

# Sesión de apoyo a la preparación de propuestas “MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2024”

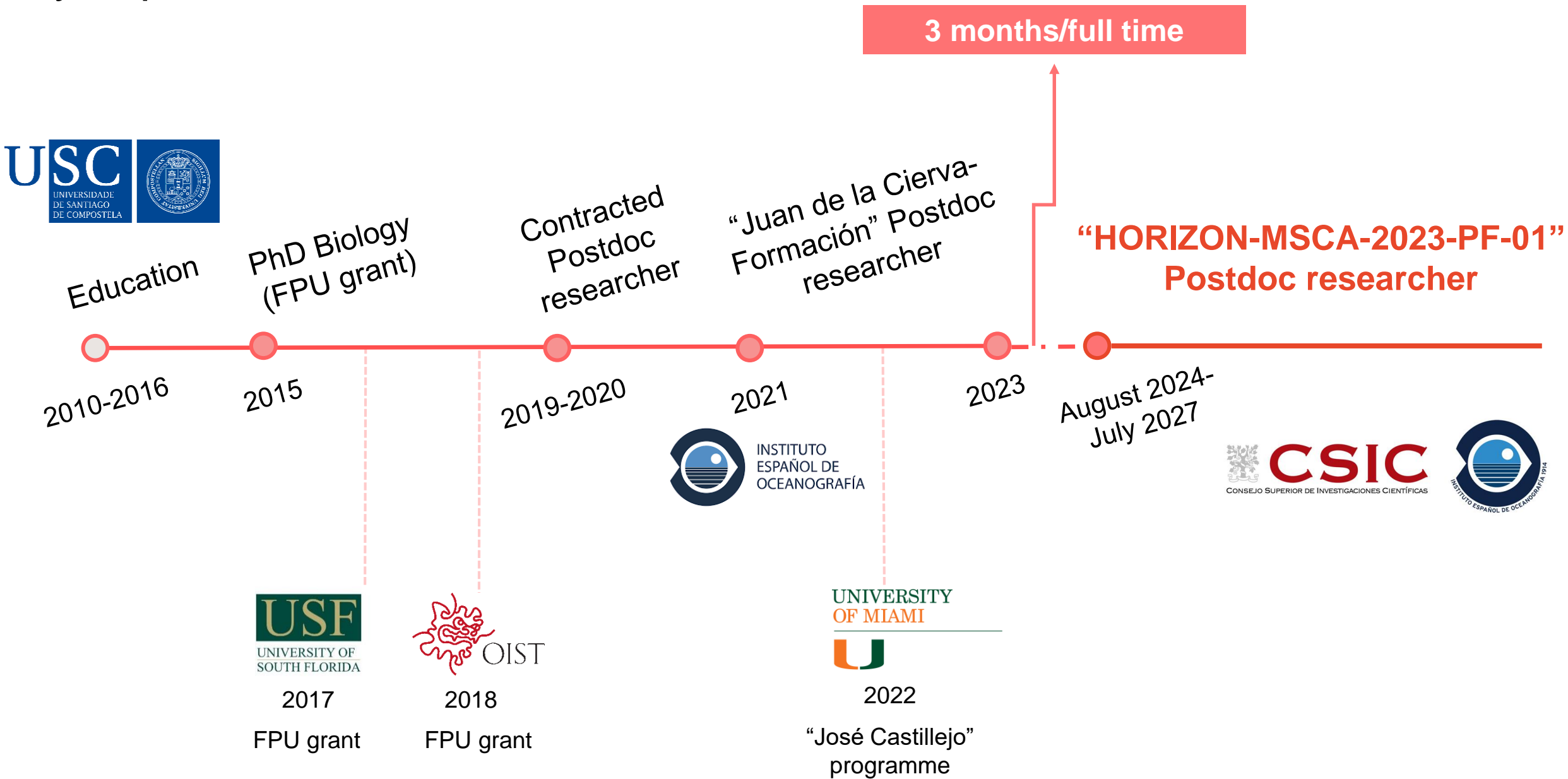
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# My experience





# “Disentangling processes controlling trophic connectivity between coastal and oceanic pelagic food webs”

Characterizing trophic connections (nutrients, organisms) between costal and oceanic food webs (horizontal exchanges) across spatial (Hawai'i and Galicia) and temporal perspectives using stable isotope techniques (SIA, CSIA-AA).

