

The **Climate Finance and Policy Group (CFP)** within the *Department of Humanities, Social, and Political Sciences* of **ETH Zurich** investigates questions related to the **public policy options to catalyse finance for new low-carbon technologies**. We are currently offering a

Master's thesis: Investigating the effectiveness of green financial policies in China

Research field and tasks

In 2020, President Xi Jinping announced that the country will strive to reach peak CO₂ emissions before 2030 and to achieve carbon neutrality before 2060. This commitment matters for global mitigation efforts given that China constitutes the world's largest carbon emitter and energy consumer. Moreover, one of the key pillars in the country's climate policy agenda is the focus on developing green financial markets and redirecting finance to low-carbon technologies.

The implementation of green financial policies, including the Green Credit (2007) and Green Finance Innovation Pilot Zones (2017) policies has been followed by ample research studying their effectiveness in meeting their intended outcomes. In particular, over 200 papers employ quasi-experimental methods have been published in the last decade. To date, however, learnings from this experience for other countries, and the formulation of green financial policies more broadly, have hardly been derived.

Against this background, CFP offers a master's thesis that aims to conduct a meta-regression* of empirical evaluations of green financial policies in China. The student's task will comprise, amongst others:

- Extracting quantitative evaluation results (effect sizes) from an existing dataset of relevant studies
- Carrying out a meta-analysis of the data
- Critically discussing results in relation to green finance policy objectives in China and broader climate policy literature.

***Meta-regression** is a statistical process and method of synthesis of quantitative data from multiple independent studies addressing a common research question. It involves computing a combined effect size across all the studies. Examples include [Klaassen & Steffen](#) (2023); [Döbbeling-Hildebrandt et al.](#) (2024).

Requirements

We are looking for a student with strong data skills and the ability to work in a team. Fluency in English is required, knowledge in Mandarin Chinese is not required but helpful. Students of all disciplines are welcome; however, the topic might be of more relevance for those students with an interest in public policy or financial regulation. Applications from non-ETH students are also welcome.

Conditions

The master student will work in close collaboration with Valeria de los Casares (PhD student at CFP), as well as Prof. Bjarne Steffen. She/he will have the opportunity to become an integral part of the CFP research team and contribute to CFP's emerging research agenda.

Duration of the master's thesis is six months. Ideally, the start would be in spring 2025.

Your application

Your application documents should include a short letter of motivation (max. one page), your CV, and transcript of records (with grades). Please send your complete documents by email to:

Valeria de los Casares
(valeria.deloscasares@gess.ethz.ch)

At www.cfp.ethz.ch you can find more information about the group. The review of applications will start immediately after publication of this ad and will continue until the position is filled.