

We are seeking a candidate to APPLY for a PhD grant from the Government of Aragon, to pursue a PhD at the Ecology Area at the University of Zaragoza (Huesca Campus, Spain), within the Ecological Restoration group of the Government of Aragon.

Two PhD topics are available for selection by the candidate.

"Role of seed functional traits in ecosystem restoration: a multiscale approach".

The establishment of new species is crucial in spontaneous regeneration and restoration processes of degraded ecosystems. The success of this initial revegetation stage heavily relies on seeds. However, the role of seed functional traits in this stage remains poorly understood. This thesis aims to study seed functional traits, their interaction with soil, and their effects on restoration success at different levels: from individual species to communities and metacommunities.

"Renaturalization of Photovoltaic Plants".

As part of the transition to renewable energy, Spain is currently experiencing a significant expansion of photovoltaic (PV) plants. However, this expansion must not come at the expense of biodiversity loss or damage to natural heritage. In this thesis, we will investigate the effects of photovoltaic plants on ecosystems, examining various levels such as soil, plants, arthropods, and birds.

We offer:

- Opportunity to join a group with extensive experience in ecosystem restoration, plant ecology, ecohydrology, and soil physics.
- Supportive and collaborative working environment within a multidisciplinary team.
- Diverse field, laboratory, and data analysis work, including (depending on the chosen topic):
  - Laboratory germination experiments.
  - Seed germination modeling.
  - Field seed collection.
  - Field sowings.
  - Flora and fauna inventories in the field.
  - Measurement and modeling of soil properties: temperature, humidity, and structure.
- Residency in Huesca, a small and welcoming city with all necessary amenities. Located near the Pyrenees and Sierra de Guara, and well-connected by high-speed train to major Spanish cities such as Madrid, Barcelona, and Zaragoza.
- Opportunity, within the scope of the proposal, to choose the research topics.
- Possibility of research visits within an international network of researchers.

We are seeking a candidate with the following qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in Biology, Environmental Sciences, Agronomy, Forestry, or related fields.
- Completion of a Master's degree or anticipated completion by this year.
- Independent and proactive individual.
- Enjoys fieldwork and is capable of working in various environmental conditions, including challenging circumstances.
- Valid driver's license.
- Experience with or willingness to learn how to use R.
- Minimum grade point average of 7.

Interested applicants should submit their CV (including details of Master's and Bachelor's qualifications) and a brief motivation letter by June 15, 2023, to [jtormo@unizar.es](mailto:jtormo@unizar.es)