

Research and Teaching Assistant / Ph.D. Position (f/m/d) in Business Analytics and Operations Research

The Chair of Production Management (<https://www.bwl.uni-mannheim.de/en/stolletz/>) in the Area Operations at the Business School of the University of Mannheim (Prof. Raik Stolletz) invites applications for a **Ph.D. position in cooperation with SKEMA Business School, Paris, (Prof. Benjamin Legros)** <https://www.skema.edu/en/faculty-and-research/professors/benjamin-legros>. The starting date is flexible in **2027**.

The research of both groups focus on the development of methods in Business Analytics and Operations Research, specifically performance analysis and optimization of stochastic systems. This German-French research project focuses on the design and management of so-called retrial operations systems where products or customers return to the system after a certain time. Retrial modeling proves to be particularly valuable for sustainable operations, such as the handling of reusable packages within supply chains. By effectively modeling and managing product returns, the research aims to contribute to the development of sustainable supply chains, reducing waste and promoting circular economy practices. Additionally, retrial analysis can also be applied to improve operations in healthcare systems, allowing for efficient handling of patient return visits, or in customer service centers to optimize service levels for customers requiring multiple interactions.

The ideal candidate has completed or is nearing completion of their Master's studies in Business Analytics, Operations Management, Operations Research, Management Science, Industrial Engineering, Applied Mathematics, or related fields, with a strong academic record. Candidates with advanced skills in business analytics, particularly in stochastic modeling, are highly encouraged to apply. Proficiency in English is essential, while knowledge of German or French languages is not required. In addition to working on the research project, the Ph.D. student will provide support to the team in teaching and administrative tasks, contributing to a collaborative and interdisciplinary work environment.

The University of Mannheim Business School is Germany's premier business school and provides an outstanding international research environment. The chair actively supports collaborations within the international research community. The University of Mannheim is an equal opportunity employer. Qualified women are therefore particularly encouraged to apply. Applicants with disabilities are treated with preference given comparable qualifications.

Please send your application with the usual documents (letter of motivation, CV, overview of previous academic achievements, etc.) in written form or via email until **November 2nd, 2026** to

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Data protection: Please note that data transmitted via unencrypted email communication may be subject to unauthorized access by third parties and confidentiality cannot be guaranteed. Information regarding the collection and processing of personal data according to article 13 of the GDPR is provided on the website of the University of Mannheim under "Employment Opportunities". Submitted documents will only be returned if the application includes an envelope with sufficient postage. Otherwise, the documents will be destroyed in accordance with the data protection law after the application process is completed. Electronic applications will be deleted accordingly.