At the Chair of Logistics and Supply Chain Management of TUM School of Management we are looking for an interested and qualified student to conduct his/her Master Thesis on the topic:

**The Impact of Business Cycles on Inventory and Performance - A Cross-Cultural Industry Comparison**

The impact of inventory on performance is in the focus of many supply chain management initiatives. However, external influences such as business cycles and financial crises etc. can affect customer demand and thus challenge firms to match supply, i.e., to deliver the right amount of goods at the right time to the right place.

The thesis seeks to explore the relationship over time between those external influences and inventory and its performance. How have companies succeeded to adjust their inventory positions in anticipation or reaction to those events? To which extent can external variables explain inventory and corporate performance measures? Datastream, Thompson Reuter and similar data bases are available.

**Selected research tasks:**

- to perform an analysis on related empirical literature,
- to investigate the relation between external influences and inventory,
- to explore the relation between external variables (e.g., GDP, national income) and inventory performance measures (e.g., inventory turnover),
- to compare relations in manufacturing and retail industries (e.g., in Germany, USA, Brazil and Thailand),
- to use advanced statistical instruments (e.g., multiple regression analysis),
- to identify possible reasons for empirical observations.

**Requirements:**

This Master thesis is particularly suitable for a SCM student who has a strong interest in finance, statistics, and international business. The student should have experience in using statistical software package (e.g., SPSS) gained in project studies or similar. The thesis could be written in American English.

Begin: at once
Advisor: Dr. Martin Stößlein (martin.stoesslein@tum.de)

For further questions and selected literature on the topic, please see me in room 1547. Please send your application together with your curriculum vitae and transcripts of records by email.