

# PhD in Barcelona (Spain): Understanding Public Perceptions and Innovating Communication in Cancer Research

## Job information:

**Organisation/Company:** Universitat Pompeu Fabra

**Department:** Department of Medicine and Life Sciences

**Research Field:** Science Communication/Cancer

**Researcher Profile:** First Stage Researcher (R1)

**Positions:** PhD position

**Country:** Spain

**Application Deadline:** 10 Dec 2024 - 23:59 (Europe/Madrid)

**Type of Contract:** MSCA PhD

**Job Status:** Not Applicable

**Offer Starting Date:** 13 Nov 2024

**Is the job funded through the EU Research Framework Programme?** Yes, Funded by an MSCA Network

**Is the Job related to a staff position within a Research Infrastructure?** No

## Offer description:

The Science, Communication and Society Studies Centre at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF) is looking to add a science communicator to our team to carry out his/her doctoral thesis (**3-year PhD position**) in one of the centre's research projects, focusing on understanding perceptions, innovating communication and fostering inclusivity in Cancer research. The selected candidate will join the Biomedicine doctoral program at Pompeu Fabra University, within the specific line of research of science communication.

This PhD position is part of the Mac4Me Doctoral Network.

### About the Mac4Me doctoral network:

The Mac4Me Doctoral Network adopts an innovative, multidisciplinary and cross-sectional approach, with a unique and dedicated research training programme to equip young researchers with scientific knowledge and transferable skills that are essential for today's great demand in both academic and non-academic sectors.

Mac4Me aims to understand the tumour cell-immune host interactions at the metastatic site. We will use innovative animal-free organ-on-chip systems, that recapitulate early metastasis formation of brain, bone and liver. The retrieved knowledge from the preclinical models will be integrated with data from established clinical metastases and AI machine-learning algorithms will be applied to identify new immune targets. Mac4Me will align with patients and the general public from the very beginning thereby bringing societal expectations and patient needs into the centre of the project to pave the way for new standards for shared decision-making and acceptable healthcare solutions.

Mac4Me consist of a multidisciplinary team of academic and non-academic partners across multiple countries in Europe. The PhD candidate will work in close collaboration with the other candidates through a highly diverse educational agenda of online and face-to-face meetings. Importantly, each PhD has planned short-stay research visits with our partners as an integral part of their PhD program. [More information about the network](#)

#### **Research details:**

Objectives: 1) Analyse the perception of the different actors involved (researchers, patients, industry) about their perceptions on cancer research and their application, especially on cancer metastasis. 2) Design innovative communication models on cancer metastasis research that are based on the results of perception surveys. 3) Analyse and propose effective communication actions aimed at population groups with special needs (e.g., women, disadvantaged populations, people with functional diversity, etc.)

Expected Results: 1) a better understanding of the varying levels of expectations, optimism, awareness, concerns, and opportunities among researchers, patients, and industry representatives regarding the potential of new advances in cancer research and their applications, along with identifying knowledge gaps and opportunities for collaboration. 2) the development of tailored and effective communication models for cancer research, informed by the insights gained from perception surveys, aimed at enhancing engagement and understanding among diverse stakeholders. 3) the identification and recommendation of targeted, culturally sensitive, and accessible communication strategies addressing the requirements of specific population groups with special needs, ensuring better engagement in cancer research.

#### **Job conditions:**

- The hired person will be under the supervision of Dr. Gema Revuelta and Dr. Carolina Llorente.
- During the development of the doctoral program, the selected person will gain experience in both quantitative and qualitative analysis techniques used in social research within the field of science communication and public perception of science (surveys, content analysis, focus groups, interviews, etc.).

**Work schedule:** Full-time (37,5 h/week)

**Work location:** Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Parc de Recerca Biomèdica de Barcelona (PRBB), Av. Dr. Aiguader 88, 08003, Barcelona.

**Approximate gross salary:** 33.421,38 eur. The final amount may vary slightly based on the individual's personal circumstances.

**Where to apply:** [ccs@upf.edu](mailto:ccs@upf.edu)

**Requirements:**

- Research field: Science Communication
- Education:
  - Bachelor's degree or an equivalent degree recognized by an accredited higher education institution, along with an official/university/research Master's degree or an equivalent qualification that allows the candidate to access a doctoral program. Alternatively, a bachelor's degree with 300 ECTS credits
  - Specialized training or equivalent experience in the science and health communication field
- Languages: English and Spanish with a minimum level of C1. More languages are highly valued.
- Knowledge of statistics, as well as qualitative and quantitative research methodologies specific to the field of science and health communication, will be considered an asset.
- Mobility Rule: researchers must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the recruiting beneficiary for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before their date of recruitment. Compulsory national service, short stays such as holidays, and time spent as part of a procedure for obtaining refugee status under the Geneva Convention are not taken into account.

**Selection process**

If you are interested, please send a short cover letter, your CV, the academic expedient and 2 recommendation letters with referees' contact information to [ccs@upf.edu](mailto:ccs@upf.edu) please indicate "Application to PhD in Science Communication" in the subject).

During the selection process, in addition to reviewing the submitted documents, CCS-UPF may request an online interview with some of the candidates.