

LUDWIG-MAXIMILIANS-UNIVERSITÄT MÜNCHEN

REFERAT INTERNATIONALE ANGELEGENHEITEN INTERNATIONAL OFFICE



PURELMU



Program for Undergraduate Research Experience at LMU Munich

Project Proposals 2024/25



Dear Students,

As LMU Munich's Vice President for International Affairs and Diversity, I am very pleased to launch the 2024/25 call for our Program for Undergraduate Research Experience at LMU Munich (PURE^{LMU}). This program goes beyond the classic student exchange

and allows you to have international research experience at an early point in your academic career at one of the world's best universities.

Research experience at the undergraduate level is a fairly novel concept, particularly in the disciplines that we have decided to focus on. PURE^{LMU} will help you to gain deeper insights into a research topic, sharpen your academic profile and add an international and academic dimension to your resumé that may make all the difference when you apply for a further degree program or prepare to embark on your chosen career path.

Enjoy browsing through the project descriptions. We look forward to receiving your application.

Best regards,

Prof. Dr. Francesca Biagini





Program Details



Program for Undergraduate Research Experience at LMU Munich (PURE^{LMU})

Contact Details

Dr. Harald David, International Office, LMU Munich, harald.david@lmu.de

■ PURE^{LMU} Program Details

- participation in ongoing research as part of the exchange
- full-time or part-time (approx. 10-20 hours per week) depending on the preferred project and the availability of research opportunities
- possible for one or two semesters
- students are encouraged to also attend courses
- courses may be taken in any department
- if the application for a research project is unsuccessful, the student still has the option to take regular courses as an exchange student

■ PURE^{LMU} Requirements

- exchange students must be nominated by their International Office
- must be in their 3rd or 4th year at the time of their stay at LMU Munich
- GPA at least B+
- must fulfill the project-specific requirements
- must provide a letter of motivation for each preferred research option
- must provide a letter of reference from the home department confirming that the candidate meets the requirements for the preferred research option(s)

■ PURE^{LMU} Application Procedure

- students interested in PURE^{LMU} should check their eligibility for the exchange with their International Office before making inquiries about particular projects
- students need to apply online through the link provided by the International Office of LMU Munich (please note that this is not the standard exchange student application form) to the International Office of their home university
- documents to be submitted with the application: transcript, letter of motivation, letter of reference
- students can identify two research options, any offer will be limited to one option
- applications will be forwarded to the supervisor(s) of the preferred research option(s)
- successful applications will be processed as standard exchange applications

PURE^{LMU} Nomination and Application Deadline

- PURE^{LMU} candidates must submit all documents by our exchange nomination deadline (April 15 for winter, October 15 for summer) to allow for review of the application by faculty
- Students need not submit their choice of courses until the PURE^{LMU} application has been accepted.

■ PURE^{LMU} Scholarships for 2024/25

• Euro 650/month



American Studies (AMST)

Business Administration (BUS)

Communication Science/Media Studies (COMM) Economics (ECON) English (ENG) French (FREN) History (HIST) Philosophy (PHIL) Politics (POL)



Project ID: BUS 2024/25 - Eng

Contact Details

Dr. Harald David, International Office, LMU Munich, harald.david@lmu.de

Ongoing Research

Digital Transformation of Companies (Management Concepts and Digitization, Digitization of Media Companies), New Forms of Organizing

Tasks of the Research Intern

The research intern will work on a project related to the digital transformation of companies, possibly with a focus on data-driven business models. However, the specific project still needs to be clarified. The intern will support an empirical study in this context and potentially take over responsibility for an own sub-project. We also try to consider individual interests and competences.

Academic Requirements for the Project

Standard: Nomination by International Office of home university, 3rd or 4th year student at the time of the exchange, GPA of at least B+, a letter of motivation for each preferred option, a letter of reference from the home department commenting on the student's academic standing in general and the specific requirements for the chosen project in particular.