Outgoing phase (2024-2026)

Incoming phase (2026-2027)



Brian N. Popp  
(supervisor, partner)



UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAI'I®  
MĀNOA



Jeffrey C. Drazen  
(co-supervisor, partner)



CSIC  
CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTÍFICAS



Antonio Bode  
(supervisor, host)

# General tips for writing a successful proposal (Part B)

- adhere strictly to the **established formats** for proposal preparation – [Tpl\\_Application Form \(Part B\) \(HE MSCA PF\)](#)
- use the **available resources** to support proposal preparation ([MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships Handbook](#) Call 2024?)
- [make your project a MSCA proposal \(project + training\)](#)
- **ask for help** to your supervisors and friends inside/outside your research field across the process
- **NCPs** (questions) and the **office of international projects of your host institution** (questions, review, etc.)
- **make the evaluators remember your proposal** (title, acronym, logo, abstract, figures/tables, etc.)

**PelCon:** “Disentangling processes controlling trophic connectivity between coastal and oceanic **pelagic** food webs”

Call: HORIZON-MSCA-2023-PF-01 EU Grants: Application form (HE MSCA PF).

Dra. García-Seoane



# General tips for writing a successful proposal (Part B)

- **refer to other sections and relevant elements** (milestones, ROs, WPs, tasks) across the proposal
- **refer to the name of your project** across the proposal
- **highlight relevant words or whole phrases** using bold, italics or underlining
- to save space, **insert references as footnotes**, without including titles and DOIs
- **use appropriate font size for tables** (since 2023 call, minimum font size allowed was 11 across the whole proposal and text within tables). This does not apply for text within figures or text for references in footnotes. However, in these cases, text must be readable (use font size at least of 8)
- **be careful with the formatting**

*1.1.2 Objectives (work packages).* The **main** aim of *PelCon (Disentangling processes controlling trophic connectivity between coastal and oceanic pelagic food webs)* project is to characterize the coast-ocean trophic dynamics of the pelagic food web across spatial and temporal perspectives to better understand processes controlling its **structure, function and connectivity**. Although it is well-known that food supply is a key factor driving these processes, trophic dynamics in these systems are far from understood, and this project offers **a unique opportunity**

RADIALES program. However, the influence of upwelling pulses from coastal to oceanic pelagic food webs has never been tracked in this region, probably due to the lack of proper methodology to do it. I will apply the techniques learned during the outgoing phase (B1-1.2.1), to study the mechanisms coupling coastal and oceanic pelagic food

<sup>1</sup> Polis *et al.* (1997). *Annu. Rev. Ecol. Evol. Syst.* 28(1), 289-316.

<sup>2</sup> Hyndes *et al.* (2014). *Biol. Rev.* 89(1), 232-254.

<sup>3</sup> Carr *et al.* (2003). *Ecol. Appl.* 13(sp1), 90-107.

<sup>4</sup> Skinner *et al.* (2021). *Sci. Adv.* 7(8), eabf3792.

<sup>5</sup> Griffiths *et al.* (2017). *Glob. Change Biol.* 23(6), 2179-2196.

<sup>6</sup> Larsen *et al.* (2020). *Ecol. Evol.* 10(14), 7768-7782.

<sup>7</sup> Elliott Smith *et al.* (2022). *Funct. Ecol.* 36(5), 1191-1203.

<sup>8</sup> McMahon *et al.* (2010). *J. Anim. Ecol.* 79, 1132-1141.

<sup>9</sup> McCarthy *et al.* (2013). *Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta* 103, 104-120.

<sup>10</sup> Ramirez *et al.* (2021). *Methods Ecol. Evol.* 12(10), 1750-1767.

<sup>11</sup> Garcia-Seoane *et al.* (2023). *Mar. Environ. Res.* 183, 105792.

