



## THE POST

<b>College:</b>	<b>Life and Environmental Sciences</b>
<b>Post:</b>	<b>Marie-Sklodowska Curie ITN: Early Stage Researcher</b>
<b>Reference No:</b>	<b>R65883</b>
<b>Grade:</b>	<b>E</b>
<b>HERA:</b>	<b>tbc</b>
<b>Reporting To:</b>	<b>Prof. Patrick Devine-Wright</b>
<b>Responsible For:</b>	<b>ESR5 Project: Social equity and distributive justice in renewable energy deployment</b>

The above full time post is available for 3 years from the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 in the Geography department, College of Life and Environment Sciences.

### Job Description

MISTRAL (*Multi-sectoral approaches to Innovative Skills Training for Renewable energy & social 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 interdisciplinary research on aspects of social acceptance of renewable energy, including socio-political, market and community acceptance dimensions. 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.

For more information about the network, see: <http://www.qub.ac.uk/sites/MISTRAL/>

### Main purpose of the job:

The post holder will support the work of Prof Patrick Devine-Wright (CLES, Geography) as part of an EU H2020 Marie-Sklodowska Curie Innovative Training Network entitled MISTRAL (*Multi-sectoral approaches to Innovative Skills Training for Renewable energy & social acceptance*).

As an Early Stage Researcher (ERS), you 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 equity and distributive justice in renewable energy deployment**' and required to work towards the expected results of this project.

This project, 'Social equity and distributive justice in renewable energy deployment', 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 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. 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 for the scientific perspective 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 position will involve several secondments in non-academic organisations. The purpose of these 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 (Queens University Belfast).

**Inter-disciplinary features:** Geography/Policy Analysis but the position is open to applicants from cognate disciplines, including environmental and social psychology.

**Main duties and accountabilities:**

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1. **To support research activity under the direction of the principal investigator as appropriate to the research project.** Responsibilities may include:
  - Undertaking a broad range of basic research activity according to the nature of the research project. For example preparing, setting up, conducting and recording the outcome of experiments and field work, developing questionnaires and conducting surveys, using straightforward mathematical modelling, statistical techniques or scientific computation;
  - Maintaining databases, keeping accurate written and computerised records and ensuring data is stored securely and managed in accordance with the Data Protection Act;
  - Conducting literature and database searches as required;
  - Writing up the results of own research;
  - Contributing to the production of research reports and publications;
  - Presenting information on research progress and outcomes to bodies supervising research, e.g. steering groups, sponsors or members of research groups;
  - Assisting in the preparation of papers or reports for steering groups and other bodies;
  - Providing administrative support to the principal investigator and other project researchers as required;
  - Making use of standard research techniques and methods;
  - Analysing and interpreting the results of own research and generating original ideas based on outcomes;
  - Contributing to the planning of future research projects.
2. To support teaching activity by assisting in the supervision of student projects and providing limited supervision or instruction to classes, if required.
3. To liaise with members of the research team and other colleagues as appropriate to the research project.
4. To establish internal and external contacts to develop knowledge and understanding and form networks for future collaboration.
5. To plan own day-to-day research activity within the framework of the agreed programme of research and co-ordinate own work with that of others in the group to avoid conflict or duplication of effort.
6. To use research resources, laboratories and workshops as appropriate and to adhere to safety procedures as appropriate. This may include wearing personal protective equipment, conducting risk assessments, reducing hazards and being responsible for the health and safety of others.

7. To engage in continuous professional development and to be responsible for continually updating own knowledge and understanding in field of study or specialism and for developing own skills.

**1. In addition to this, as an Early Stage Researcher, you will also be expected to carry out the following;**

- Carry out the research and training activities specified by a personal career development plan (PCDP).
- Conduct research in interdisciplinary aspects of the social acceptance of renewable energy, as set out in the additional information below.
- Undertake mandatory training programs and secondments as required at the facilities of other consortium members in Denmark, Germany, France, Portugal, Republic of Ireland, Switzerland and the UK.
- Actively participate in training activities and submit reports in fulfilment of the project requirements.
- 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.
- 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.
- Work closely with academic and industrial collaborators and facilitate knowledge transfer between the MISTRAL consortium.
- As a MSCA ITN Ambassador carry out undergraduate supervision/demonstrating/teaching duties under supervisor direction and according to university regulations.
- 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.
- Record, analyse and write up results of research work and contribute to the production of research reports and publications.
- Carry out routine administrative duties as requested, e.g. arranging research programme group meetings, maintaining research programme group website, contributing to organisation of MISTRAL project training workshops and events.

**2. Planning and Organising:**

- Contribute to the PCDP development and provide regular updating of this plan.
- Manage own time and meet agreed deadlines.
- Plan own day-to-day activity within the framework of the agreed research and training programme.
- Contribute to the planning of research and training activities, reports and publications.
- Actively contribute to organisation of outreach activities events such as MISTRAL workshops.

**3. Resource Management Responsibilities:**

- Ensure research resources are used in an effective and efficient manner.
- Provide guidance as required to support staff and any students involved with research and training.

