

**CALL FOR EARLY STAGE RESEARCHER (PHD CANDIDATE) MARIE SKLODOWSKA
CURIE
PYROLIFE INNOVATIVE TRAINING NETWORK ON INTEGRATED FIRE MANAGEMENT
(One vacancy)**

One (1) PhD position is available within the Innovative Training Network “PyroLife – Training the next generation of integrated fire management experts”, funded by the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 860787.

PyroLife will train the new generation of interdisciplinary experts in integrated fire management, acknowledging that 1) knowledge transfer from southern Europe (and worldwide) to temperate Europe can support the new generation of experts; and 2) fire risk planning, communication and management can learn from cross-risk lessons including temperate European expertise in water management. In doing so, this project combines how the North solves community problems with the fire knowledge of the European South.

Job description

The objectives are to identify and analyze the environmental drivers of megafires; describe and model megafire behaviour; and assess the prediction potential of future megafires in both southern and temperate NW Europe.

The expected results comprise the understanding of factors driving extreme wildfire events and quantification of their fire behaviour characteristics.

Planned Secondments

Two 4-month each secondments are included, respectively in Spain (Tecnosylva) and in Canada (University of Alberta).

We provide

- A PhD position in the diverse PyroLife training network together with 14 other PhD candidates that study landscape fire using an integrated approach.
- A strong, engaging, collaborative and inclusive network of academics and practitioners



- The first doctoral training program on integrated fire management worldwide, with research, collaboration and training focused on understanding fire, risk communication, integration across disciplines, scales, sectors, and countries, and personal development
- Enrolment in a fully-funded PhD program
- Team up with other PhD students in the network that work in other risk communication topics.
- Research including an applied traineeship that will provide hands-on experience to work with communities located in areas with a high and/or new risk of wildfires.
- Become part of a dynamic team that works with and for the fire community and society.

Admission prerequisites and eligibility:

1. Applicants for this PhD position should:

- a) Hold a university MSc degree in Natural Sciences (forestry, ecology, earth and atmosphere sciences, physical geography) within the last four years (full-time equivalent research experience).
- b) A genuine interest in landscape fire and resilience. Experience with (the management of) fire, forests, water, storms or other risks is appreciated;
- c) Ambition to obtain a PhD degree, and become a scientific expert able to convert knowledge and ideas into products and services, for social and economic benefit;
- d) Good communication skills and good proficiency in English (both oral and written); knowledge of Portuguese or Spanish is valued.
- e) Willingness to (learn how to) communicate risk, make inter- and transdisciplinary linkages;
- f) Willingness to travel including moving to another country for the PhD project, completing two 4-month secondments in Europe or abroad, and travel to international training courses and any fieldwork;
- g) Ability to function as a team member, work independently and take responsibility for own research goals;
- h) Meet the mobility and early stage researcher requirements defined for the MSCA-ITN projects (https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/guides_for_applicants/h2020-guide-appl-msca-itn_en.pdf);
- i) Have not been awarded with a doctoral degree.

2. Mobility rule: At the time of the recruitment researchers shall not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in Portugal for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the appointment (compulsory national service, short stays such as holidays, and time spent as part of a procedure for obtaining refugee status under the Geneva Convention are not taken into account).



3. The following attributes will be valued: a background in forest fire research or management; experience with weather/climate database analysis; experience in using GIS; experience with statistical analysis using R.

Duration and expected start date

The PhD position is available for 36 months with April 1st 2020 as the starting date, and comprises an attractive training curriculum with international partners.

Employment conditions

According to the regulations of Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, we offer:

- a) Temporary Employment Contract, Full-time, under Decree-Law number 124/99, april 20;
- b) Gross salary of € 2.844.15/month, including a mobility allowance of 600€/month;
- c) Family allowance of €250/month (subject to family situation)

These amounts are gross amounts, subject to taxation according to Portuguese national law. Consequently, the net salary results from deducting all compulsory (employer and employee) social security contributions as well as direct taxes (e.g. income tax) and insurance from these gross amounts.

About the employer

The University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro (UTAD) is a university located in Vila Real, northern Portugal, with teaching, research and innovation missions carried out by approximately 1050 employees that support about 8,000 students (see more at <https://www.utad.pt/en/>). UTAD is organized in five schools and this position is in the Forest and Landscape Department within the School of Agriculture & Veterinary Sciences and in the framework of Centre for Research and Technology of Agro-Environmental and Biological Sciences (CITAB) activities (<https://www.citab.utad.pt>).

UTAD is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from suitable qualified candidates regardless of age, gender, race, ethnic background, disability, sexual orientation or religion.

Application deadline and method:

Applications will be received from **14th February until 29th February 2020**. Only completed applications received by 24:00 GMT will be accepted.

Applications should be submitted by e-mail (include all application documents as one pdf-file attached to the mail) to Dr. Paulo Fernandes, pfern@utad.pt.

Mandatory supporting documents:

- a) *Curriculum vitae*;



- b) Motivation Letter (*use template for motivation letter at <https://pyrolife.lessonsonfire.eu/> that outlines four topics we expect you to cover, and that also includes a form to show your eligibility for the program in terms of early stage researcher and mobility requirements*);
- c) Copy of the official academic certificate(s) of all awarded degrees (BSc, MSc) with the inclusion of the overall final grade;
- d) Copy of the official academic transcripts of all awarded degrees (BSc, MSc) with the inclusion of the several classifications per course;
- e) Evidence of recognition of all academic degrees (BSc, MSc) completed abroad, and conversion of the grade into the Portuguese scale.*
- f) Declaration of honour regarding the residency for the last three years.

* If the selected candidate for the job position obtained a higher education degree abroad, and in order to sign the employment contract and enrol in the PhD Programme, he/she might be required to deliver the academic transfers and degree certificates authenticated by consular offices or embassies of Portugal located in the country where the qualification was obtained, or hold the Hague Apostille, for countries that acceded to the Hague Convention. The same applies to the translations (mandatory) of documents whose original language is not Portuguese, Spanish, French or English.

For further questions please contact Dr. Paulo Fernandes (pfern@utad.pt | phone number +351 259 350 484).

