

Call for expressions of interest

4-yr PhD contract

EXPLORING THE LINKS BETWEEN ECOLOGICAL PROCESSES AND EVOLUTIONARY RADIATIONS OF THE NEW WORLD

Start: Early (February-March) 2026

Funding: Ayudas para contratos predoctorales para la formación de doctores (Agencia Estatal de Investigación, Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación)

Host institution

Doñana Biological Station (EBD) is a public research institute dedicated to the study of Ecology, Evolution and the Conservation of Biodiversity. It belongs to the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) and it is located in Seville, a sunny and picturesque city with one of the largest historic centers in Europe.

Project

BURSTS focuses on the study of the diversification process of one of the world's largest groups of birds, the tyrant flycatchers and allies. This continental radiation spans the Americas and, despite its size and contribution to Neotropical avifauna, has been understudied from a macroevolutionary perspective. By evaluating the relative roles of geography, natural selection, and sexual selection in this exceptionally successful group, BURSTS aims to advance theory on adaptive radiations. The PhD candidate will analyze the evolution of two key traits (song and foraging strategy) and their importance in the family's diversification dynamics.



What we offer

- Fully funded 4-yr PhD contract (grant PID2024-155134NB-I00).
- Well-structured PhD study plan, including specialized courses, international conferences, and research stays.
- An international, vibrant and intellectually stimulating environment at EBD-CSIC.

Eligibility

- MSc In Biology, Ecology, Environmental Sciences, or a related field.
- Strong interest in Ornithology, Macroevolution and Modern Phylogenetic Comparative Methods. Previous knowledge is desirable but not required.
- Experience programming in the R environment and data analysis.
- Self-motivation, enthusiasm, good organizational skills, and the ability to work both independently and collaboratively.

Application procedure

We are prescreening candidates ahead of the official call (to be launched in October; www.aei.gob.es; Ayudas para contratos predoctorales para la formación de doctores).



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Doñana**



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Departamento de Ecología y Evolución

Submit a single PDF to Vicente García-Navas (vicente.garcianavas@gmail.com) with a motivation letter describing your interests, CV, a short description of past and present work, and contact information for two referees by 30 September 2025.