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Press Release

Training of data experts: The International Program in Survey and Data Science (IPSDS) opens applications for the 2nd cohort of students.

Within the IPSDS Program, the University of Mannheim trains data experts for the international job market. Potential candidates can apply starting September 5.

The progressive digitalization of all areas of life and work is radically and permanently transforming both the economy and society. Regardless of industry, the decision-makers agree that those who want to succeed in the marketplace cannot ignore the field of Big Data. Consequently, there is an increasing demand for specialists who can collect and work with large volumes of data. The training of the latter is the main goal of the International Program in Survey and Data Science. "In contrast to programs focusing only on the data science aspect, we place great emphasis on the fact that our participants also learn survey methodology. In order to make an informed decision, one often needs to combine different data sources," explains Prof. Dr. Frauke Kreuter, Program Chair and Professor for Statistics and Methodology.

IPSDS is an international and multidisciplinary training program. Its international cooperation partners include established institutions and experts in industry and science. The program targets primarily working professionals in market and social research organizations, statistical agencies, and other professionals who work with data (e.g. in government ministries, education and other public and private organizations). IPSDS courses are administered online and are offered in English. With the help of an interactive learning platform and pre-recorded video lectures, students can learn any time and from anywhere in the world. In the weekly live classes, the IPSDS faculty engage students in discussions to deepen understanding of the course topics, provide insights from research and practice as well as encourage students to ask further questions.

The program is designed to lead to a Master's degree and is currently being developed at the University of Mannheim together with the Joint Program in Survey Methodology at the University of Maryland, USA. Other cooperation partners include GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences, the Institute for Employment Research (IAB) as well as the German Record Linkage Center. The program is funded by a grant from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research as part of the initiative "Aufstieg durch Bildung: offene Hochschulen."

The application process for the second IPSDS cohort opened on September 5. Due to the provided funding, until January 2018 the 2nd cohort can participate in the program tuition-free. Application candidates must have at least a Bachelor's degree and work experience in the area of data generation, collection, or analysis. Additional information about the curriculum, admission criteria and deadlines is available at <http://survey-data-science.net/>.

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