



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

ESR12 (UCC) specification

Candidate Information

Position: Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action Early Stage Researcher (MISTRAL, ESR12)
Hosting Institution: University College Cork, Ireland
School/Department: Department of Accounting and Finance

Closing Date: 14/06/19
Salary: From €3870 a month (subject to taxation and country specific adjustment)

JOB PURPOSE:

As an Early Stage Researcher (ESR) the successful candidate will 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 acceptance, path dependency and the low carbon transition' and required to work towards the expected results of this project (see Additional information below).

The ESR 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 <https://mistral-itn.eu>).
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 research programme group website, contributing to organisation of MISTRAL project training workshops and events.

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Planning and Organising:

1. Contribute to drafting 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 be about to obtain, a 1st class or 2.1 Honours Degree or equivalent in a finance, economics, econometrics, or a closely related discipline.
2. Relevant experience of research techniques such as survey design and implementation, interviews, focus groups and comparative case studies.
3. Strong quantitative skills including econometric skills.
4. Sufficient breadth or depth of specialist knowledge in available techniques for investigation of social acceptance of renewable energy in an inter-disciplinary context.
5. Willingness to contribute to the School and project outreach activities.
6. Strong analytical and problem solving skills.
7. Ability to logically conceptualise and summarise the research findings.
8. Ability to work proactively and independently.
9. Ability to participate in knowledge transfer and demonstration.
10. Excellent verbal and writing communication skills.
11. Ability to interact with colleagues and staff.
12. Demonstrable intellectual ability.
13. Ability to communicate complex information clearly.
14. Ability to organise resources, manage time and meet deadlines.
15. Be willing and able to perform secondments or participate in training programs at the facilities of other European consortium members (see <https://mistral-itn.eu>).
16. Be in the first 4 years (full-time equivalent) of their research careers and not yet have been awarded a doctorate.
17. Must not have resided or carried out your main activity in Ireland for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to your selection for this post.
18. Be eligible and qualified for enrolment in the PhD programme at UCC.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Masters Qualification in a relevant subject.
2. Specialisation in statistical analysis or related fields.
3. An interest or understanding of issues around climate change and social acceptance of renewable energy.
4. Employment or other practical experience of policy, development or other aspect of renewable energy.



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5. Placements or work experience in an academic/commercial research environment relevant to consumer research.
6. Practical experience of applying specialist skills and techniques required for the project.
7. Willingness to assist in undergraduate supervision and teaching.
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 European Training Network funded by the Marie Skłodowska-Curie action.

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. Further information about the project can be found online at <https://mistral-itn.eu>.

Project Title: Motivations, incentives and commitments for co-investment

This project will belong to the work stream of Work Package 5; Market dimensions to social acceptance

Supervision: Ryan (UCC), Mullally (UCC), Connolly (IWEA), Devine-Wright (Exeter);

Objectives: This project aims to explore the motivations and characteristics of those who invest in local energy schemes and explore how an understanding of this can be used to better promote financial incentives schemes for community investment. Traditional financial incentives including grants, soft loans, taxes, enhanced tariffs and quota schemes for locally owned renewable energy projects are reasonably well understood, but how these relate to different motivation and belief systems is less well known. This will provide new insights into designing more effective incentives and interventions for in enhancing social acceptance of renewable energy projects. Using a mixed methods approach surveys, choice experiments, interviews and case studies will be used to examine these issues across different European countries (Germany, Ireland, UK, Denmark) , with a number of case studies will be selected to assess the effectiveness of various financial incentives including subsidised electricity, preference shares, equity ownership and developer led investment models to identify which models of community engagement / ownership can maximise community acceptance. A multi-disciplinary approach with a sociology colleague will help identify how financial and social issues collectively impact on social acceptance.

Expected Results: 1. A mapping of the range of financial incentives targeted at community investors in Ireland and the UK. 2. Survey and choice experiment data on relative trade-off between different forms of financial incentives, case studies on sites where subsidised electricity schemes were implemented 3. Recommendation on policy interventions and supports needed to enhance social acceptance of renewable energy projects.

Secondments: The candidate will be expected to take advantage of secondment opportunities during their research, with details to be agreed between the successful candidate, supervisors, and project partners.

Purpose: To develop skills and insights related to the appraisal of renewable energy projects and access secondary data held by hosts.

Inter-disciplinarity: Finance/Sociology /Geography

Purpose: full time supervised to have access to member organisations and local community groups and understand community acceptance from a developer perspective.