

## Germany to give people £1,000 a month, no questions asked, in universal basic income experiment

### Researchers in Berlin want to know how ‘unconditional flow of money’ affects people’s behaviour

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/germany-universal-basic-income-ubi-euros-month-experiment-a9678186.html>

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Researchers in Germany will give a group of people just over £1,000 a month, no strings attached, as part of an experiment to assess the potential benefits of introducing a wider universal basic income (UBI).

The radical idea has attracted a growing amount of interest around the world as a way of potentially supporting people during the coronavirus pandemic and beyond. Advocates claim a small, regular income from the state to all citizens would help tackle poverty, encourage more flexible working practices, and allow some people to spend more time caring for older family members.

The German pilot study will initially see 120 people handed the monthly sum of 1,200 Euros (£1,085) to monitor how it changes their work patterns and leisure time.

Researcher Jurgen Schupp – who is leading the ‘My Basic Income’ project at the Berlin-based German Institute for Economic Research – said he wanted to discover how a “reliable, unconditional flow of money affects people’s attitudes and behaviour”.

Mr Schupp told *Der Spiegel* newspaper: “So far, the debate about the basic income has been like a philosophical salon at best and a war of faith at worst. It is, on both sides, shaped by clichés.

“Opponents claim that with a basic income people would stop working in order to lie on the couch with fast food and streaming services,” he added.

“Proponents argue that people will continue to do fulfilling work, become more creative and charitable, and save democracy. We can improve this [debate] if we replace these stereotypes with empirically proven knowledge.”

The 120 beneficiaries of the stipend will be studied, initially, against a comparison group of 1,380 people who do not receive any cash payments.

However, the academics behind the study want to find 1 million applicants for wider participation by this November. From that group, 1,500 people will then be selected for the three-year income experiment.

- a) **Read and translate the text** (help yourself with key points!)
- b) **Write down a small summary (75 words)**
- c) **What do these terms mean in real life?:**

Inequality / equal opportunity / unfairness / to be envious / to compare