<sup>12</sup> Ohkouchi *et al.* (2017). *Org. Geochem.* 113, 150-174.

<sup>13</sup> Rassweiler *et al.* (2020). *Ambio* 49, 130-143.

<sup>14</sup> Gove *et al.* (2016). *Nat. Commun.* 7(1), 10581.

<sup>15</sup> The NOAA Ocean Explorer Webmaster.

<http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/explorations/02quest/background/upwelling/upwelling.html>

<sup>16</sup> Alvarez-Salgado *et al.* (2000). *Est. Coast. Shelf Sci.* 51(6), 821-837.

<sup>17</sup> Bode *et al.* (2020). *Diversity* 12(4), 121.

# Part B1 (10 pages)

## Criterion 1 – Excellence (Weight: 50.00%, ~ 6 pages)

### 1.1 Quality and pertinence of the project's research and innovation objectives (and the extent to which they are ambitious, and go beyond the state of the art) (1.75 pages)

1.1.1 Introduction, state-of-the-art

1.1.2 Objectives (work packages)

1.1.3 Originality and innovative aspects of the research

Explain the gaps in research that you have identified, why it is important to address them, according to the UE goals and priorities. Convince the reader that this will be a unique opportunity to fill this knowledge gap.

Explain how your project will be structured in WPs (scientific, management, communication, etc.), and what are the specific ROs that you will be addressing in each WP.

**Convince the reader that your proposal is unique, innovative and goes beyond the state-of-the-art.**

Describes what will be the main achievements for the research field.

# Part B1 (10 pages)

## Criterion 1 – Excellence (Weight: 50.00%, ~ 6 pages)

### 1.2 Soundness of the proposed methodology (including interdisciplinary approaches, consideration of the gender dimension and other diversity aspects if relevant for the research project, and the quality of open science practices) (2 pages)

#### 1.2.1 Overall methodology (1 page)

#### 1.2.2 Integration of methods and disciplines to pursue the objectives

#### 1.2.3 Gender dimension and other diversity aspects

#### 1.2.4 Open science practices

#### 1.2.5 Research data management and management of other research outputs

Describe specific tasks within WPs (3 WPs for research activities, 1WP for the project coordination and management, 1 WP for dissemination, communication, exploitation and training), and relate them to the ROs.

Convince the reader on the usefulness of the methods you have chosen. Refer to specific MSCA keywords and knowledge fields related to your project (or to specific activities/tasks).

Address gender dimension and other diversity aspects (biological characteristics and social/cultural factors) in relation to: i) research methods, and ii) communication/dissemination activities.

Refer to OA policies of the UE and to the FAIR principles. Describe the research outputs you will be providing OA (e.g. publications, raw data, protocols, code, samples, patents, etc.).

Refer to the Data Management Plan (DMP) (project deliverable), trusted repositories, metadata (PIDs, e.g. DOIs), etc.

# Part B1 (10 pages)

## Criterion 1 – Excellence (Weight: 50.00%, ~ 6 pages)

### 1.3 Quality of the supervision, training and of the three-way transfer of knowledge between the researcher and the host (1.75 pages)

1.3.1 Quality of the supervision in the associated partner

1.3.2 Quality of the supervision in the host institution

1.3.3 Training and transfer of knowledge - Partner institution to the researcher

1.3.4 Transfer of knowledge – Researcher to the partner institution

1.3.5 Training and transfer of knowledge - Researcher and host

Describe the supervisors' expertise in research and mentoring/supervising, important achievements, awards. Provide detailed information, e.g. years of research experience, h-index and total citations, top journals, distinguished collaborators, total funding obtained, people supervised, prizes awarded, etc.

Refer to your Career Development Plan (CDP) (project deliverable).

Mention whether they supervised MSCA postdocs.

