

mobil.LAB:
Sustainable Mobility in the Metropolitan Region of Munich –
Complexities, Challenges, Perspectives

Beginning **July 1st, 2011**, there will be eight doctoral scholarships to be awarded within the framework of the Hans Böckler Foundation and the **TU München's** mobil.LAB doctoral programme. The scholarships will be awarded for a maximum period of three years and will support the following research priorities:

1. regional spatial and transport systems
2. travel behaviour
3. regional mobility culture
4. governance processes.

Summary of the Programme

The doctoral programme “mobil.LAB” is located at the Department of Civil Engineering at Technische Universität München. The programme promotes independent and interdisciplinary scientific work pertaining to scientifically and socially relevant topics and problems. The members of the programme can develop outstanding dissertations in an atmosphere of collegial advice and professional support. Stated objectives include supporting excellent research, improving entry into the employment market, developing the intellectual and social skills of each scholarship recipient, and developing soft skills.

The central focus of the programme is on the creation of a broad scientific base for the sustainable development of transport in the region of Munich. The overarching question for the programme is:

How can a sustainable transportation design be reached at a regional level bearing in mind today's spatially extensive mobility patterns, resource scarcities, the decrease in public finance, demographic developments and the importance of climate protection?

In order to work on solving these comprehensive problems, the programme sets the following four topic priorities:

1. *The Structural Level* (transportation and spatial system on the regional scale): Which infrastructure, socio-economic and political conditions currently exist in the regional spatial and transport systems of the Munich metropolitan region? Which indicators are suitable to describe these conditions? How can future developments be modelled if conditions are expected to change?
2. *The Level of Effective Transportation Use* (travel behaviour): How does transport take place within the regional spatial and transportation systems? Which differences in

mode choice, time use, trip chaining and other characteristics of travel behaviour can be measured depending on the accessibility of locations?

3. *The Level of Socio-Cultural Mobility Practise* (cultures of mobility): Routine is the basis of any mobility culture. Therefore, we are asking: How is transport culturally embedded and what roles do norms and values play in individual mobility practise? What social logics become visible and manifest within the built and technological environments of the transport system? Which approaches toward a changing mobility practice can be identified?
4. *The Political Level* (governance processes): What political design pathways and strategies can be developed from the data and results gathered from levels 1-3? How can sustainable development strategies in transport be developed on a regional scale that reflect the complexities between the structural levels, everyday mobility practice, the social embeddedness of these practises and regional governance?

In order to ensure the effectiveness of the programme in regional policy and planning, concrete measures, instruments, and concepts will be developed in a close cooperation with regional stakeholders, industry and the City of Munich.

Comprehensive recommendations produced from detailed analyses in the four research areas promote sustainable transport development in the Munich metropolitan region.

Interdisciplinarity will be trained by interaction between the four main topics and the supported between intense collaboration within mobil.LAB and other experts from TUM and from cooperating institutions. The methodologies needed for this will be a subject of ongoing discussion in the programme. The creation of a broad, interdisciplinary and closely coordinated database is a methodological and empirical aspect unique to the programme.

In order to increase the efficiency of data collection concerning transport behaviour, modern GPS technologies will be combined with conventional, quantitative oriented methods of transport research and sociologically informed, qualitative oriented data analyses. The doctoral students will gather data on revealed and stated preferences. By developing this interdisciplinary approach the programme is forging a new realm of transportation research. The sophisticated toolbox of methods and instruments in transportation research will be trained in practice and advanced at the same time.

Content and organization of the programme will be provided by the ‘mobil.TUM Interdisciplinary Project Group for Mobility and Transport’ at the Technische Universität München. mobil.TUM emerged from the TUM internal excellence initiative innovaTUM, and consists of a group of scientists that bring together expertise from the fields of engineering, ecology, sociology, economics and geography. mobil.TUM maintains diverse national and international cooperations, and works closely with TUM traffic planners and traffic engineers in research and teaching.

mobil.LAB offers an opportunity in the field of transportation to bundle interdisciplinary expertise into thematically focused and coordinated projects. Within this framework, the doctoral students of the Hans Böckler Foundation can analyze the social, economic, environmental and institutional dimensions of sustainable transport development on a regional scale. As this programme is situated in the middle of an engineering faculty, the latest technical knowledge will be available for use. The programme is treated with the highest priority by the Institute for Transportation and is part of the the TUM Graduate School as a ‘thematic center’.

The various offers accompanying the doctoral programme, such as colloquia and seminars, guarantee a comprehensive integration into the Munich, national and international transport and mobility research community. The recipients of scholarships will have the opportunity to develop comprehensive skills for excellent employability.

Scholarship Application Deadlines

Awarding of the above mentioned eight scholarships will be decided according to the guidelines of the German department of research (BMBF) and the selection and funding criteria of the Hans-Böckler-Stiftung. Applicants must demonstrate an above average final degree standing as well as voluntary commitment for trade unions and/or social organizations.

Application documents can be found at: <http://www.boeckler.de/473.html>

The application forms as well as an exposé (ca. 10 pages), which outlines the planned project and its contribution to the research programme, must be sent to the following address before **January 31, 2011**.

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More information is available from the spokesperson of the programme, Prof. Dr. Regine Gerike.

The concept of the programme is available at:
<http://www.mobil-tum.de/de/mobillab-promotionskolleg>