# 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

***ESR5*** *Social Equity and Distributive Justice in Renewable Energy Deployment*

**Candidate Information**

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| **Position:** | Marie Skłodowska-Curie Researcher, Early Stage (MISTRAL, ESR5) |
| **Hosting Institution** | The University of Exeter |
| **School/Department:** | Geography |
| **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 'Social equity and distributive justice in renewable energy deployment' 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).
2. Conduct research in interdisciplinary aspects of the social acceptance of renewable energy, as set out in the additional information below.
3. Undertake mandatory training programs and secondments as required at the facilities of other consortium members (see http://www.qub.ac.uk/sites/MISTRAL/).
4. Actively participate in training activities and submit reports in fulfilment of the project requirements.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. Work closely with academic and industrial collaborators and facilitate knowledge transfer between the MISTRAL consortium.
8. Carry out undergraduate supervision/demonstrating/teaching duties under supervisor direction and according to university regulations.
9. 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.
10. Record, analyse and write up results of research work and contribute to the production of research reports and publications.
11. Carry out routine administrative duties as requested, e.g. arranging research programme group meetings, contribute to the research programme group website, contributing to organisation of MISTRAL project training workshops and events.

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**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 human geography, environmental psychology, environmental sociology or related discipline.
2. Relevant experience of research techniques such as documentary analysis, interviews, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and questionnaire surveys.
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 verbal and writing communication skills.
10. Ability to interact with colleagues and staff.
11. Demonstrable intellectual ability.
12. Ability to communicate complex information clearly. 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 the UK for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to their selection for this post.
16. Be eligible and qualified for enrolment in the PhD programme at University of Exeter.

**DESIRABLE CRITERIA:**

1. Masters Qualification in a relevant subject.

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2. Specialisation in energy transitions or related field.
3. Employment or other practical experience of policy, development or other aspect of 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. Willingness to occasionally work outside core hours when required for data collection etc.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**
MISTRAL (***M**ulti-sectoral approaches to **I**nnovative **S**kills **T**raining for **R**enewable energy & soci**AL** 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.

***ESR5 Project Title: Social equity and distributive justice in renewable energy deployment***
This project will belong to the work stream of Work Package 3: Community dimensions to social acceptance
**Objectives:** Recent research has demonstrated the importance of perceptions of justice in shaping social acceptance of renewable energy - in particular, opportunities to participate in decision-making procedures (procedural justice), and the fairness of how costs and benefits are distributed (distributive justice). A range of policy mechanisms have been proposed and implemented across European states to ensure that negative impacts do not fall disproportionately on the host communities who are directly impacted by large scale renewable energy projects, including benefit funds, subsidised electricity, and mandatory share offers. What is lacking is systematic assessment of the distributive justice of these mechanisms at both local and societal levels, with a particular interest in the engagement of low-income social groups and the ways in which 'the local' is spatially defined and practised. To address this gap, the methodological approach will combine national policy analysis of institutional frameworks and regulations with in-depth local case studies, utilising spatial, qualitative and quantitative methods. The expected results are of relevance both to energy social scientists and for the generation of practical recommendations to policy makers and industry.
**Expected Results:** 1. Improved understanding of the distributive justice dimensions of renewable energy projects 2. Institutional analysis of policy frameworks, regulations and legislation 3. In-depth comparative analysis of multiple case studies **4.** Best practice guidance for developers on social equity and distributive justice in renewable energy projects.
**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 secondments is to develop skills related to social equity and renewable energy.
**Supervision:** Prof. Patrick Devine-Wright (Exeter), Prof. Jane Wills (Exeter), Dr Brendan Murtagh (QUB).
**Inter-disciplinary features:** Geography/Policy Analysis.