Project-specific: Interest and basic knowledge in digital transformation as well as empirical research

- Duration of the Project Summer semester exchanges only
- Start Date (approx.) Summer semester: April 22, 2025
- End Date (approx.) Summer semester: July 25, 2025
- Expected Workload Hours/Week approx.) 10-20
- Flexibility of Working Hours Reasonably flexible, working hours can fit around the class schedule of the student
- Additional Comments



American Studies (AMST) Business Administration (BUS)

Communication Science/Media Studies (COMM)

Economics (ECON) English (ENG) French (FREN) History (HIST) Philosophy (PHIL) Politics (POL)



Project ID: COMM 2024/25 - Han

Contact Details

Dr. Harald David, International Office, LMU Munich, harald.david@lmu.de

Ongoing Research

The Worlds of Journalism Study was founded in 2010 to assess the state of journalism throughout the world. The study's main objective is to help journalism researchers, media practitioners and policy makers better understand the worldviews and changes that are taking place in the professional views of journalists, the conditions and limitations under which journalists operate, and the social functions of journalism in a changing world. (https://worldsofjournalism.org/)

Tasks of the Research Intern

Research Interns will participate in ongoing research projects carried out by faculty members; tasks include supporting the literature review, construction and testing of research tools, collection and analysis of data, and production of research reports. Teaching staff will make an effort to tailor the nature and quantity of tasks to fit the skills, experience, and interest of Research Interns.

Academic Requirements for the Project

Standard: Nomination by International Office of home university, 3rd or 4th year student at the time of the exchange, GPA of at least B+, a letter of motivation for each preferred option, a letter of reference from the home department commenting on the student's academic standing in general and the specific requirements for the chosen project in particular.

Project-specific: Required: knowledge of journalism studies, Preferred: expertise in survey research

Duration of the Project

Full year or semester exchanges

Start Date (approx.)

Winter semester: October 14, 2024 Summer semester: April 22, 2025

End Date (approx.)

Winter semester: February 7, 2025 Summer semester: July 25, 2025

Expected Workload Hours/Week approx.) 10-20

Flexibility of Working Hours Reasonably flexible, working hours can fit around the class schedule of the student

Project ID: COMM 2024/25 - Has

Contact Details

Dr. Harald David, International Office, LMU Munich, harald.david@lmu.de

Ongoing Research

The Junior Research Group "Digital Democratic Mobilization in Hybrid Media Systems" (DigiDeMo) addresses the question of what makes successful political campaigns in a hybrid media environment. On the one hand, it focusses on message format, content and technical distribution channels, while on the other hand it focusses on media use and effects during election campaigns and political communication apart from elections. The project aims at a broader scientific understanding of the political implications of digitalization and deeper insights as to how digital instruments could promote democratic development. At the core of DigiDeMo is an integration of applied computer science and communication research.

Tasks of the Research Intern

The applicant will work on the current subprojects, like implementing content analyses, surveys, experiments or eye-tracking studies as well as theoretical conceptualizing or data analysis and will get insights into the whole variety of scientific project work.

Academic Requirements for the Project

Standard: Nomination by International Office of home university, 3rd or 4th year student at the time of the exchange, GPA of at least B+, a letter of motivation for each preferred option, a letter of reference from the home department commenting on the student's academic standing in general and the specific requirements for the chosen project in particular.

Project-specific: The applicant should have great interest in political communication and campaigning. Knowledge about empirical methods of social sciences or a background in computer or data science is helpful but not necessary. As the project implements an interdisciplinary perspective on research, greater interest in computational social science is beneficial.

Duration of the Project

Full year or semester exchanges

Start Date (approx.) Winter semester: October 14, 2024 Summer semester: April 22, 2025

End Date (approx.)

Winter semester: February 7, 2025 Summer semester: July 25, 2025

- Expected Workload Hours/Week approx.)
- 10

Flexibility of Working Hours

Reasonably flexible, working hours can fit around the class schedule of the student



American Studies (AMST) Business Administration (BUS) Communication Science/Media Studies (COMM)

Economics (ECON)

English (ENG) French (FREN) History (HIST) Philosophy (PHIL) Politics (POL)



Project ID: ECON 2024/25 - Pei

Contact Details

Dr. Harald David, International Office, LMU Munich, harald.david@lmu.de

Ongoing Research

INEQUALITREES – A Novel Look at Socio-Economic Inequalities using Machine Learning Techniques and Integrated Data Sources