Mention "MSCA Guidelines on Supervision".

| Scientific production                              | Partner (1) | Partner (2) | Host      |
|--|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| Experience in the field (years)                    | >35         | >20         | >35       |
| Peer-reviewed articles in JCR journals             | 167         | 134         | 125       |
| h-index, total citations ( <i>Google Scholar</i> ) | 71; 17,000  | 48; 7,400   | 49; 7,100 |
| Total funding generated                            | >17M \$     | >20M \$     | >3M EUR   |
| Oceanographic research cruises                     | >35         | >60         | >30       |

# Part B1 (10 pages)

## Criterion 1 – Excellence (Weight: 50.00%, ~ 6 pages)

### 1.4 Quality and appropriateness of the researcher's professional experience, competences and skills (0.5 pages)

Describe your strengths (scientific production, conferences and workshops, funding obtained, awards, stays abroad, teaching/supervising/mentoring experience, involvement in collaborative projects).

Provide detailed information, e.g. number of publications in Q1, journals, number of peer-reviewed articles, number of contributions to conferences, amount of funding obtained, etc. More details in part B2.

Convince the reader that you are the right person to develop this ambitious project. Don't be modest!

*1.4 Quality and appropriateness of the researcher's professional experience, competences and skills.* My research career has strongly focused on the *study of marine ecosystems, their ecology and conservation*. I did the PhD at the U. of Santiago de Compostela, for which I was awarded a competitive Spanish grant FPU. In my PhD

## Evaluation Result

Total score: 98.00 % (Threshold: 70 /100.00)

## Criterion 1 - Excellence

Score: 4.80 (Threshold: 0 / 5.00 , Weight: 50.00% )

### What did the reviewers highlight as strengths in Criterion 1 – Excellence?

- clear and well-defined objectives
- quality and pertinence of the research
- ambitious and innovative work, targeting key scientific questions
- achievable, measurable and verifiable research and innovation objectives through OA outputs
- well-developed scientific concepts and assumptions
- sound proposed methodology (covering both safe and risky approaches, although used before and verified)
- multidisciplinary approach
- complementary techniques (traditional, well-established, advanced)
- use of already available samples and collection of new ones (**an added value for the research approach**)
- detailed integration of gender dimension and other diversity aspects
- implementation of OA policies as an integral part of the proposed methodology following the FAIR principles
- **excellent management of the research data** by providing details on the databases and methods
- supervisors with very high level of expertise
- supervisors with high experience in supervising at different levels and in implementing international projects
- complement of research interests of the supervisors
- well-matching planned research needs
- well addressed planned training for the researcher
- **excellent three-way transfer**
- very relevant professional expertise of the researcher
- **excellent scientific output of the researcher's curriculum vitae** with a high number of first-authored papers
- recognized quality of the researcher expertise related to awards and fellowships

### What did the reviewers highlight as weaknesses in Criterion 1 – Excellence?

- lack of minor details on the methodology

# Part B1 (10 pages)

## Criterion 2 – Impact (Weight: 30.00%, ~ 2 pages)

### 2.1 Credibility of the measures to enhance the career perspectives and employability of the researcher and contribution to his/her skills development (0.5 pages)

Explain why this MSCA will allow you to achieve your long-term goals.

### 2.2 Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities (1 pages)

Refer to the Dissemination & Exploitation plan (project deliverable).

#### 2.2.1 Dissemination activities

#### 2.2.2 Communication activities and public engagement strategy

#### 2.2.3 Exploitation of the results and intellectual property rights

Intended dissemination activities and their targeted audiences. Refer to peer-reviewed publications, conferences and meetings, social media, newsletters, etc. Provide detailed information: targeted journals, conferences and meetings (with short description and expected dates), etc.

Intended communication activities (public outreach initiatives, visits do academic institutions, social media, etc.) and their targeted audiences. Provide detailed information, e.g. size and age ranges of targeted groups, outreach projects, etc.

Refer to potential support received from institutional Communication Departments and Knowledge Transfer, Innovation and Commercialization Departments.

# Part B1 (10 pages)

## Criterion 2 – Impact (Weight: 30.00%, ~ 2 pages)

### 2.3. The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the expected scientific, societal and economic impacts (0.5 pages)

Address expected scientific impacts: e.g. expected publications, relative importance for study fields and disciplines, etc.

