

With more than 6,200 employees in research, teaching and administration and its unique profile, TU Dortmund University shapes prospects for the future: The interplay of engineering and natural science as well as social and cultural studies drives both technological innovations and progress in knowledge and methodology, of what not only the roughly 34,600 students benefit from. The Center for Research on Education and School Development (Institut für Schulentwicklungsforschung, IFS) of the Faculty of Education, Psychology, and Sociology at TU Dortmund University is offering a position of an

### **Early-Stage Researcher (PhD candidate, 100%)**

commencing 01 August 2018, limited to 3 years and subject to the Grant Approval by the European Commission. The PhD candidate becomes member of the European Training Network (ETN) Outcomes and Causal Inference in International Comparative Assessments (OCCAM), which is funded by the European Commission within the framework of Horizon 2020 as a Marie Skłodowska-Curie (MSC) action. OCCAM is a graduate school for 15 early-stage researchers who will investigate the effects of educational policy, focusing on trends and differences in educational achievement, the determinants of educational outcomes, and changes in educational outcomes from an international perspective. Further information on the network can be found on [www.etn-occam.eu](http://www.etn-occam.eu). The payment follows the collective bargaining laws of pay grade E13 TV-L or respectively of the transitional law (TVÜ-L). The position is full-time. A part-time contract or a reduction to a part-time position is possible.

#### **Job description:**

The early-stage researcher will conduct a research project on “Concepts and Measures of Educational Inequality: Competing Normative Foundations”. The objectives are comparisons of different measures of educational inequality in achievement (e.g., socio-economic gaps, dispersion measures) and of studies based upon these measures. A further aim is to reveal and investigate normative accounts that underlie various inequality measures (e.g., capability approach, human capital). International data (e.g., PISA, PIAAC, TIMSS) shall be used to study educational inequality for different cohorts and educational stages (e.g., primary, secondary, further education). The project aims to guide future research on how to operationalize and measure educational inequalities in educational studies and policy analyses (e.g., using performance standards). As other projects in the OCCAM network work on related topics, it is encouraged that at least one study may be conducted in cooperation with another PhD candidate in the network.

Besides working on the dissertation, the successful candidate will receive international, intersectoral, and interdisciplinary research trainings including network-wide meetings, research visits, and a secondment. PD Dr. Rolf Strietholt will supervise the successful candidate.

#### **Requirements:**

- Completed scientific tertiary education degree in education, economics, sociology, or related disciplines (obtained at latest in July 2018)
- Excellent academic record, testified by the transcript of records and, if relevant, by previous research output (e.g. scientific publications)
- Research interests in a) inequality in opportunities

and educational justice (e.g., disadvantaged students, no child left behind, social mobility, success against the odds) and b) international comparative research and international assessments (e.g., PISA, PIAAC, TIMSS)

- Training in quantitative methods and attitude to rigorous empirical analysis
- Excellent English writing and communication skills; knowledge of German is not required
- Mobility rule: Applicants must not have resided or carried out their main activity in Germany for more than 12 months in the last 3 years before the recruitment date (01 August 2018)
- Early-stage researcher status: Applicants must, at the date of recruitment, be in the first 4 years of their research careers and have not been awarded a doctoral degree

We strongly encourage people with disabilities who have relevant skills and experience to apply for our advertised vacancy.

Applications should be submitted in English as a single PDF and should include:

- OCCAM confirmation on eligibility (see [www.etn-occam.eu](http://www.etn-occam.eu))
- CV
- Transcript of records issued by your university listing the exams/courses taken at university, grades/marks awarded and (if applicable) the final degree result,
- MA thesis (if incomplete at the date of application: please include the table of contents and at least one chapter)
- Two letters of recommendation,
- Research proposal of 2500 words (including bibliog-

raphy, tables, footnotes) on educational inequalities in international assessments. The proposal should include: a) scope and objectives, b) background and state of the art in the field with references to the literature, c) hypotheses/theories, d) description of the empirical methodology and data sources, e) short bibliography.

Applications should be sent to Isa Steinmann **no later than 15 April 2018** ([isa.steinmann@tu-dortmund.de](mailto:isa.steinmann@tu-dortmund.de), subject: "Application ESR 5").

Contact: PD Dr. Rolf Strietholt ([rolf.strietholt@tu-dortmund.de](mailto:rolf.strietholt@tu-dortmund.de), 0049-231-755510)

Dortmund