

### Call for a MSc student in Environmental Studies 2022-23

**Title:** Promoting a transdisciplinary co-creation process to design nature-based solutions

**Specialisation to which it is directed:** Global change and Ecological economics

**Research context:** restorative Nature-based Solutions (NbS) have been proposed as a key tool to address urban challenges through the restoration and rehabilitation of (peri)urban ecosystems to provide environmental, social and economic benefits to advance towards more liveable, resilient and inclusive cities (European Commission 2015). NBS effectiveness relies on a transdisciplinary collaboration of actors to design, implement and monitor locally appropriate NbS. For this purpose, the Horizon 2020 INTERLACE project has developed an assessment framework to support cities in their processes of decision-making regarding NBS design, implementation and monitoring. The city of Granollers (Catalonia, Spain) will implement the INTERLACE NbS assessment framework to co-design two superblocks incorporating different types of NbS.

**Description and objectives of the MSc thesis:** The MSc thesis will rely on the H2020 INTERLACE project. The student will support the transdisciplinary co-creation process of designing two superblocks in the city of Granollers (Catalonia, Spain) which will incorporate several NbS. The objectives of the thesis are:

- (1) Develop an innovative transdisciplinary co-creation process to design NbS integrating different types of stakeholders.
- (2) Evaluate the implementation of the INTERLACE NbS assessment framework in the city of Granollers. Several methods will be used to conduct this evaluation process which will consist of:
  - 1) a protocol to systematically describe the different steps and processes of implementation of the assessment framework focusing on tracking the what, how, who and when; and
  - 2) semi-structured interviews conducted to stakeholders involved in the co-design process with the aim to have a subjective evaluation of the processes and steps of co-designing the assessment framework focusing on what worked and what did not and why certain decisions were made.

**Requisites of the student:** The candidate should be a student of the Master in Interdisciplinary Studies in Environmental, Economic and Social Sustainability (MEISAES, ICTA-UAB). She/he must be fluent in Catalan and English.

**Technical details:** The thesis will be supervised by Dr Sara Maestre Andrés (ICTA) and Dr Johannes Langemeyer (ICTA). We expect that a revised version of the MSc Thesis could be submitted to a peer-reviewed journal for publication.

**If you are interested on writing your MSc thesis on this topic, please contact**  
[sara.maestre@uab.cat](mailto:sara.maestre@uab.cat); [johannes.langemeyer@uab.cat](mailto:johannes.langemeyer@uab.cat)

**Literature:**

European Commission, DG Research & Innovation (2015). Towards an EU research and innovation agenda policy agenda for nature-based solutions & re-naturing cities: Final report of the Horizon 2020 expert group 'Nature-based solutions and re-naturing cities'.