Address expected economic/technological impacts: e.g. benefits generated (EUR), % of people involved, other statistics, etc.

Address expected societal impacts: e.g. EU's policy priorities, EU Action Plans, Global challenges, EU Missions, United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, MSCA Green Charter, etc.

Additionally, it will serve to understand and, possibly anticipate, the substantial changes in commercial species (e.g. European pilchard) highly important for human food supply (MSFD, D3 The population of commercial fish species is healthy). It will contribute to the global challenge “*Cluster 6: Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment*” of HE by: **i)** achieving the EU Mission “*Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030*”; **ii)** achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 “*Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine*

## Criterion 2 - Impact

Score: **5.00** (Threshold: 0 / 5.00 , Weight: 30.00% )

### What did the reviewers highlight as strengths in Criterion 2 – Impact?

- very convincing in how this research project will further enhance the skills of the researcher
- very clear in how the transferrable skills and scientific output of the researcher will be improved
- very credible measures to allow the researcher to achieve a position in academic research but also outside academia
- clear and realistic publication plan to target high impact journals
- clear plan to present the results at conferences
- clear plan for how the research results will be presented to policymakers and regulatory authorities
- very detailed communication plan and public engagement strategy
- ambitious and continuous communication activities
- very convincing exploitation plan
- very clear scientific impact of the research
- clear societal and economic impact of the research

### What did the reviewers highlight as weaknesses in Criterion 2 – Impact?

- N/A

## Part B1 (10 pages)

### Criterion 3 – Implementation (Weight: 20.00%, ~ 2 pages)

### **3.1 Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to WPs** **(1.5 pages)**

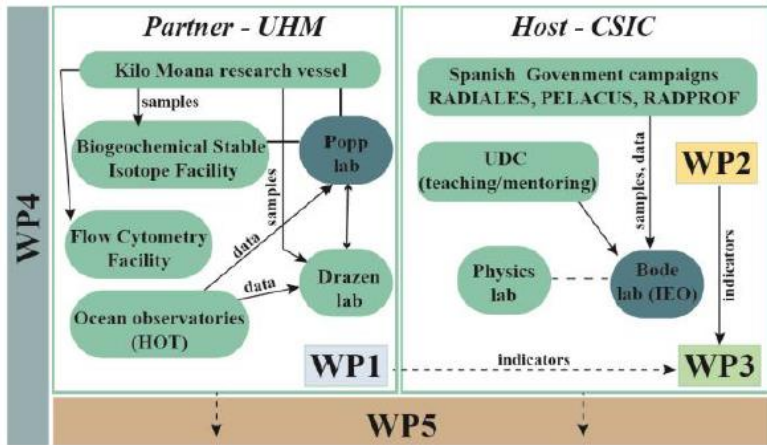
List WPs, deliverables (DMP, CDP, etc.) and milestones. Illustrate the workflow of your project in a figure\*.

Include a Gantt chart with WPs, tasks, deliverables and milestones as a figure or a table.

Risk management: identify potential risks (administrative and scientific), explain mitigation measures and contingency plans.

Better use a table to include this information.

Explain whether you will receive institutional project management support.

[illegible]

# Part B1 (10 pages)

## Criterion 3 – Implementation (Weight: 20.00%, ~ 2 pages)

### 3.2 Quality and capacity of the host institutions and participating organisations, including hosting arrangements (0.5 pages)

Rank participant institutions within your field of study in relation to their scientific production, teaching experience, etc. Mention whether they received recognitions for excellence.

Describe the group/department where you will be integrated. Mention their previous experience on assisting awardees of EC grants.

Refer to potential support received from institutional offices for hosting arrangements.

