



# **Research Projects for Internships at the Research Centre of the Deutsche Bun- desbank**

Frankfurt am Main

**January 2025**

## **Allgemeine Informationen zu den Praktikumsprojekten im Forschungszentrum der Deutschen Bundesbank:**

Auf den folgenden Seiten finden Sie Projekte, für die im Forschungszentrum der Deutschen Bundesbank für die Haushalts- und Erwartungsstudien gesucht werden. Bitte bewerben Sie sich online unter [Online-Bewerbungsformular](#)

und geben Sie in der Rubrik „Sonstige Mitteilungen“ den Titel des Praktikums, für das Sie sich bewerben sowie den Betreuer des Projekts an. Weiterhin bitten wir Sie zu beachten, dass es für die gesamte Praktikumsdauer erforderlich ist, an einer Universität eingeschrieben zu sein.

Weitere Informationen finden Sie unter

[Hochschulpraktika | Deutsche Bundesbank](#)

Für Rückfragen steht Ihnen der Betreuer des Projekts zur Verfügung.

### **Non-German speaking applicants are welcome to upload their complete application credentials**

(cover letter, CV, study certificates or current transcript of records and optionally letters of recommendation) **at the English version of the [online application system](#)**

Furthermore, please note that it is required to be enrolled at a university for the entire duration of the internship.

Please note that, especially for non-EU citizens, a lead time of up to 12 weeks may be required before the start of the internship due to the long processing time at the foreigners authorities and the [Bundesagentur für Arbeit](#).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the supervisor of the project you are interested in, for administrative issues, please contact [Research centre office](#)

## **Title: Enhancing a tax-benefit microsimulation model for PHF (Wave IV)**

### **Description of the project:**

By revising the tax calculator based on the German wage/income tax rules for 2020, we will develop the infrastructure to facilitate our conversion and imputation of gross-net income in the PHF (Panel of Household Finance (Zhu, 2016)). On the other hand, the development of a tax-benefit microsimulation model based on PHF data will facilitate policy research for various topics (e.g. distributional effects of wage indexation, capital income and wealth taxation, fiscal and monetary union, responses from COVID-fiscal packages...).

### **Tasks for the intern:**

- 1) You will read Programmablaufpläne für den Lohnsteuerabzug (Bundesministerium der Finanzen, 2020) and update the existing STATA-based tax calculator for previous waves.
- 2) You will collect income, tax and benefits statistics (e.g. official income tax statistics, GSEOP, EVS, EU-SILC...) in order to provide benchmark data source for the tax/contribution calculation.
- 3) A choice to work on a project applying this microsimulation infrastructure is strongly encouraged.

### **Necessary skills:**

Basic manipulation in STATA. Doctoral or master student in related areas. These can be your pluses: you have experience in STATA/MATA; you are familiar with the tax code in Germany and/or pursue a research topic regarding tax-benefit system; the ideal candidate should have the knowledge in the established microsimulation model, e.g. Euromod and STSM.

### **Benefits for the intern:**

Hands-on experience into a scientific project contributing to the micro data infrastructure of the German society. You will also learn about the methodological challenges of collecting income data with large scale surveys.

### **Begin:**

Open until filled

### **Duration:**

Approx. 3 months

### **Supervisor of the project:**

Junyi Zhu, Telefon 069 9566-38206, E-Mail: [junyi.zhu@bundesbank.de](mailto:junyi.zhu@bundesbank.de)

### **Further information:**

[www.dropbox.com/s/wz3i8w9lfn1qaxo/asking\\_net\\_gross\\_phf\\_zhu\\_20160821.pdf](https://www.dropbox.com/s/wz3i8w9lfn1qaxo/asking_net_gross_phf_zhu_20160821.pdf)

[Programmablaufpläne für den Lohnsteuerabzug 2020](#)

[Panel on Household Finances \(PHF\)](#)

**Title: Research on Household Finance using data from the PHF-Study („Private Haushalte und ihre Finanzen“)**

**Description of the project:**

The Panel on Household Finance (PHF) is a large scale survey of households in Germany. The main focus of the survey is on household finance. It yields detailed household-level information on the wealth and its composition for over 3,500 households. The PHF is an integral part of the Household Finance and Consumption survey (HFCS), a ECB coordinated project which collects harmonized data on household finance in all euro area countries. During the initial analysis of the data several questions were raised that require a more in-depth scientific analysis.

