

The Marie Curie Excellent Training Network PRIDE (Drivers of Pontocaspian biodiversity Rise and Demise) is seeking to recruit 15 Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) to be hosted in ten top institutes across Germany, the Netherlands, Romania and the United Kingdom.

The PRIDE programme offers a unique opportunity to engage deeply in multidisciplinary research involving climate, geology and biosciences. The work involves considerable fieldwork in collaboration with leading institutes in Russia, Azerbaijan, Ukraine and Turkey. The programme is a joint network of academic and industrial partners exposing you to very different work practices and cultures. We will work on understanding the drivers of past biodiversity change and the current biodiversity crisis in so-called Pontocaspian biota. Currently the unique aquatic faunas of the Pontocaspian region (Caspian Sea, northern Black Sea, lakes in Turkey and the Balkans) are suffering dramatic decline. But the fauna has witnessed many biodiversity crises in its two million year history. By studying the development of lake basins and the faunas in the past two million years we want to learn what the drivers of Pontocaspian biodiversity change are and what the outlook of the current biodiversity crisis is.

Therefore we are seeking excellent candidates for 15 Early Stage Researcher (ESR) positions for a period of 3 years, starting in September 2015

As an ESR you will be hosted in one of the ten leading European institutes that form the PRIDE network. Your job will be to perform a research project and to participate in an extensive training programme that includes ten network training events (NTEs). During your project you will undertake one or two secondment(s) at one or more of the participating institutes where you will stay for typically one month to collaborate with colleagues and be trained in their approaches and techniques. You will enrol in the postgraduate programmes provided by your host or associated universities. Therefore you will need to travel both in and outside Europe.

Candidates of all nationalities are welcome to apply for these high profile positions, taken into account the following requirements and skills:

- You should not have resided in the country hosting the position you are applying for, for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the recruitment date (and not have carried out your main activity (work, studies, etc.) in that country);
- You should be — at the date of recruitment — an ‘early stage researcher’, i.e. within four years of completing your masters qualification and not have already qualified for a doctoral degree;
- You should be fluent in English, written and verbal. When applying for one or more of the projects please check the information of the projects for language requirements;
- Experience with international projects is a benefit;
- Experience of successful collaborative working;
- Ability to work in different countries/settings, laboratories, modelling, and fieldwork experience if applicable.

The projects (for details check out www.pontocaspian.eu):

Workpackage A Lake System Evolution Interest in interdisciplinary geological climatological research in the Pontocaspian region (Black Sea, Caspian Sea and Anatolia and surroundings).

ESR A1 – Utrecht – Wout Krijgsman: To develop an Age model for the Quaternary Pontocaspian Basins. ([Click for project information and specific requirements](#)).

- Background in stratigraphic techniques.

This project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 642973Æ

ESR A2 – Bremen – Matthias Prange: To develop a Quaternary climate model for the Pontocaspian Basins. ([Click for project information and specific requirements](#)).

- Background in palaeoclimate modelling.

ESR A3 – Reading – Joy Singarayer: To develop a Quaternary lake basin model for the Pontocaspian Basins (Black Sea, Caspian Sea). ([Click for project information and specific requirements](#)).

- Background in lake and/or palaeoclimate modelling.

ESR A4 – Bristol – Rachel Flecker: To reconstruct the connectivity history of the Pontocaspian lakes (Caspian Sea, Black Sea Basin) and constrain the hydrologic budgets. ([Click for project information and specific requirements](#)).

- Background in geochemistry.

ESR A5 – London – Suzanne Leroy: To develop paleobiological proxies of lake basin and catchment dynamics. ([Click for project information and specific requirements](#)).

- Background in organic micropalaeontology and proxy development.

Workpackage B Quaternary turnover Interest in interdisciplinary palaeoenvironmental and biodiversity research in the Pontocaspian region (Black Sea, Caspian Sea and Anatolia and surroundings).

ESR B1 – Leiden – Frank Wesselingh: To assess palaeoenvironmental drivers of mollusk biodiversity change in Pontocaspian Basins. ([Click for project information and specific requirements](#)).

- Background in macropalaeontology .

ESR B2 – Bucharest – Marius Stoica: To assess palaeoenvironmental drivers of ostracod biodiversity change in Pontocaspian Basins. ([Click for project information and specific requirements](#)).

- Background in Micropalaeontology.

ESR B3 – Giessen – Christian Albrecht: To assess the role of satellite regions in the evolution of Pontocaspian biota in the past 3 Ma. ([Click for project information and specific requirements](#)).

- Background in phylogeny and biogeography.

ESR B4 – Giessen – Tom Wilke: To reconstruct past evolutionary events and diversity development in Pontocaspian mollusk groups by combined molecular and fossil data. ([Click for project information and specific requirements](#)).

- Background in phylogeny and biogeography.

ESR B5 – Utrecht – Wout Krijgsman: To reconstruct successive Quaternary palaeoenvironments in a range of key sections in the Pontocaspian domain combining sedimentary, paleontological and geochemical data. ([Click for project information and specific requirements](#)).

- Background in sedimentary geology.

Workpackage C Anthropocene biodiversity crisis Interest in interdisciplinary palaeoenvironmental and biodiversity research in the Pontocaspian region (Black Sea, Caspian Sea and Anatolia and surroundings).

ESR C1 – Bucharest – Luis Popa: To infer patterns of biodiversity and biodiversity deterioration of Pontocaspian mollusk taxa. ([Click for project information and specific requirements](#)).

- Background in taxonomy, biodiversity and conservation.

ESR C2 – Leiden – Arjan Gittenberger: To infer differential impact of key-anthropogenic drivers on the deterioration of Pontocaspian biodiversity. ([Click for project information and specific requirements](#)).

- Background in Taxonomy, biodiversity and conservation.

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ESR C3 – Leiden – Niels Raes: To develop an integrated programmewide outreach strategy based on a PontoCaspian Information System (PC-IS) as effective communication tool. ([Click for project information and specific requirements](#)).

- Background in biodiversity modelling and outreach.

ESR C4 – Giessen – Tom Wilke: To model and predict Pontocaspian biodiversity change and crisis.([Click for project information and specific requirements](#)).

- Background in biodiversity modelling.

ESR C5 – London – Suzanne Leroy: To assess Holocene turnover in planktonic Pontocaspian communities. ([Click for project information and specific requirements](#)).

- Background in biodiversity and molecular phylogenies preferentially of planktonic groups.

We offer

A dynamic research environment with involved research staff for supervising, a national and international academic network.

A fulltime, temporary contract with a salary that matches the MSCAITN and local rules, a monthly mobility allowance of € 600,gross and a possible monthly family allowance of € 500,gross.

Feel free to contact pride@naturalis.nl with specific questions about a project or position.

Procedure

Applicants are invited to submit the following documents:

- Letter of application (max 2 pages);
- Resume (Curriculum vitae);
- The names, position and email addresses of at least two persons that can be contacted for reference ;
- List of publications, including submitted manuscripts or papers in press, if any;
- Transcript of BSc and MSc diploma.

The required documents should be submitted by email to

sollicitaties@naturalis.nl

before 16 April 2015.

Please indicate Application PRIDE and specify in the subject line which of the 15 projects you are applying for.

You can apply for more than one project, but in this instance please send a separate application for each position.

We intend to invite the two highest ranked applicants, per project, for interviews in Leiden, The Netherlands, between 20 and 22 May 2015

Guidelines on the selection procedure you can find [here](#) .

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