*3.2 Quality and capacity of the host institutions and participating organisations, including hosting arrangements.* The **UHM** is a high-impact university in the US, considered a **global leader in earth and environmental sciences**, consistently ranked among the top 15 research universities internationally (“**R1**” category, Carnegie Foundation), and the 37<sup>th</sup> among US public universities in research expenditures (NSF). The *Office of*

### Criterion 3 - implementation

Score: **5.00** (Threshold: 0 / 5.00 , Weight: 20.00% )

#### What did the reviewers highlight as strengths in Criterion 3 – Implementation?

- precise work plan that is of good quality as it is clear in its deliverables and milestones
- very good time allocated to the different tasks
- **complete and consistent Gantt chart**
- basic yet realistic risk assessment, with a good contingency plan
- high quality of hosting arrangements
- sufficient quality and capacity of participating institutions
- proper infrastructure, all necessary equipment and facilities
- **good experience in hosting MSCA fellows**
- stimulating research environment
- assistance of international student service with all logistical arrangements

#### What did the reviewers highlight as weaknesses in Criterion 3 –Implementation?

- N/A

# Part B2

## 4. CV of the researcher (indicative length 5 pages)

Find mine at <https://rgarciaseoane.weebly.com/>

Don't be modest!

## 5. Capacity of the Participating Organisation(s)

### 5.1 Template table: Overview of Participating Organisations (1 pages)

| Organisation role  | PIC       | Legal Entity Short Name | Academic organisation (Y/N) | Country | Name of Supervisor |
|--|-----------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|---------|--------------------|
| Beneficiary  | 999991722 | CSIC                    | Y                           | SPAIN   | Antonio Bode       |
| Associated partner for outgoing phase (mandatory for GF) | 961458472 | UHM                     | Y                           | USA     | Brian N. Popp      |

### 5.2 Template table: Capacity of the Participating Organisations (2 pages: 1 for the host=beneficiary, 0.5 for the partner)

| Beneficiary: Spanish National Research Council + CSIC + Spain |  |
|---|--|
| General description   | <p>The Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) is the largest public institution dedicated to research in Spain and the 4<sup>th</sup> largest in the UE. The CSIC leads the scientific production of Spain, with a very high percentage of publications in frontline journals (&gt;70% in Q1). In 2021 the CSIC received the HR Excellence in Research logo. Regarding Knowledge Transfer, the CSIC is the top institution in Spain in patent generation (85 applications in 2021). Attached to the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation, the CSIC play a key role in scientific and technological policy in Spain and around the world. It carries out research, innovation and training in all fields of knowledge, distributed in three global areas: Life, Society and Matter. For this purpose, it has &gt;11,000 employees (of which almost 4,000 are research staff) distributed in 121 research institutes. Additionally, it counts with three Nacional Reference Centres (IEO, INIA and IGME). In particular, the Spanish Institute of Oceanography (IEO) is the largest public institution in Spain devoted to the research on marine science, especially in relation to scientific knowledge of the oceans, sustainability of fishing resources and the marine environment. It has a wide geographical coverage with central services in Madrid and 9 coastal oceanographic centers (one in A Coruña, Galicia). The staff is around 600 people, being 80% of them devoted to research activities.</p> |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Previous and current involvement in EU-funded research and training programmes/actions/projects | <p>In addition, CSIC is a leader in obtaining and implementing R&amp;I projects funded by the European Union (EU) as well as by national, foreign and international public and private entities. In <b>Horizon Europe</b> (2021-2027), it achieved a total of 98 projects as of February 2022 (coordinated 5). These include 4 MSCA-SE-2021, 5 MSCA-SE-2022, 12 MSCA-DN-2021, 18 MSCA-DN-2022, MSCA-PF-2021, and 35 MSCA-PF-2022. In <b>Horizon 2020</b> (2014-2020), it was ranked as the 1<sup>st</sup> organisation in Spain and the 3<sup>rd</sup> in general, by the number of actions. During H2020, it was granted a total of 891 projects (coordinated 82), with a total EU financial contribution of 382M EUR, including 267 MSCA actions. In 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme, CSIC has signed 718 actions (coordinated 97), including 47 ERC projects and 179 individual MSCA. In <b>ERC programme</b>, CSIC has signed 120 projects as a host institution. In addition, it presents a large participation in other EU programmes, achieving 38 projects under the <b>LIFE Programme</b> (2014-2020) and 61 projects in the <b>INTERREG</b> programmes, mainly POCTEP, SUDOE, POCTEFA, MED, ATLANTIC or MAC. Moreover, CSIC has designed the <b>JAE programme</b> to train future researchers and generate human resources in the Spanish and European scientific/technological systems. Regarding international collaboration, the CSIC has 293 agreements in force with foreign entities, mainly universities and research organisations. Its main partners are in Europe, South America and Central America. The CSIC counts with several departments with <i>extensive experience giving support to MSCA fellows</i>: <i>Unit of International Projects, European Programmes Department, International Grants Justification Service, Vice-Presidency for Knowledge Transfer Office, CSIC Training Office, CSIC Press Office, Digital.CSIC</i>, etc.</p> |
|---|--|

