

Environmental Taxation and Climate Action – Research Internship (6 months)

Offered by Université d'Angers (Campus Saint-Serge), Angers, France

Internship Description (English)

Scientific Context and Research Issue

Climate change mitigation and sustainable development have placed **environmental taxation** at the forefront of economic policy discussions. Environmental taxes – such as carbon taxes or levies on pollution – are widely seen as effective tools to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and encourage environmentally friendly behavior by internalizing environmental costs. International agreements (e.g. the Paris Climate Agreement) and the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** emphasize the need for such market-based instruments to achieve **climate action** targets. Indeed, environmental taxes can create a “double dividend” by both improving environmental outcomes and mobilizing revenue for sustainable development initiatives. However, designing **green fiscal policies** that are both effective and socially acceptable remains a significant challenge. Recent debates (for instance, public responses to fuel tax proposals in France and elsewhere) highlight concerns about fairness, economic impact, and public acceptance. This research internship will address these issues by exploring how environmental taxation policies can be implemented to maximize environmental benefits while minimizing adverse social impacts. The scientific question to be tackled is: *How can environmental tax policies be optimized to support climate change mitigation goals (SDG 13: Climate Action) in an equitable and effective manner?* The intern will contribute to ongoing research in environmental economics focused on evaluating the impacts of environmental taxation and understanding stakeholder responses (e.g. households, businesses, or communities) to these tax policies.

Internship Missions

Working under the supervision of academic researchers in economics, the **intern** will actively participate in various research activities related to the project. Key missions include:

- **Survey Administration and Data Collection:** Manage the deployment of questionnaires and oversee the data collection process for an empirical study on environmental taxation (e.g. a survey of public perceptions or business practices related to a new environmental tax). This involves administering the questionnaire, monitoring response rates, and ensuring data quality and completeness.
- **Data Processing and Analysis:** Clean and organize the collected dataset and perform statistical analyses to extract insights. The intern will conduct descriptive statistics to summarize the data and use econometric techniques (such as regression analysis) to investigate relationships (for example, analyzing how different socio-economic groups respond to an environmental tax or what factors influence support for green tax policies).

- **Literature Review:** Carry out a comprehensive review of academic literature and policy reports on environmental taxation and climate policy. This will help situate the research within the current state of knowledge, identify theoretical frameworks, and gather evidence from previous studies (e.g. on the effectiveness of environmental taxes or lessons learned about public acceptance of such taxes).
- **Research Dissemination and Collaboration:** Contribute to the writing of research reports or papers and participate in meetings and discussions with the research team. The intern will be encouraged to share findings, propose ideas, and support other related research tasks in the project (such as contributing to workshops, seminars, or stakeholder outreach activities if they arise).

Through these missions, the student will gain hands-on experience in applied economic research, including survey methodology, statistical data analysis, and policy evaluation in the context of environmental economics.

Required Skills and Qualifications

- **Educational Background:** Master's degree (Master 2 or equivalent) in Economics or a related field. Candidates who are currently pursuing a PhD or who hold a doctoral degree in Economics (especially in environmental economics or public economics) are strongly welcomed.
- **Research Skills:** Prior experience with survey design and data management is highly desirable. The candidate should be comfortable handling datasets (data cleaning, organization) and have a solid foundation in **statistical analysis**. Knowledge of econometric regression techniques is required for analyzing survey data and policy impacts.
- **Technical Proficiency:** Proficiency in statistical software such as **Stata, R, or Python** is required to perform data analysis and manage databases. Familiarity with spreadsheet tools and survey platforms would be an asset.
- **Domain Knowledge:** A strong interest or background in environmental issues and public finance (e.g. knowledge of climate change policies, carbon pricing mechanisms, or environmental regulations) will be appreciated. Understanding the principles of environmental taxation and its role in climate policy is a plus.
- **Soft Skills:** The ideal candidate should demonstrate good organizational skills (to manage data collection and multitask across project activities) and analytical thinking. Effective written and oral communication skills in either English or French (working language of the team) are important for collaborating with the research team and reporting findings.

Internship Details and Conditions

This **research internship** will take place at **Université d'Angers, Campus Saint-Serge** in Angers, France – a dynamic academic environment in the heart of the Loire Valley. The expected duration of the internship is **at least 6 months** (full-time), with a potential start in early 2026 (to be confirmed in accordance with the EU GREEN internship program timeline). The intern will be integrated into a research project team within the economics department,

benefiting from mentorship by experienced researchers and access to the university's resources.

Compensation: In line with French regulations for internships exceeding two months, the position will include a monthly stipend (convention de stage gratification) as per the standard rate or higher, funded by the research project. Additional support such as assistance with housing or administrative matters may be offered to international candidates through the university's international office.

Advantages: The intern will have the opportunity to develop valuable research skills in an international context. As part of this internship, the student will collaborate with a network of researchers and potentially interact with other EU GREEN partner universities. The experience gained will be excellent preparation for a future PhD or a career in economic research/policy analysis. Angers is a welcoming city with a high quality of life, and working at the University of Angers will allow the student to engage with French academic culture and the broader EU GREEN community.

Alignment with Sustainable Development Goals and EU GREEN Vision

This internship project is directly aligned with **SDG 13: Climate Action**, as it centers on fiscal measures to combat climate change. By researching environmental taxation, the project also supports **SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth)** and **SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production)**, since well-designed green taxes encourage sustainable consumption patterns while considering economic and social welfare. The outcomes of this research can inform policies that help countries meet their commitments under the Paris Agreement and the SDGs, demonstrating how economic tools can drive environmental sustainability.

Furthermore, the internship embodies the global **EU GREEN** vision of sustainability-focused education and research. The EU GREEN alliance promotes addressing sustainability challenges “from the periphery and for the periphery” – engaging diverse regions and communities in the transition to sustainability. This research on environmental taxation will contribute to that vision by providing insights relevant to policymakers and communities beyond major metropolitan centers, ensuring that climate action strategies are inclusive and effective. In line with EU GREEN's mission of fostering international collaboration, the internship offers a platform for exchange between the host university and the broader alliance: the student from another EU GREEN partner institution will work in Angers, bringing fresh perspectives and building lasting scientific connections. Through this project, both the intern and the hosting lab actively advance the EU GREEN goal of integrating sustainable development principles into research and training, helping to build a robust, transnational scientific community dedicated to sustainability and climate action.