

**PhD CASE Studentship:  
Systematic Avenues to Sustainable Investing**

*Lancaster University Management School, Department of Accounting and Finance*

This is a 1+3 years studentship between the Department of Accounting and Finance at Lancaster University Management School (LUMS) and our industry partner Robeco, funded by the ESRC – Northwest Social Science Doctoral Training Partnership. The PhD Studentship includes payment of full tuition fees and an annual maintenance grant of £ 20,000 (tax-free) in years 1, 2, 3 and 4. The start date is 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 and the supervisors are:

1. Prof Ingmar Nolte (Professor of Finance and Econometrics, EMP, LUMS)
2. Dr Chelsea Yao (Associate Professor of Finance & PhD Director in Finance at LUMS)
3. Dr Harald Lohre (Executive Director of Research, Robeco)

**Description of the project:**

Climate change is among the most prevalent environmental challenges of our times and investors will play a crucial role in supporting counteractive measures to mitigate climate change. The purpose of this project is to advance a systematic framework to sustainable investing that enables investors to accelerate temperature alignment and other non-financial sustainability considerations. To this end, the PhD Student can draw from the corresponding deep resources of Robeco, a leader in quantitative and sustainable investing, to investigate forward-looking approaches to managing investment opportunities and risks associated with sustainability. Leveraging the use of machine learning and natural language processing (NLP) techniques will aid identification of existing or emerging sustainability themes and how to effectively manage those in a systematic investment portfolio. The project will thus further the academic profession's understanding of the underlying economic mechanism and provide guidance to the investment management industry for efficiently navigating sustainable investing. The PhD Candidate will enjoy the unique opportunity to pursue a first-class formal finance education while keeping close ties to the investment management industry. In particular, the PhD Student will get comprehensive insight into the Robeco Quantitative Investments Team with more than 50 investment professionals managing USD 92.5bn as per end of March 2022.

**Application details:**

The successful candidate will automatically be enrolled into the department's 4 year PhD programme in Accounting and Finance. The admission criteria are:

- Applicants are normally expected to hold a relevant Master's degree in finance (with a substantial quantitative component), Master (MSci or MSc) in Mathematics, Statistics or in a related quantitative/econometric cognate subject area.
- We will usually require a performance at distinction level at Master's degree, typically averaging above 70% overall, which may also be required in a suitable dissertation element.
- Our English language requirements (where required) are for IELTS at 7.0.
- Applicants are advised that a GMAT score may be required.

**How to apply:**

Please send your CV (including marks' transcripts) and a motivation letter directly to Prof Ingmar Nolte ([i.nolte@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:i.nolte@lancaster.ac.uk)), Dr Chelsea Yao ([chelsea.yao@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:chelsea.yao@lancaster.ac.uk)) and Dr Harald Lohre ([h.lohre@robeco.com](mailto:h.lohre@robeco.com)); and apply formally to the department's PhD programme. More details can be found under [www.lancaster.ac.uk/lums/our-departments/accounting-and-finance/phd/](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/lums/our-departments/accounting-and-finance/phd/)

Please apply before **15 June 2022**.