Job - PhD position within the CHAR Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action Doctoral Network (2026-2029)

PhD position: DC#

Details

Location	ISTeP - CY Cergy Paris University
Function types	PhD position
Scientific fields	Materials for Architectural Heritage conservation
Hours	35 hours per week (in annual calculation)
Salary	See below
Education	Doctoral Programme in Sciences and Engineering
Employer	CY Cergy Paris Univzersity

Job description

CY Cergy Paris University is recruiting a PhD researcher for a three-year period in the framework of

Project 101226989— CHARM (Conservation Heritage Architecture, buildings and sites by Resilient Methods: hydro-climate factors), financed by European Research Executive Agency under action HORIZON MSCA Doctoral Networks

Project description

Project title: Conservation Heritage Architecture, buildings and sites by Resilient Methods: hydro-climate factors

Objectives:

This project aims to develop innovative tools, strategies, and guidelines that mitigate the detrimental effects of water related weathering, ensuring the long-term preservation of our valuable cultural heritage. Research on water control in buildings, their effects and how to fight against the damage: salt crystallisation, indoor moisture development, wall humidity, consolidation products, microbiological development.

In this PhD the objective is to formulate new rendering mortars, for outdoor and indoor use, that can reduce the humidity content of walls. The sustainability of the mortars is an important aspect that will be also considered under different aspects: low environmental impact during fabrication, application, use and end of life. These mortars will be durable in actual and future climate conditions.

Supervisory Committee:

- Supervisor: Beatriz Menéndez CY Cergy Paris University (academics)
- Co-Supervisor: Bernard Salesses Saint Astier (non-academics)
- Mentor: Luis Valdeon, GEA Asesoria Geologica (non-academics)

Planned secondment(s):

- **Secondment 1**: GEA Asesoria geologica (Company Spain) 10, 4 weeks, real case applications.
- **Secondment 2:** CNR-ISAC (academics): 4 weeks, Risk assessment.
- **Secondment 3:** Saint Astier (company): 4 weeks, mortars formulation.
- **Secondment 4:** Epitopos (company): 4 weeks, practical applications

Enrolment in Doctoral degree(s): Doctoral Programme in Sciences and Engineering (CY Cergy Paris University)

Requirements

- Applicants should hold a relevant Master's degree in materials sciences, engineering, natural sciences
- Applicants should not have been awarded a PhD degree
- Applicants must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the recruiting institution for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately before the recruitment date
- Proficiency in written and spoken English
- Be highly motivated;
- Creativity and high level of independency

Conditions of employment

We offer a 3-year full-time PhD contract.

The full-time gross salary is 4735€ of living allowance and 710 of Mobility Allowance. A Family Allowance will be paid if applicable. This amount is gross, and all compulsory deductions under national law will apply, including: Social security contributions (both employee and employer shares), and any applicable direct taxes. The salary and terms of employment for this position will comply with the provisions set out in the Statute of Workers' Rights, the Science Law (Law 14/2011 of 1 June, as amended by Law 17/2022 of 5 September), and the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions regulations.
Contract type: Temporary, we offer a 3-year full-time PhD contract.

Organisation

CY Cergy Paris University gathers the University Cergy-Pontoise, EPSS and ILEPS in France. With over 400 PhD students and 500 researchers, 23 laboratories, 2 Centres of Excellence and 6 open labs. CY is one of the most active research centres in France with a high international standard. It is part of the CY Alliance, which has been awarded the I-SITE label by the French government's "Investments for the Future" program: it recognizes CY's capacity to become an excellent university, with excellent research, high-quality training and a strong integration in the socio-economic fabric. CY is also a member of the EUTOPIA European University that aims to develop an open and inclusive academy for 2050, together with the Warwick, Vrije Universiteit Brussels, Pompeu Fabra, Ljubljana and Goteborg universities. Finally, CY is committed to respecting the HR Charter and Code of Conduct and is involved in the HRS4R labelling process. The Geosciences & Environment laboratory (GEC) conducts research in the field of Earth sciences, with expertise in tectonics-geodynamics and in petrophysics-geomechanics, and in the field of environment. Its originality lies in its integrated, multi-scale approach of the deformation and weathering of rocks, from the field and the large scale analysis of geologic structures, to the study of microstructures using modelling and laboratory measurements. GEC has been working in stone conservation for more than 20 years.

Laboratory

ISTeP, Institut des Sciences de la Terre de Paris, is a geology laboratory, focused on fundamental research, with broad scientific orientations, on the functioning of the Earth's internal and external envelopes from their formation to their most recent expressions: natural hazards or climatic variations.

The PRISME Team, Pétrophysique, Réservoirs, Interfaces, Structures, Modélisation et Environnement brings together geologists, experimentalists and modellers in the study of the petrophysics and mechanics of rocks, geological structures and fluid/solid interfaces, from the grain scale to the geosystem scale. The team is particularly interested in surface and subsurface systems, such as reservoirs or geomaterials. Combining fundamental and applied approaches, the PRISME team's research presents broad fields of application, such as new resources (geothermal energy, metals of the energy transition, etc.) or "anthropogenic" geology (storage, construction and heritage), with an approach that contributes to linking Geosciences and environmental issues.

How to apply?

https://forms.office.com/e/KfMm59Buts?origin=lprLink

The following documents must be updated with your application in an anonymous form:

(a) Written documentation concerning prior education, including a certified copy of your Master certificate and list of grades (with certified translation for languages other than English or Spanish);
(b) A personal letter of motivation, indicating why you wish to conduct this research project offered by CY Cergy Paris University, and why you expect that you will be able to complete the research and training programme successfully;
(c) Detailed curriculum vitae, including – if applicable – relevant publications;
(d) The applicant should have a minimum level of proficiency in English language, which could be demonstrated by providing an English language certificate and that will be confirmed in a later interview, if needed.

Selection procedure

The selection of the candidates will be carried out in a two-step procedure:

1. Candidates will be pre-selected according to their CVs and motivation letter.
2. Pre-selected candidates will go through online selection interviews in which they will give a short talk on their background and the topic of the PhD and answer the questions from the committee.

The recruiting committee will be formed by the PhD supervisors, researchers from the secondment centers and a member of the MetaExplore coordination team.

	When?
Deadline for submission applications	April 15th 2026
Candidates pre-selected for interviews will be informed	May 1st 2026
Selection interviews	May 2026
Successful candidates will be informed	June 1st 2026
Acceptance by successful candidates	June 15th 2026
Start of employment	September 1st 2026

Selection criteria

Criteria	**Rate**
Relevant academic background	0-30
Interview and presentation	0-40
Motivation statement	0-20
Relevant publications/work experience	0-10

Information

For questions related to this project, please contact beatriz.menendez@cyu.fr