In this interdisciplinary project, we investigate the levels and drivers of two key manifestations of socioeconomic inequality – poverty and inequality of opportunity (IOp) – in different countries across the globe by relying on cutting-edge machine learning (ML) techniques and novel data sources (Big Data). First, we will apply ML techniques to integrate large-scale datasets from surveys, administrative and register data, satellite images, and electricity meters, among others. In this way, we tackle common statistical problems, including small sample sizes, partial geographical coverage, and missing information on key variables that have constrained previous investigations on poverty and IOp. Second, we will demonstrate how a data-driven measurement approach can foster our knowledge of the structure of socio-economic inequalities by producing flexible models that accommodate the role of different institutional contexts and region-specific particularities in the production of both poverty and IOp. Third, next to advancing the current research frontier on how to employ big data techniques for the measurement of inequality, we will provide substantive analyses of inequality of opportunity and poverty with respect to three outcome domains (education, income/wealth and health) in different countries at the subnational level.

Tasks of the Research Intern

Literature review, downloading / webscraping of data, coding, analysis of data, writing of research report

Academic Requirements for the Project

Standard: Nomination by International Office of home university, 3rd or 4th year student at the time of the exchange, GPA of at least B+, a letter of motivation for each preferred option, a letter of reference from the home department commenting on the student's academic standing in general and the specific requirements for the chosen project in particular.

Project-specific: Knowledge of economics, econometrics and at least one statistical software package (e.g. R, Stata, Python)

Duration of the Project

Full year or semester exchanges

Start Date (approx.)

Winter semester: October 14, 2024 Summer semester: April 22, 2025

End Date (approx.)

Winter semester: February 7, 2025 Summer semester: July 25, 2025

Expected Workload Hours/Week approx.) 10-20

Flexibility of Working Hours Reasonably flexible, working hours can fit around the class schedule of the student

Project ID: ECON 2024/25 - Sun

Contact Details

Dr. Harald David, International Office, LMU Munich, harald.david@lmu.de

Ongoing Research

There is a growing disparity in political preferences and political participation across countries and regions, but also within countries and regions between persons with low and high socioeconomic status in Germany. Disenchantment with the political system and political apathy of persons with low socioeconomic status could lead to a further increase in polarization of society and the political landscape. Previous research on political preferences has focused mainly on adults, but has speculated about the role of adolescence for the formation of political preferences. While there is evidence that points at intergenerational transmission of preferences in other dimensions, the transmission of political preferences and the role of formative experiences during youth are not well understood. The goal of our ongoing research is to investigate the formation of political preferences (e.g. interest in politics, party preferences, political issue salience) as well as of conventional and non-conventional political participation among adolescents.

Tasks of the Research Intern

The student will contribute to the project by reviewing the existing literature and mainly by preparing and analyzing new and innovative datasets.

Academic Requirements for the Project

Standard: Nomination by International Office of home university, 3rd or 4th year student at the time of the exchange, GPA of at least B+, a letter of motivation for each preferred option, a letter of reference from the home department commenting on the student's academic standing in general and the specific requirements for the chosen project in particular.

Project-specific: The student should have successfully completed at least one statistics and one econometrics class.

Duration of the Project

Full year or semester exchanges

Start Date (approx.) Winter semester: October 14, 2024 Summer semester: April 22, 2025

End Date (approx.)

Winter semester: February 7, 2025 Summer semester: July 25, 2025

- Expected Workload Hours/Week approx.)
- 15

Flexibility of Working Hours

Reasonably flexible, working hours can fit around the class schedule of the student



American Studies (AMST) Business Administration (BUS) Communication Science/Media Studies (COMM) Economics (ECON)

English (ENG)

French (FREN) History (HIST) Philosophy (PHIL) Politics (POL)



Project ID: ENG 2024/25 - Wax

Contact Details

Dr. Harald David, International Office, LMU Munich, harald.david@lmu.de

Ongoing Research

Old English Runes and Runology

The project deals with the runic script as a writing system within its historico-cultural context in a comprehensive way, focusing in particular on phonemic, graphematic and textpragmatic aspects. Apart from editorial work, research on runic monuments has hitherto concentrated predominantly on understanding the text of the individual inscriptions and their historicocultural interpretation. The runes as a writing system (respectively a group of writing systems) with different socio-cultural functions have rarely been in focus. Our project, in contrast, explicitly regards the runic script as a system evolved in various ways over the centuries, fulfilling various communicative functions within the different historical societies it was used in. It is thus the aim of the project to describe and analyze runic writing in a comprehensive way, transcending the boundaries of the three groups of runic writing systems (Common Germanic (= Older) futark, Younger futark and Anglo-Frisian futorc) traditionally adhered to in runological research and subjecting all three systems to uniform methods of investigation. In pursuing this perspective, the theoretical insights and categories of current writing research will be drawn on.

