



# Doctoral and Postdoctoral Opportunities at ZEW



**ZEW**

## Exceptional Experiences and Benefits



*“Doing my dissertation at ZEW was an exceptional journey with both sweets and joys. ZEW provided me with rich research resources and the freedom to conduct my research. The special blend of both research and policy-oriented work makes the ZEW experience particularly enjoyable.”*

Dr. Qingwei Wang, ZEW Research Associate and former researcher in the Research Department “International Finance and Financial Management”



*“For me, pursuing my doctoral studies at ZEW was the right choice. ZEW offers an excellent research environment. I gained valuable experience from working in research projects with colleagues and I appreciated the insights into policy advising activities. Moreover, the close link to the University of Mannheim gave me the opportunity to attend courses in the university’s doctoral programme to improve my theoretical qualifications. It is very motivating, especially for young researchers, that ZEW generously supports participation in international scientific conferences.”*

Prof. Dr. Katharina Finke, deputy head of the Research Department “Corporate Taxation and Public Finance”



## Why ZEW?

**Research at a leading international institute:** The Mannheim Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW) is one of Europe's leading economic research institutes. ZEW is a non-profit institution working in the field of frontier empirical research in economics. The institute is integrated into an extensive international network of universities and research institutions.

**Commitment to cutting-edge research and high-level economic policy advice:** One of ZEW's primary goals is to provide economic policy advice based on rigorous economic research. The German federal and state governments, government agencies throughout Europe, and the European Union are ZEW's most important clients for advising services.

Excellence in economics has various dimensions at ZEW: the publication of research findings in renowned refereed journals, national and international networking, knowledge transfer at conferences and workshops, and the creation and maintenance of unique databases.

**Support and development of staff:** Postgraduates and postdoctoral researchers at ZEW receive comprehensive support for their projects from qualified senior researchers and/or research associates. ZEW also supports the professional development of its staff.



*“ZEW offered me an excellent research environment for completing my doctorate in the field of applied labour economics with a focus on politically relevant topics.*

*Besides the large network and great working atmosphere, I profited from the complementarity between conducting evaluation studies for ministries and developing scientific publications for international journals.”*

Dr. Terry Gregory, Senior Researcher in the Research Department  
“Labour Markets, Human Resources and Social Policy”

## Outstanding Characteristics of ZEW

ZEW maintains an extensive network with universities and applies university-level standards in its research. The research practice at ZEW is nonetheless different from the work conducted at universities:

- ▶ ZEW has **broader goals** than economics faculties. Policy advice and knowledge transfer are given considerably more weight at ZEW.
- ▶ Due to ZEW’s infrastructure and the broad spectrum of topics addressed by its research units, the institute is capable of working on **comprehensive and complex economic policy advising projects**.
- ▶ Thanks to ZEW’s ample resources, the institute is able to develop, maintain, and provide access to **complex analytical models** such as the European Tax Analyzer or the PACE computable general equilibrium model. ZEW is also able to carry out **long-term surveys** such as the ZEW Financial Market Test and the Mannheim Innovation Panel.

## What We Offer

- ▶ Research work at a leading international economic research institute
- ▶ Excellent, team-oriented working atmosphere and enthusiasm for innovative research
- ▶ Support during doctoral and postdoctoral studies
- ▶ Access to unique databases
- ▶ Participation in national and international scientific conferences
- ▶ Research stays at renowned academic institutions
- ▶ Integration into international research networks
- ▶ Sabbaticals to pursue individual work independent of project responsibilities
- ▶ Participation in work on commissioned projects and economic policy advising activities
- ▶ Further education, e.g. courses in econometrics and presentation skills
- ▶ Flexible working hours to support reconciliation of work and family life



*“Working as a postdoc at ZEW offers me the opportunity to pursue my own research as part of interesting research and policy advising projects. ZEW supports me in attending seminars for further qualification, for example training programmes of the Leibniz Association, as well as international conferences, and it gives me the chance to organise own workshops. All this, together with ZEW’s first-rate reputation, is an excellent foundation for my professional development.”*



Dr. Katrin Sommerfeld, researcher in the Research Department “Environmental and Resource Economics, Environmental Management”

## Standards for Structured Doctoral Studies

Two thirds of ZEW’s research staff are working on their doctoral thesis. The topics of each thesis will typically be closely related to the research projects each candidate is involved in. Based on the topic chosen, ZEW supports candidates in finding the suitable university for their doctoral studies.

### High Quality Post-Graduate Education

Offering substantiated training in applied economic research and an in-depth understanding of scientific theory, ZEW is able to provide its researchers high-quality post-graduate education. The certificates to be obtained in doctoral courses at universities and in the mandatory, optional and accompanying courses at ZEW as well as any further content required as part of completing a doctoral programme at ZEW are set out in the “Standards for Structured Doctoral Studies”. Clear milestones for doctoral candidates ensure progress along a swift and secure path.

### Clear Milestones – Flexible Content

In order to cater for the diverse range of research topics and the varied preferences of researchers, doctoral programmes at ZEW are structured within a flexible system, allowing studies to be adapted to individual career paths. This also ensures that candidates are given enough flexibility in terms of thematic content and any requirements of the relevant partner university.

Furthermore, this open structure means that doctoral candidates have ample opportunity to participate in targeted further training; in doctoral courses at their chosen university and in topic-specific courses provided by ZEW.

