

Postdoctoral Position 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 one postdoctoral position in a new junior research group at PIK, Germany, near Berlin.

The successful candidate will investigate the potential role of investors in the context of climate policy such as the potential causes for overvaluation of fossil assets, and analyze potential implications of long-term financial perspectives or fossil resource based wealth (of sovereign wealth funds) for the role of institutional investors. Theoretical models followed by numerical applications will be a central tool of the analysis to explore their contribution to overcoming underinvestment in the transition to a low-carbon economy.

Suitable candidates

- have a PhD in Economics or Finance and experience in peer-reviewed publication;
- 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)
- Opportunities for cooperation with PIK's national and international network of leading climate & financial economics research institutes and think tanks

The successful candidates will be working in the research groups headed by Dr. Kai Lessmann.

Conditions

The position will be funded initially for 24 month with a salary according to the German public tariff scheme (100% E13 TV-L) with possible extension. 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, a publication list, 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 complete documents preferably as a single PDF document by email to: jobs@pik-potsdam.de using the reference number RD3-FF-POSTDOC. Please understand that we can only return documents if you enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.