Title:
Strategic Chartering Decisions: Shipping service provider’s perspective

Type:
2017 John Bicknell Scholarship

Value & Duration:
The John Bicknell Scholarship is equivalent to a University of Tasmania Elite scholarship (current APA rate + $7,500 top-up per annum), with additional operational funds of up to $5,000 per annum) for a term of 3 years (with a possible 6 month extension). The scholarship is available to domestic and international applicants, and the awardee must meet or exceed the criteria of a University of Tasmania Elite award. It is awarded on an annual basis, subject to funds being available.

Closing Date:
11:59pm (AEST), Tuesday 31 January 2017

The Research Project:
The sudden bankruptcy of Hanjin Shipping re-emphasizes the importance of ship asset liquidity to shipping service providers, which heavily depends on freight rate risk. Moreover, the frequent and fierce volatility observed in shipping freight rates raises profound challenges and difficulties for shipping service providers. For example, unpredictable movements in shipping freight rates are likely to influence financial liquidity and income stability for shipping service providers, which, in turn, bring great difficulties to their operational decisions (Shi et al., 2016). On the other hand, in the shipping industry, different sub-markets generally perform differently. That is, when one market is performing weakly there is generally another that is strong and which provides at least some counterbalance by performing more robustly (Clarksons Research, Shipping Intelligence Weekly, No.1224). Consequently, how to make strategic chartering decisions, based on the dependence among different shipping sub-markets, is substantial for shipping service providers to strengthen their risk resisting abilities (Shi et al., 2013).

This research aims to provide an alternative tool for shipping service providers to eliminate the adverse effects of freight rate risk, to enhance ship asset liquidity, and to obtain stable income flows. More specifically, by considering a well-known risk-return model widely applied in financial markets, an appropriate portfolio consisting of different types of vessels (e.g., tankers, bulk carriers, gas carriers, and container ships) is likely to be constructed. As suggested by the aforementioned model, a shipping service provider is able to have the highest expected return for any given level of risk.

Eligibility:
The following eligibility criteria apply to this scholarship:

• The scholarship is open to Australian (domestic) candidates and to International candidates.
• The PhD must be undertaken on a full-time basis.
• Applicants must already have been awarded a first class Honours degree or Research Masters degree with at least a Distinction result.
• Applicants must be able to demonstrate strong research and analytical skills.
Funding:
This PhD scholarship is funded by the commemorative John Bicknell Scholarship.

Application Process:
Applicants requiring more information or who are interested in this specific project should contact the Primary Supervisor listed below.

To determine eligibility, applicants should visit the Apply Now website and complete an Expression of Interest, which may be found here. Please ensure that a complete list of any publications and awards are included, as well as details of relevant industry experience (including employer name, type of business, employment dates and principal responsibilities). International applications will also need to provide evidence of their English proficiency (such as an IELTS certificate). It is the responsibility of the applicant to obtain supervisor agreement prior to submitting an Expression of Interest, and to ensure that all supporting documentation is submitted prior to the closing date.

Please specify the name of the project advertised into the Project Title field, and indicate under Scholarship Support that you wish to be considered for a living allowance scholarship.

More information:
Please contact Dr Wenming Shi (Wenming.Shi@utas.edu.au) for more information.