### ZEW DocNet

The ZEW DocNet is an international network that links ZEW with doctoral programmes at the Universities of Konstanz, Leuven (BE), Maastricht (NL), Mannheim, and St. Gallen (CH). Candidates who choose to participate in the ZEW DocNet programme first apply for a doctoral programme at a participating university. Depending on the structure of the respective doctoral programme, doctoral students are invited to apply as early as possible for a research position in one of ZEW's research units. In the majority of doctoral programmes, the best time to apply for a position at ZEW is at the end of the first or the beginning of the second year of study. Doctoral students then pursue their project work at ZEW either on a part-time or a full-time basis.



## **Postdoctoral Opportunities at ZEW**

Postdoctoral scholars at ZEW are responsible for completing research and policy advising projects in collaboration with unit heads.

ZEW benefits hugely from the knowledge and experience of its long-term staff. Senior researchers therefore have the chance to become deputies or heads of research units. In addition, with the support of ZEW, many of the institute's senior researchers are appointed to professorships at universities.

Joining ZEW comes with the possibility of a flexible work arrangement that facilitates a healthy work-life balance and supports the reconciliation of professional and family life.



*“At ZEW, postdoc researchers have excellent possibilities to develop their academic career. After joining the institute’s Industrial Economics Research Department, I advanced to become the head of a Research Group and was appointed professor of competition policy at the University of Mannheim. This position will help me to build a strong research network and to gain experience as a university teacher.”*

Prof. Dr. Kai Hüschelrath, head of the Research Group  
“Competition and Regulation”

## Support via ZEW’s Qualification Programme

ZEW helps to advance the careers of its staff with a qualification programme. Research sabbaticals funded under the programme free up time for researchers to pursue work independent of project responsibilities at ZEW, e.g.

- ▶ to complete their doctoral or postdoctoral thesis
- ▶ to conduct research at renowned scientific institutions
- ▶ to participate in seminars, colloquia, and summer schools.

All research staff have access to ZEW’s internal professional development programme. The programme features courses in econometrics, IT, foreign languages, as well as leadership skills.



*“Sabbatical leaves are among the benefits most valued by ZEW researchers. Typically, a researcher takes one or two sabbaticals during their time at ZEW to conduct research without working on projects. I spent time at MIT and at Stanford after finishing my doctorate, which helped enormously to bring forward my academic career.”*

Prof. Dr. Andreas Löschel, ZEW Research Associate and former head of the Research Department “Environmental and Resource Economics, Environmental Management”

## International Networking in an Inspiring Region

Close **collaboration with research institutions** in Germany and abroad is a decisive factor in ZEW’s economic research. ZEW has cultivated a fruitful network of international partners. In addition to long-established partnerships in Western Europe, ZEW is expanding its network to institutions in Asia and overseas (e.g. with Nobel laureate Professor James J. Heckman, University of Chicago, and with Fudan University, one of China’s top universities).

ZEW is **closely networked with universities**. The institute currently collaborates with some 90 research associates, most of whom are professors at German and international universities. Many ZEW researchers are engaged as lecturers at universities.

ZEW is located near some of **Germany’s most popular holiday destinations**. This truly inspiring region offers many cultural sites and attractions. The nearby city of Heidelberg, the ancient Roman trade route “Bergstraße”, the vineyards of the Rhine Valley, the Black Forest, and the French-German borderlands are definitely worth a visit!

More information: [www.mannheim.de/en](http://www.mannheim.de/en)

## Who Should Apply?

Postgraduates/postdocs are invited to apply if they have:

- ▶ an honours degree in economics/business administration or in a related field of study
- ▶ a PhD/doctoral degree (only if applying for a post-doctoral position)
- ▶ a strong interest in theoretical and empirical research in economics
- ▶ both the ability to collaborate in a team and to work independently on their own initiative
- ▶ a good knowledge of statistics and econometrics

## Application and Contact

Applicants should submit a cover letter, a CV, references, academic transcripts, and information about their research areas. During the interview procedure, candidates will meet research staff members, the research unit head, as well as Human Resources staff. The application procedure will include a presentation followed by a discussion.

Further information about ZEW and current vacancies can be found at [www.zew.eu](http://www.zew.eu).

Applications should be sent to:

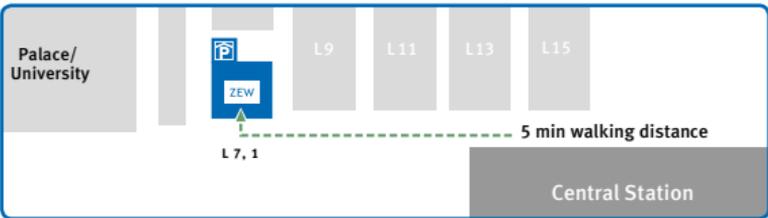
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**Travelling by plane via Frankfurt International Airport**

It is a 30-minute journey from Frankfurt International Airport to Mannheim Central Station via ICE high-speed train.

Travel time to Frankfurt by plane (non-stop):  
 from New York: approx. 8 hrs/from Beijing: approx. 10 hrs



**By foot from Mannheim Central Station**

It is a five-minute walk (300 m) from Mannheim Central Station to ZEW.

**ZEW**

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