**Task for the intern:**

The intern will collaborate with members of the PHF team on the scientific analysis of the micro-data. Potential topics for analysis are listed in the research program (see below). However, we are also open for suggestions of topics from the prospective interns.

**Necessary skills:**

Experience with the analysis of micro-data on households. Stata skills would be beneficial.

**Benefits for the intern:**

You will get in-depth insight into an interesting scientific project and the workings of the Bundesbank research centre. You will be able to learn how to use a multiple-imputed dataset. A joint publication on some of the results is an option.

**Begin:** Open until filled

**Duration:**

Approx. 3 months

**Supervisor of the project:**

Tobias Schmidt, phone: 069 9566-33730, E-Mail: Tobias.Schmidt@bundesbank.de

**Further information:**

**Links to the research program and information on the PHF survey:**

[http://www.bundesbank.de/research\\_programme](http://www.bundesbank.de/research_programme)

[www.bundesbank.de/phf-research](http://www.bundesbank.de/phf-research)

## Internships in the Research Centre of the Deutsche Bundesbank

The Research Centre of the Deutsche Bundesbank is looking for interns to work on survey methodological issues on the two surveys it runs, namely the Panel on Household Finances and the online consumer survey.

In particular, candidates are sought to work on

- variance estimation
- data editing
- other topics include: longitudinal weighting, statistical matching, patterns of non-response

The above topics might also be combined with other ones suggested by the candidates. Interns may also be required to provide general research assistance, such as gathering and summarising data, preparing tables etc.

**Required competences:** Knowledge of survey methodological concepts such as weighting and variance estimation; some experience with programming in (preferably) stata or R; very good use of English. For the variance estimation project an M.Sc. student would be preferred. For the editing project a third or fourth year undergraduate would also be considered. In both cases the project could be combined with an M.Sc. thesis, if on a related topic.

**Begin:** Open until filled

**Applications:** Continuously open.

**Duration:** Approx. 3 months

Interested candidates could apply directly, stating as project title "Research on Household Finance using data from the PHF-Study („Private Haushalte und ihre Finanzen") at [online application system](#)

## **Title: Bundesbank Online Panel on Household Expectations**

### **Description of the project:**

The Bundesbank is conducting a monthly online panel of 2500 to 5000 private individuals in Germany to collect data on their expectations. The survey includes detailed information on expectations regarding inflation, house prices and general economic developments. The project started with three pilot waves in 2019, and continues with monthly waves since April 2020. The data from the Bundesbank-Online-Panel Households is available as a scientific use file. Over the course of the last months several questions were raised that require a more in-depth scientific analysis.

### **Task for the intern:**

The intern will collaborate with members of the online survey team on the scientific analysis of the micro-data and/or on further development of the survey design. Besides the analysis directly related to understanding the formation process and impact of household expectations, methodological research regarding different question formulations, the advantages and disadvantages of online surveys or specific sample designs is also of interest. In general, we are also open for suggestions of topics from the prospective interns. The questionnaires of the first three waves are available under the following webpage <https://www.bundesbank.de/en/bundesbank/research/pilot-survey-on-consumer-expectations>

### **Necessary skills:**

Experience with the analysis of micro-data on households or individuals. Stata or R skills would be beneficial. Working proficiency in German would be beneficial but is not required.

### **Benefits for the intern:**

You will get in-depth insight into an interesting scientific project and the workings of the Bundesbank research centre. You will be able to learn how to conduct a large scale online survey and improve your analytical skills while working on the dataset with members of the project team. Suggestions for own research project based on newly collected datasets are also welcome.

