Position Description

1. General information

Position reference	USAL-PF2: Nanotechnologies, Magnetic Separation, and Sustainable Technologies for Environmental Remediation
Research area	Developing and optimising magnetic separation and classification processes applicable to diverse environmental matrices (e.g., water, soil, industrial effluents, leachate) by using magnetic nanoparticles
Research fields	Chemical; Environmental Engineering
Supervisors	• Paulo Aloísio Edmond Reis da Silva Augusto (University of Salamanca) • Andy Ball (RMIT University)
Available research capabilities	Environmental and chemical engineering lab, Biomedical lab, Magnetic separators, magnets, Reactors for nanoparticles synthesis, customized autoclave system, advanced oxidation and extraction systems, centrifuges, ovens, US baths, Spectrophotometers, Digestion Reactors, Shakers, Anaerobic and Aerobic digesters, UV systems, etc. Analytical services of the university (SEM, TEM, XRD, Elemental analysis, etc.)
Find out more about the research groups	• https://aplicama.usal.es/en/Paulo_Augusto.html • https://produccioncientifica.usal.es/investigadores/57735/detalle • https://ceadir.usal.es • https://www.cicancer.org • https://www.rmit.edu.au/research/centres-collaborations/wett-research-centre • https://www.rmit.edu.au/research/centres-collaborations/multi-partner-collaborations/arc-training-centre-for-the-transformation-of-australias-biosolids-resource
Employing entity	University of Salamanca (USAL)
Seconding entity	RMIT University (RMIT)
Position funded by	• COFUND, Marie Sklodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA), Horizon Europe, European Union • USAL • RMIT
Foreseen start date	June 2026
Gross annual salary	37.000 EUR plus complements defined below

2. Expected Candidate Profile

The expected candidate profile for the position is as follows:

Educational qualifications:

- Advanced degree (PhD) in Chemical Engineering and Environmental Engineering.

Research experience:

- Proven track record of research in water and soil remediation, preferably in the chemical engineering, environmental engineering and biotechnological areas.
- Proven research experience on magnetic separation, magnetic classification and magnetic nanoparticle synthesis and applications.

Preferable experience and skills in (not mandatory):

- Research projects (as a team member or IP; submission and evaluation, etc.).
- Several water and soil treatment methods: adsorption, extraction, advanced oxidation, etc.
- Technology transfer (work in industry, patents, cooperation with industries, etc.).
- Dissemination and Communication of results (through scientific articles, conferences, social media, etc.).

3.Employment Conditions

The University of Salamanca offers a 36-month (3-year) postdoctoral full employment contract to work at its facilities in Salamanca, Spain as part of the AuSpire researcher training program, co-funded by the European Commission under the MSCA COFUND scheme. The total working hours per week are 37,5 and there is a probation period of 4 months.

The remuneration, in line with the European Commission rules for Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant holders, will consist of a gross annual salary of 37.000 EUR. The definite amount to be received by the Postdoctoral Fellow is subject to Spanish tax legislation.

The position will be jointly supervised by USAL (Employing Entity) and RMIT University (Seconding Entity), where the Postdoctoral Fellow must undertake a secondment at the premises of the latter in Melbourne, Australia for up to 12 months.

Additionally, the program includes compulsory annual in-person workshops at various locations across Spain, along with online training and networking activities.

Benefits include

- 4,000 EUR relocation for employment stipend to cover costs associated with taking up employment (flights, visa, insurance, etc.), to be distributed monthly as a top-up to the gross salary.[1]
- 9,000 EUR relocation for secondment stipend to cover compulsory project-related travel and accommodation costs (flights, visa, insurance, accommodation, etc.).[1]
- 3,000 EUR travel stipend to cover flights and accommodation for participating in compulsory AuSpire training and networking events in Spain over the 3 years.[1]

[1] The definitive amount to be received by the Postdoctoral Fellow may be subject to Spanish tax legislation.

- 314 EUR monthly family allowance offered to candidates who meet the criteria.[1] [2]
- Becoming a Marie Sklodowska-Curie fellow and be invited to join the Marie Curie Alumni Association.
- Spanish Social Security coverage.
- Sick leave.
- Parental leave
- 22 days paid holiday leave
- 6 personal leave days
- Research staff at USAL may also request other types of leave (some paid and others unpaid or partially paid) for various reasons. Conditions for each of these can be found at: https://www.usal.es/files/vacaciones_permisos_licencias_pdi.pdf
- Access to all research and training facilities at University of Salamanca.

[2] According to MSCA-COFUND requirements, Fellows with family obligations are entitled to a family allowance (i.e. persons linked to Postdoctoral Fellow by (i) marriage, or (ii) a relationship with equivalent status to a marriage recognised by the legislation of the country or region where this relationship was formalised; or (iii) dependent children who are actually being maintained by the Postdoctoral Fellow).