# Part B2

## 6. Additional ethics information

### Ethics Self-Assessment (see HE template, include in Part A of the proposal)

## 7. Additional information on security screening

## 8. Environmental considerations in light of the MSCA Green Charter

The project *PelCon* will strive to adhere to the *MSCA Green Charter* principles and objectives, promoting the sustainable implementation and minimizing environmental impact in its research activities, in line with the European Green Deal, the United Nation's 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and complying with the Do Not Significant Harm (DNSH) principle.

→ **Researcher related measures.** I commit myself to:

- **Reduce, Reuse and Recycle:** I will reduce to a minimum the amount of paper used to create brochures and posters during outreach activities, and reuse them when possible, although I will preferably use digital tools for these activities. I will recycle consumable items such as paper and cardboard, glass, plastic, etc. I will reduce and reuse as many consumables as possible during laboratory work. For instance, I will reuse Pasteur pipettes, automatic pipettes with glass tips and volumetric syringes, and will reduce the use automatic pipettes with single-use plastic tips. I will minimize the production of waste and harmful substances, and sorting, reusing and recycling waste reagents unavoidably produced because of the project.
- **Green Purchasing:** I will reuse, borrow and, when not possible, promote green purchasing for all project-related materials.
- **Teleconferencing tools:** I will use digital tools as a complement to physical mobility to reduce emission of green-house gases during unnecessary travel. For instance, I will attend online conferences when attending in person is not strictly necessary (e.g. at the Goldschmidt and ESA conferences). Also I will reduce physical mobility during the outgoing phase in the US, attending conferences and events in the country. Similarly, I will reduce physical mobility during the incoming phase in Spain, attending conferences and congresses in Europe. I will promote the use of teleconferencing for meetings with the supervisors and stakeholders.
- **Sustainable Energy:** I will promote the use of sustainable, renewable forms of energy, when possible, and monitor and seek to reduce energy and water consumption in the context of this project. I will preferably use sustainable transportation means when attending conferences and events to reduce emission of green-house gases. I will preferably stay at environmental-friendly accommodations (e.g. Ecolabel/EMAS hotels) when attending conferences and events.
- **Awareness on Environmental Sustainability:** I will promote awareness on environmental sustainability during outreach, communication and dissemination activities, including on social media. I will focus on sustainability issues arising from this project (e.g. sustainability of marine resources) but also general sustainability initiatives (e.g. the European Green Deal, the UN SDGs, EU Missions).

→ **Institutional related measures.** The research organizations involved in the implementation of this project (CSIC and UHM) will endorse the MSCA Green Charter by:

- Reducing the use/recycling consumable items such as paper and cardboard, glass, plastic, etc.
- Providing me the necessary infrastructure and support for teleconferencing and hybrid conferencing when required.
- Supporting me with reusable material and human resources to develop awareness on environmental sustainability during outreach activities.
- Providing me the necessary environmental training through the CSIC Personal Training Plan and the UHM – Environmental Health & Safety Office.
- Complying with the DNSH principle during research campaigns.

In conclusion, we are committed to ensuring that *PelCon* not only contributes to scientific progress but also respects and protects our environment.

## 9. Required for Global Fellowships only: Letter(s) of commitment from associated partners (hosting the of outgoing phase)



## Dr. Rita García Seoane

Postdoctoral Researcher  
(MSCA Fellow, 2024-2027)

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