

## Expression of Interest-UPM Supervisor

### *Marie Skłodowska Curie Action–Postdoctoral Fellowship 2026 (MSCA-PF-2026)*

<b>Supervisor Name</b>	María A. Ayllón
<b>Email</b>	mariaangeles.ayllon@upm.es
<b>Department /Institute / Centre Name/Location</b>	Centro de Biotecnología y Genómica de Plantas (CBGP)-Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (UPM)
<b>Research Area</b>	Life Sciences (LIF)
<b>Research team/group</b>	<p>The CBGP is a joint research institute of the UPM and the INIA/CSIC. Since 2017 CBGP is a Severo Ochoa Center of Excellence and has been recently awarded for the period 2022-2025. The strategic objectives are the generation of fundamental knowledge on the genetic and molecular bases of key biological and physiological processes of plants and plant-interacting organisms, and on genomics of plants and plant-interacting organisms. The CBGP has attracted many talented scientists since its foundation, including tenure-track positions, ERC Starting Grants researchers, Comunidad de Madrid Atracción de Talento Fellows, and Beatriz de Galindo and Ramon y Cajal scientists.</p> <p>The group “Virus-Fungus-Plant Interaction” led by Dr. María A. Ayllón, expert in plant and fungal viruses, includes an assistant professor specialist in fungi and three postdoctoral researchers, with bioinformatics and biotechnological skills, working in different aspects of mycoviruses and the relation with the fungal host, and one undergraduate student.</p> <p>Website: <a href="https://www.cbgp.upm.es/index.php/es/informacion-cientifica/interaction-virus-fungus-plant">https://www.cbgp.upm.es/index.php/es/informacion-cientifica/interaction-virus-fungus-plant</a></p>
<b>Keywords</b>	Mycovirus, fungus, molecular interaction, biological and biotechnological control.
<b>Research Focus</b>	The long-term research goal of the “Virus–Fungus–Plant Interaction” group is to unravel the molecular mechanisms underlying interactions between mycoviruses and plant-pathogenic fungi, and to understand how these interactions influence fungal pathogenicity and virulence in plants. To achieve this, we investigate the diversity and evolution of mycoviruses to better understand their different lifestyles and modes of interaction with fungal hosts. Ultimately, our research seeks to develop novel biological and biotechnological tools (based on natural or synthetic mycoviruses) for the biocontrol of plant-pathogenic fungi, supporting the development of innovative, sustainable alternatives to chemical pesticides, enhancing agricultural resilience, and minimizing both resistance and environmental impact. Although the group works with various biological systems, our main model is the necrotrophic ascomycete fungus <i>Botrytis cinerea</i> and its associated mycoviruses.
<b>Applications: documents to be submitted and deadlines</b>	<p>Please send the following documents to the supervisor: CV, letter of motivation, letter of references.</p> <p>Deadline: 2026 April 8<sup>th</sup></p>