



Instituto Mediterráneo de
Estudios Avanzados
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Call for Applications

PhD offer on the topic of:

“Understanding the different dimensions of human-nature connectedness for conservation and restoration management in the Mediterranean”

PhD within the wider framework of the project:

MEDiverSEAty – “In quest of the human dimensions of MEDiterranean Marine Biodiversity”

Funded by HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-DN

1. Applications are invited for a pre-doctoral contract within the framework of the MEDiverSEAty Marie Skłodowska-Curie Doctoral Network for a PhD position focusing on *“Understanding the different dimensions of human-nature connectedness for conservation and restoration management in the Mediterranean”*. This project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon Europe programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No **101119700**. For further information on the Marie Curie schemes and eligibility please visit http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/actions/research-networks_en. Further information on the MEDiverSEAty project is available at <http://mediverseaty.eu>.

2. Candidates must be in possession of Master’s degree or equivalent in an area of study related to the proposed area of research and ideally in one of the following areas: socio-ecological sciences, sustainability sciences, geography, political science, sociology, anthropology, marine biology, and any other area deemed appropriate by the selection board. Applicants are required to have a high command of **English** and excellent command of **Spanish**.

3. Candidates must comply with the following Marie Curie Grant rules, including the H2020 MSCA Mobility Rule, and the Early Stage Researcher criteria:

H2020 MSCA Mobility Rule: Candidates must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the host organisation (Spain) for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the recruitment date. Compulsory national service, short stays such as holidays, and time spent as part of a procedure for obtaining refugee status under the Geneva Convention will not be taken into account.

H2020 MSCA ESR eligibility criteria: Candidates must be, at the date of recruitment by the host organisation, in the first four years (full-time equivalent research experience) of their research careers and have not been awarded a doctoral degree. Full-Time Equivalent Research Experience is measured from the date when the researcher obtained the degree entitling him/her to embark on a doctorate (either in the country in which the degree was obtained or in the country in which the researcher is recruited, even if a doctorate was never started or envisaged).

4. Throughout the programme the appointed candidate will be hosted at the Mediterranean Institute of Advanced Studies (IMEDEA) located in Mallorca (Balearic Islands). The selected candidate will be seconded to one of the research locations agreed by the MEDiverSEAty project consortium, for which length of stay and location shall be agreed and endorsed by the supervisory team of the

Early-Stage Researchers (PhD candidate). The candidates will also be expected to attend a number of multidisciplinary research-related scientific courses as well as summer schools, winter schools and skills workshops. These will be organised by the MEDiverSEAty project partners.

5. The successful candidates will be expected to work forty hours per week for a definite period of three years. The post carries an annual salary of €34,400, which includes a living and a mobility allowance. Where applicable, candidates are eligible for an additional monthly family allowance of up to €660 (employers' share excluded).
 - **The mobility allowance** covers the costs related to the mobility of recruited researchers, such as travel and accommodation. This allowance covers only personal costs incurred by researchers (as opposed to costs linked to professional activities which are covered under the contribution for research, training and networking).
 - **The family allowance** aims to compensate additional costs due to family obligations.
6. The candidates must work exclusively for the project during the employment contract.
7. Candidates should submit the following to <https://forms.gle/RpCCuCPc4SYfJue67>:
 - A Curriculum Vitae, including their skills and educational and career trajectory and their place of residence and place of main activities (work, studies, etc.) in 3 preceding years (maximum 3 pages, font 11 or higher)
 - University Qualification transcripts (grades). Undergraduate and MSc
 - A statement of motivation encompassing both their personal motivation for pursuing a PhD position and their research interests as they relate to the specific project 'In quest of the human dimensions of Mediterranean Marine Biodiversity' offered by IMEDEA
 - A one-page outline of the proposed research questions, approach and research design of the PhD project building on the project description offered on MEDiverSEAty's web page.
 - The name and contact details of two referees who can comment on their skills, experience, and suitability for postgraduate research (referees will only be contacted for candidates invited to interview)

Location: the candidate will be hosted at the Mediterranean Institute of Advanced Studies – UIB-CSIC (Balearic Islands, Spain) <https://imedea.uib-csic.es/en/>

PhD awarding university: the PhD qualification will be awarded by the **University of the Balearic Islands** (<https://www.uib.eu/Learn/estudis-de-doctorat/doctorat/TECM/desc.html>)

Applications should be received no later than **31st May 2024**. Shortlisted candidates for interviews will be contacted by the main researcher of the PhD project. Below is the tentative recruitment process timeline:

- Interviews: 17-21 June 2024 (online)
- Final results: first week of July
- Contract / PhD starting date: October 2024 (total duration 36 months)

For further information please visit <https://imedea.uib-csic.es/en/join-up/> or contact anaruiz@csic.es

Requirements

- Master or equivalent degree in socio-ecological sciences, sustainability sciences, geography, political science, sociology, anthropology or marine biology
- Excellent command of Spanish
- Good command of English
- Solid statistical foundation

Desirable

Driving licence

Check associated documents for important additional information

PhD Candidate Vacancy within the MSCA Doctoral Network MEDiverSEAty

MEDiverSEAty – “In quest of the human dimensions of MEDiterranean Marine Biodiversity”
Funded by HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-DN

Mediterranean Institute of Advanced Studies (IMEDEA)

This announcement pertains to a vacancy for a PhD candidate position within the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Doctoral Network MEDiverSEAty.

