WE ARE HIRING! Early Stage Researcher Position in PyroLife Project

New social and climatic changes are transforming the frequency, intensity and impact of wildfires -environmentally, but also socially, economically and politically. This requires a new type of diverse experts, who not only understand fire, but who are also able to communicate risks and engage with communities, deal with uncertainty, and link scientific disciplines as well as science and practice.

CareNet Research Group is a beneficiary of the Innovative Training Network PyroLife (funded by the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions- H2020), that seeks to address this challenge by training a new generation of interdisciplinary experts in integrated fire management. As such, we have an open position for a PhD candidate at the UOC Doctoral School and an Early Stage Researcher (ESR) of this training network:

ENGAGING COMMUNITIES AT RISK (ESR14).

This PhD is aimed at critically examining citizen and community engagement in wildfires management, particularly for those groups identified as most vulnerable in the event of a disaster (e.g. children, youth, women, people with disabilities, elderly, poor people, migrants and indigenous communities). We aim to identify effective strategies for engaging communities at risk (including first-hand analysis through secondments in the USA and New Zealand) and experiment with them in real wildfire-prone contexts.

For this position we are looking for candidates that have:

• Previous training in social sciences (sociology, anthropology, social psychology, political sciences, social/cultural geography). Candidates with previous training in environmental sciences, willing to receive training in social sciences are also encouraged to apply.
• Knowledge of the literature in the fields of political ecology, environmental anthropology, disaster studies, and science and technology studies is desired.
• Previous experience/training in community engagement, ethnographic research and/or participatory approaches is desired but not required.
• Fluent in English and Spanish; additional languages are also appreciated.

For more information about this position please contact Dr. Israel Rodríguez-Giralt irodriguezgir@uoc.edu.

General desired skills for the PyroLife project
• A genuine interest in landscape fire and resilience and in understanding the social, economical and political dimensions involved. Experience with (the management of) fire, forests, water, storms or other risks is appreciated;
• 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;
• Good communication skills and good proficiency in English (both oral and written);
• Willingness to (learn how to) communicate risk, engage with communities and make inter- and transdisciplinary linkages;
• 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; (*If travel options are restricted because of the COVID-19 crisis, the network will provide alternative online participation formats*).
• Ability to function as a team member, work independently and take responsibility for own research goals.
• Meet the mobility and early stage researcher requirements defined for the MSCA-ITN projects.

We provide
• A PhD position in the diverse PyroLife training network together with other international 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 *(see employment conditions below)*
- 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.

Mobility and early career requirements

Applicants should comply to the EU rules regarding ITN projects: (https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/guides_for_applicants/h2020-guide-appl-msca-itn_en.pdf). The most important rules are that you should not have a doctoral degree, have obtained your Master degree within the last four years (full-time equivalent research experience) and should not have spent more than 12 months of your time during the last 3 years in **Spain**.

Doctoral Program in the Information and Knowledge Society (UOC) requirements

To be admitted to the PhD program students must meet one of the following requirements:
a) Hold a an official university master's degree issued by a higher education institution in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and have passed a minimum of 300 ECTS credits out of all official university courses.
b) Hold an official Spanish university degree, or one from an EHEA member country, that allows them admission to a master's course, and have passed a minimum of 300 ECTS credits out of all official university courses, of which at least 60 must be at the master's level.
c) Hold an official Spanish graduate degree of at least 300 ECTS credits in line with EU legal regulations.
d) Candidates with degrees from education systems outside the EHEA, whose degrees do not require homologation (official recognition by the Spanish Ministry of Education), must hold a level of education equivalent to Spanish university master's degrees that authorizes admission to doctoral studies in the country issuing the degree.
e) Be a university graduate and have passed with a positive assessment at least two years of education on a program to be awarded the official degree of any of the health sciences specialities.
f) Be a graduate, architect or engineer and be in possession of the Advanced Studies Diploma (DEA), awarded in accordance with the provisions of Royal Decree 778/1998, of 30 April 1998, or have obtained research proficiency, regulated in Royal Decree 185/1985, of 23 January 1985.

Candidates who have not successfully completed the initiation to research credits for a university master's degree program will have to take those bridging courses specified by the program, if any. The continued enrolment on the doctoral program of candidates who hold only an official university bachelor's degree that, in accordance with EU law, consists of 300 ECTS credits or who have not taken and successfully completed at least 20 initiation to research credits as part of a university master's degree program is contingent on the successful completion of the relevant bridging courses for the initiation to research module, pathway or subjects for the corresponding training period.

Language requirements

Candidates who are not citizens of English-speaking countries are required to accredit their level of English as equal to/or higher than level B2 in accordance with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. The students can demonstrate their English language skills by accrediting:

• They have any of the official qualifications that accredit a level equivalent to or higher than the one required, as listed in this equivalency table.
• They have been schooled or have completed a bachelor's or master's degree (or equivalent condition for admission to the doctoral program) in English as a vehicular language in a country where English is the official language.

Employment conditions

ESR performance will be evaluated 12-15 months into their project in a go/no-go decision to timely prevent underperforming ESRs from continuing their PhD studies.

- Full-time contract: 38,5 working hours/week.

- Starting and end date: Starting as soon as possible, the position is fully funded for 28 months, with a potential extension.

- Workplace: Barcelona.

* As long as COVID-19 restrictions apply, the candidate will receive support to develop his/her training and research activities in an online format.

How to apply

Submit motivation letter and a CV through the application platform: