

PhD Position in Economics

Research Project: Marginal Propensities to Consume & Labor Supply Elasticities

50% → 75% | Duration: up to 48 months | Starting: September 2026

About the Project

The Department of Economics at the University of Innsbruck invites applications for a fully funded PhD position within the FWF-funded project "Marginal Propensities to Consume & Labor Supply Elasticities", led by Felix Holzmeister, Andreas Dibiasi, and Samad Sarferaz.

The project investigates how consumers adjust spending and labor supply in response to income shocks — a question central to economic theory and policy, yet understudied empirically. Using a large-scale survey experiment across a diverse set of countries, the project aims to provide comprehensive, cross-country estimates of marginal propensities to consume and labor supply elasticities across a wide range of shock types. Beyond standard estimates, the project examines intra-household dynamics and explores the role of culture, trust, and personal economic experience in driving behavioral heterogeneity.

The research team consists of Felix Holzmeister (University of Innsbruck), Andreas Dibiasi (Free University of Bozen-Bolzano), Samad Sarferaz (ETH Zurich). The PhD candidate will join this collaborative, internationally connected team.

Your Role and Tasks

The successful candidate will be an integral member of the research team, contributing to all aspects of the project, including—but not limited to—experimental design, implementation, data analysis, and manuscript preparation. The level of employment is 20 hours per week (50%) and will increase to 30 hours per week (75%) once the candidate's dissertation agreement has been submitted. Specific responsibilities include:

Survey Design and Implementation

- Collaborating on the design and pre-registration of survey experiments, supporting data collection logistics across multiple countries, and documenting experimental designs and data collection processes for scholarly publications, including a technical data descriptor article.
- Contributing to questionnaire development, including coordination of translations and piloting across countries, and implementing survey experiments in appropriate software environments.

Data Management and Analysis

- Curating, cleaning, harmonizing, and organizing the data gathered as part of the project in compliance with FAIR principles and the project's data management plan. Devising comprehensive data documentation, including codebooks, README files, etc.
- Conducting econometric analyses to estimate MPCs and LSEs across shock types and countries, in adherence with thorough pre-analysis plans. Devising appropriate display items (i.e., tables, figures, and exhibits) to facilitate the exposition of results.

Research Outputs

- Contributing to the development of research papers in close collaboration with the project team, and developing independent research papers as part of your PhD thesis (under the supervision of the project team).
- Contributing to the dissemination of research findings to academic and policy audiences (e.g., presenting research at national and international conferences and workshops).

Requirements

- A completed Master's degree (or equivalent) in Economics or a closely related quantitative field by the start of employment. A strong foundation in microeconomics, macroeconomics, and behavioral economics is desirable.
- Prior experience with survey design or experimental methods is desirable. Familiarity with experimental software environments or survey toolkits, as well as experience with large-scale data collection, is advantageous.
- Advanced skills in econometrics and causal inference. Proficiency in R, Stata, or Python.
- High level of commitment, intellectual curiosity, and a genuine interest in the project's theme.
- Ability to work both independently and collaboratively in an international research team.
- Excellent organization skills, attention to detail, and ability to manage deadlines.
- Excellent command of English. Knowledge of German is advantageous but not required.

What We Offer

- A fully funded PhD position for up to 48 months (earliest starting date: September 2026), embedded in an internationally distinguished research team. Active mentorship and regular feedback from the principal investigators and international collaborators. Access to a unique, large-scale cross-country dataset as the primary data source for your PhD thesis, and opportunities for co-authorship on high-quality academic publications.
- Salary in accordance with the Austrian Science Fund's personnel cost rates for doctoral researchers. The minimum gross salary (as stipulated by the collective agreement) for 20 hours per week amounts to approximately €1,880 per month (14 times). The salary will be increased to approximately €2,830 per month (14 times) for 30 hours per week once the dissertation agreement has been submitted to the Personnel Department. The salary will be higher if you have worked in a similar position before.

- Excellent research environment at the University of Innsbruck, with access to seminars, workshops, computing infrastructure, etc. Travel funding to attend international conferences and workshops, and to visit collaboration partners.
- There is no obligation to teach, but the successful candidate will have opportunities to gain experience in academic teaching (remunerated through separate contracts as an external lecturer) if desired.
- The University of Innsbruck offers a wide range of additional benefits, including flexible working hours, a family-friendly work environment, attractive training and development opportunities, a public transport subsidy, a meal allowance, and more.

Application

Please submit the following documents as a single .pdf-document or a zipped archive (.zip, .rar, .7z) to Felix Holzmeister at felix.holzmeister@uibk.ac.at with the subject line "PhD Application PAT2152425: [Your Full Name]."

- Cover letter explaining your motivation, relevant background, and research interests.
- Curriculum vitae (CV) including a list of academic coursework and academic transcripts.
- A writing sample (e.g., Master's thesis, seminar paper) demonstrating your research abilities.
- Contact details of two referees who can provide recommendation letters on request are a plus.

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. We strongly encourage early applications. The position will remain open until filled. We will announce the closing of the call for applications on the project's website.

The University of Innsbruck is committed to equal opportunity and diversity. Applications from women and underrepresented groups are especially encouraged. In case of underrepresentation, women with the same qualifications will be given priority. Applicants with disabilities who meet the required qualifications will be given preferential consideration.

For informal inquiries, please contact Felix Holzmeister at felix.holzmeister@uibk.ac.at.