**4. Internal and External Relationships:**

- Liaise with research colleagues and support staff on routine matters.
- Make internal and external contacts to develop knowledge and understanding and form relationships for future collaboration.
- Attend and contribute to relevant meetings and training events.
- Contribute to the project outreach programmes by establishing links with local community groups, industries etc.

This job description summarises the main duties and accountabilities of the post and is not comprehensive: the post-holder may be required to undertake other duties of similar level and responsibility.

**5. To support research activity under the direction of the principal investigator as appropriate to the research project.** Responsibilities may include:

- Carry out the research and training activities specified by a personal career development plan (PCDP).
- Conduct research in interdisciplinary aspects of the social acceptance of renewable energy, as set out in the additional information below.

- Undertake mandatory training programs and secondments as required at the facilities of other consortium members in Denmark, Germany, France, Portugal, Republic of Ireland, Switzerland and the UK.
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#### 6. **Planning and Organising:**

- Contribute to the PCDP development and provide regular updating of this plan.
- Manage own time and meet agreed deadlines.
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#### **Person Specification**

<b>Competency</b>	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>
Attainment/Qualifications	A 1st class or 2.1 Honour Degree or equivalent in human geography, environmental psychology, environmental sociology or related discipline.	Masters Qualification in a relevant subject.
Skills and Understanding	Possess sufficient breadth or depth of knowledge in the discipline and of research methods and techniques to work within own area.  Relevant experience of research techniques such as documentary	Specialisation in energy transitions or related field.

	<p>analysis, interviews, focus groups and questionnaire surveys.</p> <p>Sufficient breadth or depth of specialist knowledge in available techniques for investigation of social acceptance of renewable energy in an inter-disciplinary context.</p> <p>Strong analytical and problem solving skills.</p> <p>Ability to logically conceptualise and summarise the research findings.</p> <p>Advanced analytical skills. Ability to participate in knowledge transfer and demonstration.</p>	
Prior Experience	<p>Understanding of health and safety legislation.</p>	<p>Employment or other practical experience of policy, development or other aspect of renewable energy.</p> <p>Placements or work experience in an academic/commercial research environment relevant to social acceptance and energy transitions research.</p> <p>Practical experience of applying specialist skills and techniques required for the project.</p>
Behavioural Characteristics	<p>Willingness to contribute to the department and project outreach activities.</p> <p>Ability to maintain accurate records.</p> <p>Ability to organise and prioritise own research work within the project framework.</p> <p>Good written and verbal communication skills.</p> <p>Computer literate.</p> <p>Good analytical skills.</p> <p>Able to liaise with colleagues and students.</p> <p>Able to build contacts and participate in internal and external networks for the exchange of information and collaboration.</p> <p>Actively participate as a member of a research team Engage in continuous professional</p>	<p>Willingness to assist in undergraduate supervision and teaching.</p> <p>Familiarity with website maintenance and the use of social media tools.</p>

	development.  Understand equal opportunity issues as they may impact on areas of research content	
Circumstances	Be willing and able to perform secondments or participate in training programs at the facilities or other consortium members such as Denmark, France, Germany, Portugal, Republic of Ireland, Switzerland and the UK.  Willing to work flexibly to achieve project demands.	

### **Informal Enquiries**

Before submitting an application you may wish to discuss the post further by contacting Professor Patrick Devine-Wright, telephone (00 44) 01392 722298 or email [p.g.devine-wright@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:p.g.devine-wright@exeter.ac.uk).

### **Terms & Conditions**

Our Terms and Conditions of Employment can be viewed [here](#).

### **Further Information**

Please see our [website](#) for further information on working at the University of Exeter.

### **Additional Information Relating to the Post**

#### **Eligibility**

Applicants will possess a 1st class or 2.1 Honour Degree or equivalent in human geography, environmental psychology, environmental sociology or related discipline. They must be eligible to be appointed as an Early Stage Researcher in the UK under the EC Horizon 2020 Marie-Sklodowska Curie Action, Innovative Training Networks (ITN) Scheme. This is currently defined as:

‘shall at the time of recruitment by the host organisation, be 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 a researcher obtained the degree which would formally entitle him or 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 or seconded, irrespective of whether or not a doctorate is or was ever envisaged.’

Under the rules of the scheme European and International applications are welcomed, subject to the UKVI regulations on the Right to Work in the UK. At the time of recruitment by the host organisation, researchers shall not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of their host organisation for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the reference date. Compulsory national service and/or short stays such as holidays are not taken into account.

#### **Salary**

Salary will be on a spot salary in the range £27,025 to £30,395 per annum on Grade E subject to knowledge, skills and experience. In addition, allowances are payable in line with the Marie Curie Horizon 2020 requirements for Early Stage Researchers as follows: a Marie Curie allowance of £7,077 per annum and a mobility allowance of £5,221 per annum.

The University pay scale will be subject to a cost of living review each year, but you will not receive annual increments.

