



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITA DI BOLOGNA
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS



Position announcement

Pre-doc researcher in ‘Heterogeneous expectations and low-carbon transition dynamics’

The Department of Economics of the University of Bologna is currently inviting applications for a pre-doc researcher position to work on ‘Heterogeneous expectations and low-carbon transition dynamics’.

Job description

The postholder will contribute to studying how transition-related expectations affect investment decisions and the dynamic evolution of the low-carbon transition. Project activities will include: i) developing macro-transition modelling frameworks with heterogeneous expectations to investigate the role of climate policy uncertainty and credibility; and (ii) designing and implementing laboratory experiments to capture transition-related expectation dynamics. The postholder will assist the development of these activities, under the supervision and in collaboration with the rest of the SMOOTH/SMOOTHer team.

The position will last one year. The starting date is September 2024. The gross annual salary is 25,000€. The salary is exempt of taxation but subject to pension contributions. No teaching is expected. We expect the postholder to be based in Bologna. The knowledge of the Italian language is welcome but not a prerequisite.

Job qualifications and requirements

The features of the ideal candidate include:

- A Master degree in Economics, Finance, Behavioural Sciences, Political Science or any other field relevant to the call.
- Knowledge of the research literature in climate economics, behavioural economics/finance or monetary/financial economics; preferably at the intersection among them.
- Experience in developing analytical and numerical dynamic models able to incorporate behavioural dimensions.
- Experience in employing programming software for economic and econometric analysis (e.g. Matlab, R, Python, Stata and similar software).
- Experience in designing and performing online/laboratory experiments.
- Experience in employing statistical and econometric techniques for economic analysis.
- Experience with working as part of a project team.
- International work and study experience.
- Excellent ability in writing and speaking in English.

SMOOTHHer project

The postholder will participate to the activities of the SMOOTHHer research project, closely associated to the SMOOTH project funded by the European Research Council. The aim of SMOOTHHer is to study the dynamic links between macro-financial systems and the transition to a low-carbon society, and to contribute to the design of policies directed at achieving a rapid and smooth decarbonisation. The SMOOTH project is composed of three main areas of work: i) the study of how expectations, sentiments and cognitive biases affect the carbon intensity of physical and financial investments; ii) the analysis of drivers, transmission channels and macro-financial impacts of transition risks, with a focus on physical and financial stranding risks; iii) the study of the governance and political economy implications of a low-carbon transition, with a focus on the role of central banks and financial regulators. The SMOOTHHer project will build on this to: (i) perform laboratory experiments aimed at understanding financial investment decision-making; (ii) develop production network models to understand the implications of global and regional carbon pricing policies; (iii) explore institutional commitment devices. SMOOTHHer started in November 2022 and will last four years. It is conducted by an international interdisciplinary research team at the Department of Economics of the University of Bologna, in collaboration with the Milano-based RFF-CMCC European Institute on Economics and the Environment. For more information on the project, please visit: <https://site.unibo.it/smooth/en>.

University of Bologna

The [University of Bologna](#) (UniBo) is the oldest university in the world and regularly features among the top international academic institutions. With 33 departments and a population of 85,000 students from Italy and abroad, it is among the largest universities in Europe. Its main campus is based in Bologna, a vibrant city with a high quality of life and world-class social services. Bologna has a large airport and is connected to the high-speed railway network. The [Department of Economics](#) (DSE) of UniBo is a leading academic institution in several fields of economic research, with a large and expanding environmental economics cluster. The DSE is also a founding member of the Research Institute on Global Challenges and Climate Change (Alma Climate). Both UniBo's [International Desk](#) and Emilia-Romagna region service [it-ER](#) offer information and support to incoming international students and staff.

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