

Join my new venture at the University of Mannheim Business School!

Fully Funded PhD Position in Business Research, focusing on Regulation, Taxation, Sustainability & Private Equity – Chair of Marcel Olbert



You are looking for a job with

- a super-steep learning curve on today's pressing business and policy issues,
- exposure to world-leading experts in academia, policy, media, and business,
- the freedom to choose what to work on and with whom, and
- the ability to push your own agenda, interests, and goals in an intellectually stimulating environment ?

then you should join me at the University of Mannheim to pursue your PhD. Applications are now open – and **you can start as early as 1 February 2026** (or later when available).

I am very excited to be joining the University of Mannheim Business School as a full professor in spring 2026, after 5.5 years on the faculty of London Business School, where I conducted top-tier international business research and taught MBA students and executives in accounting, finance, taxation, and sustainability (for my background, see [here](#), [here](#) or my [LinkedIn profile](#)).

I am looking for an **ambitious, curious, and open-minded PhD student** to join my team as a full-time research associate and to help build a new research center.

Attached is a job advert of the department with the currently open roles. Below, I am giving some more context about what the position I am seeking to fill looks like.

What you will work on

- 1) You will work closely **with me on research projects** broadly related, but not limited to multinational firms respond to **regulation and economic policy** (incl. taxation, and transparency, environmental and sustainability regulation and its impact on firms, and the role of private equity in shaping firm behavior, the economy, and society)
- 2) You will develop **your own research projects** with collaborators of your choice and on topics that fit your interest and skillset.
- 3) You will help **build a new research center**, and hence be part of an exciting **startup** at the University of Mannheim (see below).
- 4) Assist in and deliver teaching across different programs.

Research center

A key part is to help **build a new research center** at the Business School that will:

- Support **top-tier academic research**
- Organize **high-impact events** (conferences, workshops, practitioner events)
- Develop **databases, outreach activities, and manage an international research team**

Perks & Working environment

- A **highly interactive but flexible** work environment
 - Embedded in one of the world's strongest taxation and accounting research groups, with numerous talented PhD students (your peers) and a diverse team of assistant and full professors
 - Your own office space and high-quality IT equipment on campus
 - Remote/hybrid work possible
- Teaching and research **duties can be tailored** to your interests and department needs over time.
- **International secondments:** Through my network and that of my colleagues, there will be opportunities for **research visits** (from a few weeks up to a year) at leading international institutions (e.g. Stanford GSB, UNC, London Business School, LSE, MIT, Chicago Booth, Wharton, among others).
- You will also be encouraged and financially supported to:
 - Take **additional specialized coursework** (e.g. methods, data science)
 - Present your work at **international conferences** around the world

Logistical details of the position

- **Start date & contract**
 - Start with me - as early as **1 February 2026** (or as soon as you are available).
 - Full-time position on the **TV-L E13** pay scale (approx. **€5,000 gross/month**, depending on experience), or part time (e.g. in case you have not yet completed all master studies).
 - Typical duration: **4–6 years**, depending on project progress and the candidate's career plans.
- **Doctoral program structure**
 - **From Sept 2026 through June 2027:** mainly coursework (focus on research methods and data science) with a doctoral stipend (approx. net pay €1,700-2,000/month) as described in the official job ad.
 - After the coursework, you transition back into the full-time E13 position for the research phase.
 - The official posting advertises the taxation track, but the position is flexible and can accommodate a broader business research focus around regulation and policy.
- For formal requirements, structure, and deadlines, please refer to the **official job advertisement** of the University of Mannheim Business School.

What I am looking for (requirements)

More than any specific prior expertise, I care about the **mindset** and **potential** of the candidate. You will be a great fit if you:

- **Are eager to pick up new skills** such as coding, data handling, AI-based tools, and to immerse yourself in unfamiliar institutional settings in economic policy and international business.
- **Work and think independently**
- **Have a genuine interest in empirical work**
You do *not* need to be a mathematician, but you should be comfortable with numbers and curious about what data can tell us about firms and policy.
- **Bring drive and energy**
A self-motivated, proactive attitude is essential for thriving in an academic research environment.

Career prospects

Committing the next 4–6 years to a PhD in our team will **open many doors while closing none**. Whether you pursue an academic path or transition into industry, you will leave the program with a uniquely strong profile.

Former PhD students from our department have gone on to become professors at leading business schools such as **London Business School, Wharton, Erasmus, WHU, and NHH Bergen**, among others.

Other graduates have taken exciting roles in industry and policy, including top tier management consulting, PE, tax consulting, C-level chief of staff positions, etc.

Regardless of the path, you will bring, **technical skills**: coding, data science, empirical analysis, **project management experience, communication excellence** from presenting insights to critical academic, corporate, and policy audiences, and **credibility**.

Interested? I would be very happy to **talk informally** before you apply. Please send a CV and a short email describing your background and interests to:

marcel.olbert@outlook.com