

PhD Positions at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) on Climate Economics and the Financial System

Keeping global warming below 2°C requires national climate policies that trigger unprecedented redirection of investments in low-carbon technologies and infrastructure. The financial system facilitates the efficiency of such investments but research and financial crises have revealed severe limitations of financial markets. Our research agenda combines climate change economics and financial economics to study the role of the financial system and investor behavior for climate policy. We aim to integrate key elements of the financial sector like banks and large investors into climate policy models to analyze how constraints on finance impact the implementation of climate policy. For this, we are looking to fill subject to the approval of project funding two doctoral student positions in a new junior research group at PIK, Germany, near Berlin.

The successful candidates will address the question how imperfections and distortions of financial markets constrain the redirection of funds. To this end, the candidates will introduce financial markets and frictions into an existing climate-economy model, initially focusing on credit constraints and a modern financial system. Extensions will address specific financial issues in developing countries, energy system finance, and interactions with climate impacts.

Suitable candidates

- hold a Master's Degree in Economics, Finance, or a related field, or a field of study with strong formal or modeling background such as System Science, Physics, or Mathematics;
- have training in formal, quantitative methods, excellent analytical skills and interest in theoretical and applied modeling (e.g. R or GAMS);
- have a strong motivation and good organizational skills;
- are team-oriented, and possess strong communication skills in English.

What we offer

- a stimulating and interdisciplinary work environment in one of the world's leading research institutes on climate change mitigation and low-carbon transformation
- participation in solution-oriented research with immediate policy relevance within a research group funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)
- a structured PhD program with supervision agreements, a supervision team, reporting obligations, a career development plan, a mediator team and an interdisciplinary education program

The successful candidates will be working in the research groups headed by Dr. Kai Lessmann, with their doctoral thesis co-supervised by Dr. Lessmann and Prof. Dr. Ottmar Edenhofer.

Conditions

The positions will be funded for three years with a salary according to the German public tariff scheme (65% E13 TV-L). The envisaged starting date for the positions is mid 2017. PIK seeks to increase the number of women in scientific positions and women will therefore be given preference in cases of equal qualification. PIK actively promotes the compatibility of career and family life through a variety of measures. Disabled applicants of equal scientific and personal suitability for the post will be preferred. This position can also be filled part-time. PIK encourages applications by parents returning from parental leave.

Application

Application documents should comprise a letter of motivation including research interests, a CV with the contact details of two referees, and a sample of your work (e.g., term paper, thesis or journal publication). The review of applications will start on May 15. The positions remain open until filled. Please send your documents as a single PDF to: jobs@pik-potsdam.de using the reference number RD3-FF-PHD. Please understand that we can only return documents if you enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.