

MISTRAL

Multi-sectoral approaches to Innovative Skills Training for Renewable energy & social acceptance



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions grant agreement MISTRAL No 813837

ESR4 Socio-technical Imaginaries of Future Energy Landscapes: How, when and where are renewable energy infrastructures acceptable?

Candidate Information

Position: Marie Skłodowska-Curie Researcher, Early Stage (MISTRAL, ESR4)
Hosting Institution: Instituto Universitário de Lisboa
School/Department: Centre of Research and Social Intervention

Closing Date: 26/02/19
Salary: From €3870 a month (subject to taxation and country specific adjustment)

JOB PURPOSE:

As an Early Stage Researcher (ESR), to be an active member of a research project team assisting in the delivery of research and training activities of the MISTRAL Network, working on the specific topic of '*Socio-technical imaginaries of future energy landscapes: How, when and where are renewable energy infrastructures acceptable?*' and required to work towards the expected results of this project (see Additional information below).

The Early Stage Researcher will undertake research in the framework of the project "*MISTRAL: Multi-sectoral approaches to Innovative Skills Training for Renewable energy & social acceptance*". The Early Stage Researcher will be funded for 36 months through the prestigious Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Innovative Training Network (ITN) programme; an initiative by the European Commission to train creative, entrepreneurial, innovative researchers, who are able to face current and future societal challenges, and will convert knowledge and ideas into products and services for the economic and social benefit of Europe.

MISTRAL is an interdisciplinary network which will work to understand the complex challenges in improving the acceptance of renewable energy infrastructure investment, and provide innovative solutions to break down barriers to the transition to a low carbon economy in Europe.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Carry out the research and training activities specified by a personal career development plan (PCDP). Conduct research in interdisciplinary aspects of the social acceptance of renewable energy, as set out in the additional information below.
2. Undertake mandatory training programs and secondments as required at the facilities of other consortium members (see <http://www.qub.ac.uk/sites/MISTRAL/>).
3. Actively participate in training activities and submit reports in fulfilment of the project requirements.
4. Participate in outreach and dissemination activities promoting the MISTRAL Network project and the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) programme including the use of social media, video-diaries, newsletters, etc.
5. Prepare regular progress reports on the performed research and training activities and present the research outcomes at meetings, project workshops, and to external audiences to disseminate and publicise research findings.
6. Work closely with academic and industrial collaborators and facilitate knowledge transfer between the MISTRAL consortium.
7. Carry out undergraduate supervision/demonstrating/teaching duties under supervisor direction and according to university regulations.
8. Study and follow the technical literature including academic papers, journals and textbooks to keep abreast with the state-of-the-art in the project topical area.
9. Record, analyse and write up results of research work and contribute to the production of research reports and publications.



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10. Carry out routine administrative duties as requested, e.g. arranging research programme group meetings, contribute to research programme group website, contributing to organisation of MISTRAL project training workshops and events.

Planning and Organising:

1. Contribute to the drafting of the PCDP and provide regular updating of this plan.
2. Manage own time and meet agreed deadlines.
3. Plan own day-to-day activity within the framework of the agreed research and training programme.
4. Contribute to the planning of research and training activities, reports and publications.
5. Actively contribute to organisation of outreach activities events such as MISTRAL workshops.

Resource Management Responsibilities:

1. Ensure research resources are used in an effective and efficient manner.
2. Provide guidance as required to support staff and any students involved with research and training.

Internal and External Relationships:

