



Statistical Consulting Course

Frequently Asked Questions for Project Partners

What is the Statistical Consulting Course?

The Statistical Consulting course is a supervised internship where Master's students from the Institute of Statistics address real-world statistical challenges in business and research. Our student participants are in the final stages of their studies and are capable of conducting complex data analyses under the guidance of qualified Institute staff members.

The course aims to develop students' skills in interdisciplinary communication and independent data analysis. Students work closely with project partners to select appropriate methods, conduct problem-oriented data preparation and analysis, and present clear, concise results that address real-world questions.

What are the benefits of partnering with LMU's Statistical Consulting course?

Project partners receive comprehensive statistical analyses from well-trained statisticians who are completing their Master's degree. Our students are committed and creative, usually delivering valuable, usable results at no cost to partners. Each analysis is fully documented and can be readily extended or adapted for further use cases.

However, while our students are generally very motivated and capable, we must note that these are *student* projects: we cannot guarantee accuracy, validity, or strict adherence to deadlines in every case.

What is the project process?

Project partners and academic supervisors co-create a short, informal project description that is made available to student teams looking for projects that match their skills and interests.

Once a student team commits to a project, the actual collaboration begins with a joint meeting between project partners, students, and LMU supervisors to discuss background and detailed objectives.

The students then begin to work on the project. The typical project duration is approximately 3 months. During this time, project partners should be

responsive to student questions and be prepared to join occasional progress meetings, if necessary.

At the project's conclusion, students present their results publicly in English to project partners, other Master's students, and LMU supervisors. For projects involving sensitive information, confidential data can be appropriately anonymized or obfuscated. Following the presentation, students prepare a private, fully reproducible report that incorporates feedback from all parties. The final deliverables always include both the comprehensive written report and thoroughly documented, fully executable code.

After completing the graded portion of the project, there are several options for continued collaboration. Partners may choose to hire students for additional analyses or publication work, either through paid arrangements or in exchange for co-authorship opportunities. Alternatively, partners can engage with the LMU Statistical Consulting Unit (StaBLab) or Machine Learning Consulting Unit (MLCU). Partners can also propose follow-up projects for master's theses or the Statistical Consulting course.

What makes a suitable project?

The data to be analyzed has to be available before the project begins. Project partners should be available for queries during the 3-month processing period and attend the final presentation. For projects involving confidential data, we can also arrange for analysis to be conducted at the partners' premises, and confidentiality agreements between students and project partners can be established as needed.

When can projects begin?

Statistical Consulting projects run continuously throughout the year, including both summer and winter terms as well as semester breaks. New projects can be registered and assigned at any time, allowing for flexible scheduling to meet partner needs.

Please note that while we accept projects on a rolling basis, it cannot always be guaranteed that a given project can be assigned to students immediately.

How to participate?

To discuss your project's scope and suitability, please contact our teaching staff:

- Prof. Dr. Sabine Hoffmann (sabine.hoffmann@stat.uni-muenchen.de)
- Dr. Andreas Bender (andreas.bender@stat.uni-muenchen.de)
- Prof. Dr. David Rügamer (david.ruegamer@stat.uni-muenchen.de)
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