Tasks of the Research Intern

The candidate will deal with various aspects of the Old English inscriptions (e.g., from the new find to an analysis of the object and inscription; the RuneS edition and data-base). He/she will be introduced to the field of runology and will learn "the ropes" of this complex research area. The student will carry out his/her own research project and will present it in a paper.

Academic Requirements for the Project

Standard: Nomination by International Office of home university, 3rd or 4th year student at the time of the exchange, GPA of at least B+, a letter of motivation for each preferred option, a letter of reference from the home department commenting on the student's academic standing in general and the specific requirements for the chosen project in particular.

Project-specific: The candidate should have successfully attended an introductory course to Old English and one more specific course in Old English. After a successful application the candidate will be provided with an intro-ductory reading list about Old English runes. Working with runes is normally labour-intensive.

Duration of the Project Semester exchanges only

Start Date (approx.)

Winter semester: October 14, 2024 Summer semester: April 22, 2025

End Date (approx.)

Winter semester: February 7, 2025 Summer semester: July 25, 2025

Expected Workload Hours/Week approx.) 15-20

Flexibility of Working Hours

Reasonably flexible, working hours can fit around the class schedule of the student



American Studies (AMST) Business Administration (BUS) Communication Science/Media Studies (COMM) Economics (ECON) English (ENG) French (FREN) History (HIST)

> Philosophy (PHIL) Politics (POL)



Project ID: FREN 2024/25 - Pos

Contact Details

Dr. Harald David, International Office, LMU Munich, harald.david@lmu.de

Ongoing Research

Linguistique française, littératures francophones, Français langue étrangère

Tasks of the Research Intern

L'Institut de Philologie Romane accueillera des étudiants effectuant une recherche dans l'un des domaines suivants:

- a) Linguistique française, en particulier des projets portant sur le français québécois et/ou dans les domaines de la linguistique des variétés, de la linguistique cognitive ou de la linguistique diachronique
- b) Littératures francophones, en particulier des projets portant sur la littérature québécoise et/ou dans le domaine des théories de la littérature (comme, par exemple, les études post-coloniales ou les études de genre)
- c) Français langue étrangère, en particulier des projets portant sur les théories et/ou méthodes de l'enseignement de la grammaire, de la traduction allemand-français et français-allemand ainsi que de la civilisation des pays francophones.

Academic Requirements for the Project

Standard: Nomination by International Office of home university, 3rd or 4th year student at the time of the exchange, GPA of at least B+, a letter of motivation for each preferred option, a letter of reference from the home department commenting on the student's academic standing in general and the specific requirements for the chosen project in particular.

Project-specific: Les étudiant(e)s doivent être inscrit(e)s à un programme comparable à la philologie romane, c'est-à-dire des programmes de littérature comparée ou française, sciences du langage, français langue étrangère, langues étrangères appliquées ou traductologie (allemand-français). Une excellente maîtrise de la langue française est exigée (niveau min. C1 CECRL ou langue maternelle).

Duration of the Project

Un an ou un semestre

Start Date (approx.)

Semestre d'hiver: 14 octobre, 2024 Semestre d'été: 22 avril, 2025

End Date (approx.)

Semestre d'hiver 7 février, 2025 Semestre d'été: 25 juillet, 2025

Expected Workload Hours/Week approx.) 10-15

Flexibility of Working Hours

Horaires flexibles en fonction de l'emploi de temps.