**Begin:** Open until filled

**Duration:** Approx. 3 months

### **Supervisor of the project:**

Tobias Schmidt, phone: +49 69 9566 33730, E-Mail: [Tobias.Schmidt@bundesbank.de](mailto:Tobias.Schmidt@bundesbank.de)

### **Further information:**

Project Website: [Survey on Consumer Expectations](#)

Monthly bulletin article with results from the pilot waves: [The relevance of surveys of expectations for the Deutsche Bundesbank](#)

[Research Centre Research Program](#)

**Title:**

*Analysis of the firm-level survey data from the Bundesbank Online Panel of Firms*

**Description of the project:**

The Bundesbank Online Panel Firms (BOP-F) is a survey of small, medium and large businesses located in Germany. The Research Centre of the Deutsche Bundesbank conducts the survey at a monthly frequency in cooperation with an external research institute, forsa. Results from the BOP-F survey help researchers and economists across the Bundesbank to monitor developments in the German economy and to track businesses' expectations and uncertainties surrounding them. The survey team is constantly analysing survey data and response patterns to better understand how firms participate in the survey and to improve the overall experience for respondents. An intern will play a key role in that process.

**Task for the intern:**

Processing of large and complex panel datasets  
Developing concepts for analysing response patterns  
Visualising results

**Necessary skills:**

Ideally programming skills in Stata and some knowledge of survey  
Knowledge of German

**Benefits for the intern:**

Work in an international team  
Contributing to one of the largest business surveys in Germany  
Stimulating work environment

**Begin:** Open until filled

**Duration:**

3-6 months

**Supervisor of the project:**

Dr. Pawel Smietanka

**Further information:**

We are happy to answer candidates' questions ahead of submitting an application. Please contact Dr. Pawel Smietanka (Tel. 069 9566-11445), if you have any questions about the project.

## **Title: Household portfolios using data from the euro area Household Finance and Consumption Survey (HFCS)**

**Description of the project:** The Household Finance and Consumption survey (HFCS) is a household survey which collects harmonised data on household finances across all euro area countries. There have been five waves of the survey so far, the first being conducted in 2009/2011 and the last one in 2023. The Bundesbank contributes to the HFCS through its own household survey, the Panel on Household Finances (PHF). The project aims to analyse household portfolios across countries and across time.

**Task for the intern:** Research assistance, including the statistical analysis of the micro-data using stata (descriptive statistics, regression analysis, counterfactual analysis) and the production of tables and graphs.

**Necessary skills:** Experience with the analysis of micro-data on households. Good stata skills. Experience using multiply imputed data and/or panel data would be an advantage.

**Benefits for the intern:** You will get in-depth insight into the complexity of the HFCS, an interesting scientific project and the workings of the Bundesbank research centre.

**Begin:** Open until filled

**Duration:** approx. 3 months

**Supervisor of the project:** Dr Panagiota Tzamourani  
E-Mail: panagiota.tzamourani@bundesbank.de

**Further information:** Links to the research program and information on the PHF and the HFCS survey:  
[http://www.bundesbank.de/research\\_programme](http://www.bundesbank.de/research_programme)  
[www.bundesbank.de/phf-research](http://www.bundesbank.de/phf-research)  
[Household Finance and Consumption Survey \(HFCS\)](#)



## **Title: Climate change attitudes and macroeconomic expectations**

**Description of the project:** The project aims to analyse German households' attitudes towards climate change and relate them to macroeconomic expectations. The data used are primarily project specific questions that were included in the Bundesbank Online Panel Households (BOP-HH).

**Task for the intern:** Research assistance, including the statistical analysis of the micro-data using stata (descriptive statistics, regression analysis) and the production of tables and graphs.

**Necessary skills:** Experience with the analysis of micro-data on households. Good stata skills. Experience using panel data would be an advantage.

**Benefits for the intern:** You will get in-depth insight into the BOP-HH survey, an interesting scientific project and the workings of the Bundesbank research centre.

**Begin:** Open until filled

**Duration:** approx. 3 months

**Supervisor of the project:** Dr Panagiota Tzamourani

E-Mail: [panagiota.tzamourani@bundesbank.de](mailto:panagiota.tzamourani@bundesbank.de)

**Further information:**

[Survey on Consumer Expectations | Deutsche Bundesbank](#)