Further Information

1. Coordinated by the UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA (UNIMIB), MEDiverSEAty is a Doctoral Network investigating the human dimensions of Mediterranean Marine Biodiversity. Despite ongoing efforts to conserve Mediterranean biodiversity, there remains a pressing need for more effective implementation of existing conservation measures. MEDiverSEAty proposes integrating the human dimension into biodiversity studies and conservation strategies to address this challenge. Recognizing the significant scientific and social relevance of these dimensions, the project emphasizes areas such as marine citizen science, maritime spatial planning, marine heritage, and the economic values of marine biodiversity. MEDiverSEAty seeks to advance the international discourse by translating this multifaceted perspective into concrete actions, policies, and strategies. A critical observation is the current political and scientific discussions' lack—or oversimplification—of "diversity" (in terms of cultures, roles, societies, attitudes, identities) as a crucial factor influencing Europeans' relationship with marine biodiversity. To bridge these gaps, MEDiverSEAty is launching a Doctoral Network Training and Research Program. This program, involving partners from six European countries (Italy, Malta, France, Spain, Montenegro, and Greece), focuses on two pillars essential to contemporary marine sciences, policies, and education: Ocean Literacy and Marine Biodiversity Conservation. Further information may be obtained by contacting Dr Ana Ruiz-Frau at anaruiz@csic.es.
2. The successful candidate will be hired under a PhD contract and will enrol as a doctoral candidate of the University of the Balearic Islands within the first few weeks of his/her employment. The successful candidate will form part of the MARES (Marine Research in Ecological and Social Systems) group at the IMEDEA. The candidate will be expected to:
 - perform independently scientific research within a collaborative international research consortium;
 - deliver written reports of their research on a regular basis;
 - prepare a doctoral thesis on the topic under study;
 - publish scientific articles related to the research project;
 - support the valorization of research results into tangible deliverables;
 - participate in, and contribute to, scientific meetings and conferences, presenting their research to the scientific community;
 - actively participate in outreach activities aimed at promoting their research to a wider audience;
 - collaborate with the other members of the consortium to advance their research and training;
 - participate in the tailor-made training programme;
 - The selected candidate will be seconded to one of the research locations agreed by the MEDiverSEAty project consortium, for which length of stay and location shall be agreed and endorsed by the supervisory team of the Early-Stage Researchers (PhD candidate);
 - The selected candidate will be expected to write and defend a doctoral dissertation leading to the award of a PhD. The PhD supervisory team will include, among others, Dr Ana Ruiz-Frau

and Dr Hilmar Hinz. Further members of the supervisory team can be appointed at a later stage and depending on the specific research objectives.

3. The selection procedure will involve:

- a. evaluation of qualifications and experience claimed and supported by testimonials and/or certificates (copies to be included with the application);
- b. shortlisting;
- b. an on-line interview

4. After the deadline for applications, the project supervisor and co-supervisor will draft a shortlist of 5 candidates. This shortlist will be discussed by representatives of all MEDiverSEAty academic partner institutions. The shortlisted candidates will then be invited for an interview. The candidate's suitability for the post will be discussed by representatives of all MEDiverSEAty academic partner institutions.

5. Further information can be obtained from the principal supervisor, Dr Ana Ruiz-Frau, on anaruiz@csic.es.

- Information about Doctoral Studies at the University of the Balearic Islands is available from the UIB Doctoral School: <https://www.uib.eu/Learn/estudis-de-doctorat/doctorat/TECM/desc.html>.
- Information about the IMEDEA is available on (<https://imedea.uib-csic.es/en/>).
- Further information on the MEDiverSEAty project is available at <http://mediverseaty.eu>.

Prospective PhD Candidate

PhD topic within the wider MEDiverSEAty Doctoral Network framework:

Title

“Understanding the different dimensions of human-nature connectedness for conservation and restoration management in the Mediterranean”

Abstract

Neglecting the human dimensions of the marine environment can lead to an overcentralized, exclusively biologically driven management, with frequent negative social impacts and low level of local support, resulting in inadequate and ineffective management. In turn, this can lead to environmental and social injustices, imbalances in governance and ultimately to the loss of users' rights. Marine protected areas and the application of the upcoming EU Nature Restoration Law offer an ideal scenario to explore the integration of the human dimensions associated with marine biodiversity in conservation and restoration management and design. This project will aim to understand governance, social and cultural dimensions associated with conservation and restoration to provide a comprehensive and integrated understanding of the marine and coastal social-ecological system.

The project will adopt a mixed methods approach, starting with an in-depth state of the art review of the human dimensions related to the marine environment and to MPAs in particular, to define the different dimensions and unify concepts. Empirical analysis will focus on different coastal areas and MPAs where members of the consortium carry out their research, specifically in the Balearic Islands and Sicily. A mixed methods approach will be used with quantitative surveys and qualitative focus groups among users, stakeholders and the general public. Data collection will take place around the coastal areas of the Balearic Islands and Sicily.

Outcomes of this research will shed light on the dimensions of governance (conflict assessment), the social dimension (human uses, activities and pressures associated with the MPA, as well as human wellbeing) and the cultural dimension (sense of place and displacement associated with MPAs and mass tourism). The outcomes of this research will be able to inform and guide the design of equitable conservation policies in the area.