



1 Postdoc and 4 PhD scholarships in the Graduate Research Group “Behavioral Measurement and Field Experiments in Finance and Economics”

University of Mainz (in collaboration with Goethe University Frankfurt and Leibniz Institute SAFE)

Who we are

The graduate research group “Behavioral Measurement and Field Experiments in Finance and Economics” is a joint initiative of the University of Mainz, Goethe University Frankfurt, and the Leibniz Institute SAFE, funded by the Gutenberg Council for Young Researchers and led by Florian Hett (speaker), Andrej Gill, Michael Kosfeld, and Christine Laudenbach. Detailed information on the research program, its institutional embedment and participating researchers can be found at <https://digital.economics.uni-mainz.de/behavioral-measurement/>.

What we do

Precise measurement is a hallmark of empirical scientific practice. Inspired by economics' strong emphasis on individual choice behavior as main object of investigation, recent years have seen rapid developments in the design and application of novel measurement protocols based on experimental economic methods, capturing differences in individual characteristics, and applied to better understand differences in economically relevant domains.

As an apparently independent development, quantitative social science research and specifically economics have by now broadly adopted the experimental approach for the identification of causal effects. In recent years experimentation has also increasingly moved outside the laboratory and is regularly applied to field settings, having become a common tool to evaluate policy and understand behavior of individuals, firms, and organizations.

By starting this graduate group, we aim to lay the grounds for building and institutionalizing an active young researcher community, systematically fostering and advancing the development and utilization of behavioral measurement tools and its application to field experiments in empirical social science research.

Topics the group plans to address include (but are not limited to)

- „Social Identity, Belief Formation, and Polarization“
- „Household Financial Decision Making“
- „Green Finance and Sustainable Behavior“
- “Human-Machine Interaction and Digital Behavior”

What we offer

The scholarship offers the opportunity to work towards a PhD on a full-time basis with a duration of 36 months (extensions possible). The scholarship amount is initially €1,550 per month (increasing to € 1,650 from October 1, 2025) for PhD students plus an insurance allowance and a monthly research cost allowance of €100. The postdoc scholarship amount is €1,900 per month and a monthly research cost allowance of €300.

The group will be embedded in a strong, multi-faceted institutional environment in the Rhine-Main area. The four principal investigators will provide active joint supervision for all members of the research group, including structured activities, colloquia, retreats, seminars, and lab meetings. (See <https://digital.economics.uni-mainz.de/behavioral-measurement/courses-and-activities/> and <https://digital.economics.uni-mainz.de/behavioral-measurement/cooperating-institutions-and-facilities/>.) Several attractive funding opportunities for research activities exist.

What we are looking for

We aim for highly motivated young researchers with a background in economics and a strong interest in behavioral approaches and experimental methods. We consider general academic ability and potential, topical and methodological fit, past experience, and the overall diversity of the group as relevant selection criteria.

To apply for a PhD scholarship please send the following documents in a joint pdf file to digital.economics@uni-mainz.de:

- Motivation letter, addressing motivation for pursuing a Ph.D. (specifically within the graduate research group), planned research topics, as well as relevant methodological skills (statistics, game theory, experimental methods, behavioral economics, finance)
- Curriculum vitae
- Titles and short descriptions ("Abstract") of the Bachelor's and Master's theses
- Bachelor's and/or Master's thesis
- Certificates as well as complete transcripts of records for all courses taken during the Bachelor's and Master's studies

To apply for the Postdoc scholarship please send the usual documents (CV, papers, letters, research statement) in a joint pdf file to digital.economics@uni-mainz.de.

The deadline for the first round of applications is June 10, 2024. If not all positions are filled in the first round, the call remains open. For any questions, please contact florian.hett@uni-mainz.de.