here or any other questions I can address. I can be reached at: rpeterson@london.edu or 011-44-207-000-8926.

Sincerely,



Randall S. Peterson
Professor of Organisational Behaviour
Academic Director of the Leadership Institute
London Business School