

PhD Position
Vienna University of Economics and Business
Research Institute Economics of Inequality

Starting date: January 8, 2024
Application deadline: September 20, 2023
Full- Or Part-Time: 30 hours per week (i.e. a fully funded PhD position)
Location: Vienna

The Research Institute Economics of Inequality (INEQ) at the Vienna University of Economics and Business invites applications for the position of a **PhD Researcher for the duration of three years**.

We are looking for a highly motivated PhD student to join our project “**Multidimensional Intergenerational Social Mobility and Pathways to Upward Mobility in Austria**”. In this project, we will use novel administrative data to examine the causal mechanisms that shape social mobility in Austria. With this data we will investigate the extent to which the luck of being born into a specific family is mitigated by factors such as neighborhoods, education and training, and local labor markets.

The fully funded PhD position starts in January 2024, or as soon as possible thereafter, and will be based at the Research Institute Economics of Inequality at the Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU Vienna) for the duration of three years. You will work on all aspects of the project as an integral part of a larger research team based at Vienna University of Economics and Business and the Central European University and with the Principal Investigators Franziska Disslbacher, Alice Kügler and Petra Sauer, and a Postdoctoral Researcher.

Qualifications

- A Master’s degree in Economics or a related field, or an existing enrollment in a PhD program relevant to the successful conduct of empirical research.
- A strong interest in applied economics and the economics of inequality.
- Experience working with micro-data and/or large datasets, and ideally, you have worked with administrative data such as tax data or social insurance records.
- Outstanding quantitative skills and knowledge of statistics and econometrics.
- Knowledge of statistical and econometric software, such as R or STATA.
- Commitment to high quality research.
- Ability to work both independently as well as collaboratively as part of a team.
- Excellent interpersonal skills and intellectual breadth.
- Effective written and verbal communication and time and task management skills.
- Fluency in English is essential. Knowledge of German is not required but an advantage.

What to expect

- You will conduct innovative and high-quality research on intergenerational social mobility and its underlying mechanisms.
- You will have a central role in all aspects of the research process, including data construction and analysis, the development of empirical models, quantitatively assessing effects using econometric techniques, interpreting the results, conducting robustness analyses, and drafting and publishing academic papers.
- You will work with novel datasets constructed from administrative data on earnings, income, taxation and transfers, education, and firms.
- You will be part of an interdisciplinary team delivering high-impact research that is published in top international academic journals.



- You will present your research at international conferences, with funding for travel expenses available.
- You will be involved in a wide range of project dissemination activities, including workshops, drafting of policy briefs, the production of a podcast on social mobility and an interactive project webpage.
- You will be encouraged to contribute to the overall activities of the institute and university more broadly and attend seminars.
- The position is based in Vienna and requires regular presence at the research institute.
- The position does not include a teaching obligation, even if some involvement in teaching activities is possible.
- You will be part of a leading PhD program in economics and social sciences at WU Vienna, complete general and field-specific PhD courses and regularly interact with PhD supervisors.
- You will hold a fully funded PhD position for three years for 30 hours per week. Your salary will be paid according to the collective agreement for universities.

What we offer

- You will be an integral part of a team of researchers with expertise in the economics of inequality, labor economics, public economics, and quantitative social sciences.
- You will be based at the dynamic, interdisciplinary, and growing Research Institute Economics of Inequality, with a strong international network. The institute is embedded in the Departments of Economics and Socioeconomics and investigates the causes, consequences, and the measurement of economic inequalities.
- Inspiring working atmosphere as part of an international academic team in a healthy and fair working environment.
- The position offers a large range of on-the-job learning and training opportunities and mentoring from supervisors.
- You will work on a modern campus, easily accessible by public transportation, and with spectacular architecture in the heart of Vienna.
- You will live in one of the most livable cities in the world that hosts a growing economics community.
- Flexible working hours.
- A wide range of benefits, from an in-house medical officer to athletic activities to a variety of employee discounts in a productive working environment.

Compensation

We offer a competitive salary. The current monthly gross salary amounts to € 2,457 (paid 14 times per year).

How to apply

Please submit your application documents until September 17, 2023, consisting of:

- a) Your CV.
- b) A writing sample. In the case of co-authored work, please attach a statement explaining your contributions to the paper.
- c) A cover letter, detailing your motivation for joining the project, as well as your research experience and examples of previous work with large datasets.
- d) Reference letters or contact details of referees.

For further information about this position, please contact Franziska Disslbacher (franziska.disslbacher@wu.ac.at).



We value geographical and gender diversity, thus encouraging applications from women and/or other underrepresented groups to apply. Qualified candidates with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply for this position. If necessary, part-time employment (reduced hours) is possible.

We recognize that personal and family circumstances shape the trajectory of one's career and working patterns. We encourage applicants to detail periods of leave, part-time work or other such situations in their applications so that the Search Committee can assess an applicant's academic record fairly in the context of their circumstances. Any declaration of personal and family circumstances is voluntary and will be handled confidentially and only considered in so far as it impacts on the academic career of an applicant.