

The **Energy and Technology Policy Group** and **Climate Finance and Policy Group** within the Department of Humanities, Social, and Political Sciences of **ETH Zurich** offer a

Master's thesis: How do policy mixes affect international renewable finance flows?

Research field and tasks

To limit global warming to well below 2°C, significant investments in low-carbon infrastructure are necessary, with at least \$1.6 trillion needed annually for renewable energy (RE) technologies by 2030. These technologies require substantial upfront financing, making it crucial to direct capital from where it is available to where it is needed – including in terms of geographical location.

In recent research, we found that indeed significant RE financing flows between different countries can be observed and that such internationalization has increased over time. In the next step, we now plan to explore what might drive such internationalization. Specifically, we are interested in studying how domestic policy mixes affect the amount and type of finance that flows into a country from abroad.

To address this gap, we offer a master's thesis project that investigates the impact of domestic policy mixes – both energy as well as the financial policies – on the observed RE financial inflows. The student will be able to use the RE financing data gathered and used in our previous research.

The student's tasks will therefore include:

- Decide on the identification strategies and analysis methods and conduct quantitative analyses to identify the effects of public policies on financing flows. Potential methods include panel regressions, difference in difference, event history, or synthetic controls.

- Collect the relevant policy data that might have an impact on the financing inflows, familiarize themselves with the existing financing data and potentially determine case study countries to base specific types of analysis on
- Review and explore literature on energy and financial policy effects on RE deployment and financing

Requirements

We are looking for a master student that has experienced in quantitative methods and statistical modelling and would be excited to apply their skills to research questions in the field of public policy and climate finance.

Conditions

The student will directly work with Sara Eberhart and further be supervised and collaborate with Prof. Tobias Schmidt, Prof. Bjarne Steffen, and Dr. Lukas Fesenfeld from the Energy and Technology Policy Group and the Climate Finance and Policy Group. The duration of the thesis is 6 months and starting date would be ASAP.

Your application

Your application documents should include a short letter of motivation (max. 1 page), a CV, and transcript of records (grades in BSc and ongoing MSc). Please send your complete documents to: Sara Eberhart (sara.eberhart@gess.ethz.ch). The review of applications will start immediately after publication of this ad and will continue until the position is filled.