

## **Microplastic distribution along the water column**

### **Project description**

Microplastic pollution is one of the main environmental threats to our aquatic ecosystems. These anthropogenic pollutants ranging from 5mm to microns have been ubiquitously recorded worldwide and across different environmental matrixes. Contrary to the assumption that plastics float at sea, higher microplastic concentrations have been found in the seabed sediments, suggesting this environmental matrix as final deposition and accumulation area for these pollutants. Notwithstanding the previous scientific efforts, our knowledge is still limited on the transport of microplastics within the water column and the fluxes reaching the sediments.

This master's thesis aims to characterize microplastics from water samples collected in the Western Mediterranean and to investigate the potential transport processes that influence the distribution of microplastics within the water column. The thesis will integrate literature review and laboratory work (≈4 hours/day).

### **Requirements**

It is highly recommended a Bachelor's Degree in Sciences (Environmental Sciences, Marine Sciences, Biology, Chemistry, Geology...).

### **Contact:**

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