1. Liaise with research colleagues and support staff on routine matters.
2. Make internal and external contacts to develop knowledge and understanding and form relationships for future collaboration.
3. Attend and contribute to relevant meetings and training events.
4. As an MSCA ITN Ambassador contribute to the project outreach programmes by establishing links with local community groups, industries etc.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Have or about to obtain a 1st class or 2.1 Honour Degree or equivalent in environmental social sciences (environmental psychology, environmental sociology, environmental economics) or related discipline.
2. Relevant experience of research techniques such as policy analysis, interviews, comparative case studies.
3. Sufficient breadth or depth of specialist knowledge in available techniques for investigation of social acceptance of renewable energy in an inter-disciplinary context.
4. Willingness to contribute to the School and project outreach activities.
5. Strong analytical and problem solving skills.
6. Ability to logically conceptualise and summarise the research findings.
7. Ability to work proactively and independently.
8. Ability to participate in knowledge transfer and demonstration.
9. Excellent English verbal and writing communication skills.
10. Ability to interact with colleagues and staff.
11. Ability to communicate complex information clearly.
12. Ability to organise resources, manage time and meet deadlines.
13. Be willing and able to perform secondments or participate in training programs at the facilities of other European consortium members (see <http://www.qub.ac.uk/sites/MISTRAL/>).
14. Be in the first 4 years (full-time equivalent) of their research careers and not yet have been awarded a doctorate. This 4 year period is measured from the date of obtaining the degree which would formally entitle to embark on a doctorate.
15. Must not have resided or carried out their main activity in Portugal for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to their selection for this post.

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16. Be eligible and qualified for enrolment in the PhD programme in Psychology at the University Institute of Lisbon, including writing up a research proposal.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Masters Qualification in a relevant subject.
2. Specialisation in energy policy, sustainable development or related field.
3. Employment or other practical experience of policy making/advise, development or other aspect related to (renewable) energy.
4. Placements or work experience in an academic/commercial research environment relevant to consumer research.
5. Practical experience of applying specialist skills and techniques required for the project.
6. Willingness to assist in undergraduate supervision and teaching.
7. Intermediate level knowledge of Portuguese.
8. Willingness to occasionally work outside core hours when required for data collection etc.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

MISTRAL (*Multi-sectoral approaches to Innovative Skills Training for Renewable energy & social acceptance*) is a four year European Training Network funded by Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Innovative Training Network (ITN). The MISTRAL Network is made up of 7 beneficiaries from the UK, Ireland, Germany, Portugal, and Switzerland. 15 Early stage researchers will be employed to conduct research on the changing attitudes towards renewable energy generation investment, and how these attitudes can influence the life cycle of wind energy installations.

MISTRAL will also draw on the knowledge and resources of 15 academic and non-academic partners in the UK, Ireland, Germany, France, Denmark, Portugal, and Switzerland. These partners will host ESRs for secondments, provide training, and promote and support the work of MISTRAL.

ESR4 Project Title: Socio-technical imaginaries of future energy landscapes: How, when and where are renewable energy infrastructures acceptable?

This project will belong to the work stream of Work Package 3: *Community dimensions to social acceptance*

Objectives: This ESR will explore technical-expert and citizens' imaginaries regarding how energy can be generated and consumed, i.e., how, when and where can different types of renewable energy infrastructures (at different scales) be considered acceptable. Some studies have explored these socio-technical imaginaries, but have mainly focused on how technical-expert systems do envisage them, rather than also engaging citizens. Such approach allows a more comprehensive and systemic perspective to the social challenges posed by the broader dissemination of new modes of energy production and use. A cross-cultural analysis will be performed, comparing Portugal and the UK. Theoretically, different theories of change will inform the project (e.g., Social Representations Theory, Sociology of Expectations, Theories of socio-technical innovation). Methodologically, photo-voice focus groups, documental analysis and semi-structured interviews will be used.

Expected Results: 1. To better understand the norms, values and ideologies, at different scales and in different groups, that hinder or facilitate socially and environmentally sustainable energy transitions; 2. To develop a design for research on the social acceptance of renewable energy technologies that promotes more just and equitable energy transitions; 3. To inform policymaking of socially acceptable energy socio-technical futures.

Planned secondment(s): The candidate will be expected to take advantage of two 3-month secondment opportunities during their research, with details to be agreed between the successful candidate, supervisors and project partners. The purpose of these secondments is to develop advanced research skills in cross-cultural methodologies and quantitative analyses, and then apply these in industrial contexts.

Supervision: Dr Susana Batel (ISCTE IUL), Dr Nuno Bento (ISCTE IUL), Dr Margarida Fontes (LNEG).

Inter-disciplinary features: Env. Psychology/Technology.