American Studies (AMST) Business Administration (BUS) Communication Science/Media Studies (COMM) Economics (ECON) English (ENG) French (FREN) History (HIST) Philosophy (PHIL) Politics (POL)



Project ID: HIST 2024/25 - Bar

Contact Details

Dr. Harald David, International Office, LMU Munich, harald.david@lmu.de

Ongoing Research

The Munich Open-access Cuneiform Corpus Initiative (MOCCI) is an international English-language research team studying the written heritage of the Ancient Near East, based in LMU's History Department.

Tasks of the Research Intern

You will assist in making available online the rich cuneiform text sources of ancient Mesopotamia (centred on modern Iraq and Syria) in a fully annotated, linguistically tagged, Open Access and Open Data format. You will help catalogue, annotate, contextualize, and disseminate ancient records in the Akkadian and Sumerian languages. Tasks may include adding/editing/improving catalogue metadata displayed with the online text editions; georeferencing the findspots of ancient artefacts for our interactive map interface Ancient Records of Middle Eastern Polities (ARMEP); writing/editing/improving introductory/informational webpages; and helping in the production of one or more of the book series Royal Inscriptions of the Neo-Babylonian Empire (RINBE), Royal Inscriptions of Assyria (RIA) and Royal Inscriptions and Kudurrus of the Kassites (RIKK). With existing cuneiform knowledge, you will be able to help in linguistically tagging Akkadian or Sumerian texts. With background in programming/computer linguistics, you can assist in analyzing data exported from our projects in JavaScript Object Notation (JSON) and Text Encoding Initiative (TEI) formats. If you want to use your German, you can help translate English texts into German.

Academic Requirements for the Project

Standard: Nomination by International Office of home university, 3rd or 4th year student at the time of the exchange, GPA of at least B+, a letter of motivation for each preferred option, a letter of reference from the home department commenting on the student's academic standing in general and the specific requirements for the chosen project in particular.

Project-specific: Basic computer literacy and interest in ancient Near Eastern history, cultures or languages. Coding skills or knowledge of the Ancient Near East and/or Akkadian/ Sumerian are a plus, not a prerequisite.

Duration of the Project

Semester exchanges only

Start Date (approx.)

Winter semester: October 14, 2024 Summer semester: April 22, 2025

End Date (approx.)

Winter semester: February 7, 2025 Summer semester: July 25, 2025

- Expected Workload Hours/Week approx.)
- 15

Flexibility of Working Hours

Reasonably flexible, working hours can fit around the class schedule of the student

Additional Comments

The MOCCI team is an international team comprising members from North America and various European countries. Therefore, conversational level German is not a prerequisite.

History (HIST)

Project ID: HIST 2024/25 - Zon

Contact Details

Dr. Harald David, International Office, LMU Munich, harald.david@lmu.de

Ongoing Research

The Collaborative Research Centre (CRC) aims to investigate the historical and cultural foundations of watchfulness. The CRC intends to elucidate how individuals were culturally motivated and guided to be watchful and how they interacted with political and social incentive systems as well as technical and institutional frameworks. In order to tap into the long history and wide variability of vigilance, which extends to the present day, the CRC relies on an interdisciplinary research effort that brings together perspectives from the fields of history and law, ethnology, the history of medicine as well as literature, art and drama.

Tasks of the Research Intern

The students will participate in a subproject. They will be assigned tasks (for historical research projects for instance: study of sources relevant for the project etc.) and will attend the meetings and workshops organized by the research project.

Academic Requirements for the Project

Standard: Nomination by International Office of home university, 3rd or 4th year student at the time of the exchange, GPA of at least B+, a letter of motivation for each preferred option, a letter of reference from the home department commenting on the student's academic standing in general and the specific requirements for the chosen project in particular.

Project-specific: For nearly all work in a subproject at least a basic level knowledge of German will be necessary. Some subprojects require knowledge of other languages depending on their research focal point

Duration of the Project

Semester exchanges only

Start Date (approx.)

Winter semester: October 14, 2024 Summer semester: April 22, 2025

End Date (approx.)

Winter semester: February 7, 2025 Summer semester: July 25, 2025

Expected Workload Hours/Week approx.)

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Flexibility of Working Hours

Reasonably flexible, working hours can fit around the class schedule of the student

Additional Comments

There are 18 subprojects. Please identify the subproject you are interested in. More information under: https://www.en.sfb1369.uni-muenchen.de/index.html.



