

PhD Position in Mediterranean Holocene Paleoenvironments–

Deadline 15 April 2026

The Catalan Institute of Classical Archaeology (ICAC) and the Institute of Evolutionary Sciences of Montpellier (ISEM) invite applications for a 4-year fully funded PhD position focused on Mediterranean Holocene palaeoenvironments. The successful candidate will join the MEDLANDS project (Genesis of transmediterranean cultural landscapes), reconstructing Holocene landscapes in coastal Thrace, Greece, through multi-proxy palaeoecological analysis (pollen, non-pollen palynomorphs, microcharcoal) of sedimentary records. This research will integrate palaeoecological data with archaeological and geoarchaeological evidence to explore vegetation and landscape changes linked to prehistoric and colonial settlement dynamics, particularly near the ancient Greek colony of Abdera, offering insights into the shaping of urban and peri-urban landscapes.

Tasks and opportunities

- ✓ **Interdisciplinary research:** Combine multi-proxy palaeoecological analysis with archaeological and geoarchaeological data, collaborating with archaeologists, palaeoenvironmentalists, and bioarchaeologists within the MEDLANDS project.
- ✓ **International collaboration:** Work at ISEM (Montpellier, France) for the first two years and ICAC (Tarragona, Spain) for the final two, engaging with a network of European researchers.
- ✓ **Field and lab work:** Perform fieldwork (sediment coring) in Thrace (Greece), and conduct laboratory and microscopic analysis for palynological studies.
- ✓ **Career development:** Join two dynamic and leading research groups—the Landscape Archaeology Research Group (GIAP, ICAC) and the Archaeobiology and Paleoenvironment Team (Archaeopal, ISEM)—with expert mentorship in palaeoenvironmental reconstruction and Mediterranean archaeology.
- ✓ **Publish** research findings in peer-reviewed journals and present results at conferences.
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Position Details

- ✓ **Duration:** 4-year predoctoral contract (full-time), starting June 1, 2026. In exceptional cases, the start date may be extended until September 1, 2026, subject to prior approval by the Spanish research agency.
- ✓ **Salary:** First two years €27,600 gross/year (French public research scale), years 3 and 4 €25,081.14 gross/year (Spanish public research scale).
- ✓ **Location:** ISEM (Montpellier, France, Years 1–2) and ICAC (Tarragona, Spain, Years 3–4).
- ✓ **Supervision:** Co-directed by Dr. Ana Ejarque (ISEM), Dr. Alfredo Mayoral (ICAC), and Dr. Arnau Garcia-Molsosa (ICAC).

Requirements:

- Applicants must hold a Master's degree in Archaeology, Biology, Environmental Sciences, or related fields, obtained after March 1, 2022. The degree must be awarded by June 1, 2026, although exceptions may be granted to extend this deadline to September 1, 2026 in justified cases.
- Applicants must not hold a prior doctoral degree.

Valued Skills/Experience:

- Strong experience and/or interest in **palynology, paleoecology, and landscape archaeology**.
- **Excellent academic record** with relevant coursework or research projects.
- **International mobility** or collaborative research experience.
- **Proficiency in English**; knowledge of French, Catalan, Spanish, or Greek is a plus.

Application Process

Deadline for submissions: 15 April, 2026 (23:59 CET). Submit the application to: rrhh@icac.cat (subject: "ICAC call G017.192").

Required Documents (in PDF format and in English, Spanish, or Catalan.):

- Motivation letter (max. 1 page): Interest in the position, fit for the project, and its value for your career and the host institution.
- Curriculum Vitae (using the [CVA-ENG template](#)).
- Copy of ID (DNI/NIE/passport).
- Copies of academic degrees required for the application (Bachelor's and Master's degrees).
- Academic transcripts for Bachelor's and Master's degrees.
- Supporting documents for all merits claimed in the CV.
- Copy of the Master's thesis.
- Signed declaration stating you have not previously held a predoctoral contract, or, if applicable, the duration (in days) of any prior predoctoral contract.
- Signed declaration confirming you do not hold a doctoral degree from any Spanish or foreign institution.

Additional Notes

- For training courses, specify the duration (hours) and type of certification obtained. For language proficiency, provide a certificate indicating your level according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).
- Incomplete applications or those not meeting the minimum requirements will not be considered.

Selection Criteria

Candidates will be evaluated based on academic record and research potential (50%), and alignment with the project's objectives (50%). Shortlisted candidates may be contacted for interviews. The selected candidate will be notified by early May 2026.

Full details on the application process, position and eligibility can be consulted in the [official call](#).

About Us

- [GIAP-ICAC](#): A CERCA-affiliated research group in Tarragona, specializing in **Mediterranean landscape archaeology** from prehistory to late antiquity.
- [ArcheoPal-ISEM](#): A CNRS-affiliated research group in Montpellier, focused on Mediterranean **paleoenvironmental and archaeobiology research** from the Quaternary to the late Holocene.
- [MEDLANDS Project \(2025–2028\)](#): Funded by the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation, this project is led by Dr. Alfredo Mayoral and Dr. Arnau Garcia-Molsosa (GIAP-ICAC). It investigates landscape transformations driven by Greek colonization in the Eastern and Western Mediterranean.

For further information on the application, please, contact us:

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