



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITA DI BOLOGNA
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS



Scholarship announcement

Research Assistant on ‘Heterogeneous expectations and the low-carbon transition’

The Department of Economics of the University of Bologna is currently inviting applications for a 6-month research assistant position to work on the topic ‘Heterogeneous expectations and the low-carbon transition’.

Job description

The postholder will participate to the activities of the SMOOTH research project (ERC Starting Grant 853050). The main activities of the post-holder will include developing small-scale macroeconomic modelling studying the role of heterogeneous expectations in shaping the transition to a low-carbon economy, with a special focus on energy systems; calibrating the model and run numerical simulations; analyzing the results of the simulations; contributing to preparing presentations and to write academic articles to be submitted to international peer-reviewed journals. The postholder will be supervised by Prof. Emanuele Campiglio, and will actively collaborate with the rest of the SMOOTH team.

The scholarship will last 6 months, starting on 1 April 2020. Alternative starting dates can be discussed. The gross monthly salary will be 1,600€. The scholarship is exempt of taxation. 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 position is directed to a junior researcher with experience in fields and methodologies relevant to the project tasks. The features of the ideal candidate include:

- A Bachelor or Master degree in Economics, Statistics or other fields relevant to the call
- Experience with models studying the transition to a low-carbon economy
- Experience with data management/analysis and model calibration
- Experience with coding in Matlab or similar software
- Familiarity with statistical distributions
- Familiarity with the literature on heterogeneous expectations
- Excellent ability in writing and speaking in English
- Experience with working as part of a project team
- International work and study experience

SMOOTH project

The aim of SMOOTH 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 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 particular focus on stranding risk of physical and financial assets; 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.

SMOOTH started in September 2020 and will last five 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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