

We are seeking a candidate with a PhD degree in Earth, Physical or Biological Sciences for a joint application to the Marie Curie Individual Fellowships Programme of the European Union (Marie Curie Programme website: [http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/people/home\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/people/home_en.html)).

This programme provides fellowships for European (Intra-European Fellowships) and international (Incoming International Fellowships) researchers in a European country different from where they developed their recent work. Applications are submitted jointly between the candidate and the host institution.

The fellowship would provide a gross salary in the approximate range ?100,000-60,000/year, depending on experience, plus mobility (relocation, family, etc.), travel and career exploratory allowances, as well as research funds. The research project would have a duration of 2 years. Fellows can apply for a Reintegration Grant to return to their own country at the end of their fellowship.

The present call opened in March 2013 and the deadline will be 14 August 2013.

The project

The project will involve a collaborative effort of scientists in the Earth Sciences and Biology Departments at the Natural History Museum in London. The objectives of the study are:

- (1) To investigate the mutual interaction of selected minerals and microorganisms: effect of the mineral on the microbial development and the microbial strategies to obtain nutrients from the mineral.
- (2) To test the availability of the released mineral nutrients to plants: is the microbial activity beneficial to plants? What is the mechanism of nutrient transmission from microbe to plant?
- (3) To investigate whether primitive plants relied on microorganisms to obtain their mineral nutrients.

The study will involve electron microscopy (SEM, cryo-SEM, and TEM), atomic force microscopy, chemical analysis of minerals and solutions, and preparation of bacterial, fungal and plant cultures.

The range of skills is very wide and the researcher is not expected to possess all of them. The Intra-European Fellowships have an important training element.

#### FACILITIES

The Natural History Museum is one of the European Union Large Scale Research Facilities. It is equipped with complete up-to-date biological as well as mineral and chemical analysis facilities.

#### CONTACT

Anyone interested in this joint application please contact Javier Cuadros at the address below.

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