Information for prospective external doctoral candidates

The Mercator Chair welcomes applications for external doctoral positions. The status of external doctoral student applies if the candidate is not employed at WHU (or is employed at WHU with strictly less than three eighths of a full-time position). This status is an option that could be of interest to candidates who are presently working in industry and want to obtain a doctoral degree alongside work. The expectation is, just like for an internal candidate, to produce a dissertation that features contributions equivalent to three high-quality academic papers.

Who we are looking for: At the Mercator Chair, we work on mathematical modelling in the context of demand management, transport, and sustainability. Depending on the proposed dissertation topic, this modelling could consist of optimisation, demand modelling, machine learning, simulation and/or other disciplines.

As such, candidates should have a strong background in a quantitative subject such as data science, mathematics, informatics, econometrics, engineering or similar. This background might come in the form of a formal degree or in the form of work experience. Projects at the Chair often are conducted in collaboration with external stakeholders, so this is certainly possible and encouraged, yet not strictly necessary.

What we can offer:

- Close supervision to support the dissertation project and its timely completion
- Assistance and training in academic paper writing
- Powerful alumni network
- Stimulating work environment with (often virtual) events to link up with other doctoral candidates, researchers, and practitioners

We are looking forward to hearing from you!