American Studies (AMST) Business Administration (BUS) Communication Science/Media Studies (COMM) Economics (ECON) English (ENG) French (FREN) History (HIST) Philosophy (PHIL) Politics (POL)



Project ID: PHIL 2024/25 - Ada

Contact Details

Dr. Harald David, International Office, LMU Munich, harald.david@lmu.de

Ongoing Research

History of philosophy, especially Islamic

Tasks of the Research Intern

This research project would involve joining a research group funded by the DFG and led by Prof. Peter Adamson, which is devoted to the reception of Avicenna's thought in the later Islamic philosophical tradition (12-13th centuries). The intern would have the chance to study chapters from a forthcoming book series devoted to this topic, ideally comparing our translations to the original texts, and to provide feedback to the team on the clarity of our presentation.

Academic Requirements for the Project

Standard: Nomination by International Office of home university, 3rd or 4th year student at the time of the exchange, GPA of at least B+, a letter of motivation for each preferred option, a letter of reference from the home department commenting on the student's academic standing in general and the specific requirements for the chosen project in particular.

Project-specific: Aside from the general requirements preference will be given to candidates who can read Arabic or Persian, and who are majors in a relevant field (philosophy, Islamic studies, medieval studies, perhaps history).

Duration of the Project

Full year or semester exchanges

Start Date (approx.)

Winter semester: October 14, 2024 Summer semester: April 22, 2025

End Date (approx.) Winter semester: February 7, 2025

Summer semester: July 25, 2025

Expected Workload Hours/Week approx.) 10

Flexibility of Working Hours Reasonably flexible, working hours can fit around the class schedule of the student



American Studies (AMST) Business Administration (BUS) Communication Science/Media Studies (COMM) Economics (ECON) English (ENG) French (FREN) History (HIST) Philosophy (PHIL) Politics (POL)



Project ID: POL 2024/25 - Thu

Contact Details

Dr. Harald David, International Office, LMU Munich, harald.david@lmu.de

Ongoing Research

"International Arms Trade and Intrastate Conflict"

This research project analyzes the effects of the international arms trade and military capabilities of governments as well as of rebel groups on intrastate conflicts. Using a variety of statistical approaches and tools, we examine whether and under which conditions arms imports 1) escalate latent intrastate conflicts or contribute to stabilization, 2) increase conflict intensity, 3) prolong or shorten conflicts, and 4) lead to higher extents of repression and human rights violations. The project also focuses on collecting data regarding the military endowment of non-state actors using document analysis of multiple sources.

Our research assesses how imports of major conventional weapons and small arms affect intrastate conflicts, state repression and human rights violations, and how conflicts in turn impact the demand for weapons transfers. Thus, we contribute to the fundamental relationship between arms trade and conflicts. The results are valuable for a wide range of political debates, e.g. on how to design export guidelines that align with ethic criteria for responsible politics of exporting arms. More information under:

https://www.gsi.uni-muenchen.de/lehreinheiten/le_policy_analysis/forschung/armstrade_intrastate/index.html

Tasks of the Research Intern

The student will be part of a research team consisting of BA-, MA-, PhD-students and Post-Docs. His/her research work will contribute to the publication of research articles in scientific journals. Our aim is to provide first-hand experience in every step of the research and publications process.

Academic Requirements for the Project

Standard: Nomination by International Office of home university, 3rd or 4th year student at the time of the exchange, GPA of at least B+, a letter of motivation for each preferred option, a letter of reference from the home department commenting on the student's academic standing in general and the specific requirements for the chosen project in particular.

Project-specific: The candidate should major in either political science, economics or statistics (or a closely related field). We expect the applicant to have successfully completed courses in basic statistics and linear regression analysis. Experience in working with quantitative data sets using either R or Stata is of advantage. The candidate should be interested in conflict research / international relations -- ideally having completed courses on these topics.

Duration of the Project

Full year or semester exchanges

Start Date (approx.)

Winter semester: October 14, 2024 Summer semester: April 22, 2025

End Date (approx.) Winter semester: February 7, 2025

Summer semester: July 25, 2025

Expected Workload Hours/Week approx.) 10-20

Flexibility of Working Hours Reasonably flexible, working hours can fit around the class schedule of the student

