



UCA | Universidad  
de Cádiz

IFAPA  
Instituto de Investigación y  
Formación Agraria y Pesquera

Junta  
de Andalucía

We are pleased to announce the opening of a contract position for the development of a Ph.D. thesis as part of a research project titled "Genomic characterisation of Andalusian wine grape varieties to trace their domestication history and future genetic improvement (GENOVINES)." This project aims to unravel the genetic makeup of Andalusian wine grape varieties, shed light on their domestication history, and pave the way for future genetic improvement in the context of climate change. The duration of the contract is set to four years.

#### Project Objectives:

1. Genetic origin: Investigate the genetic origins of the main autochthonous grapevine varieties of the Iberian Peninsula, with a focus on Andalusia, through the analysis of genomic data.
2. Signature of human-mediated selection: Identify signatures of human-mediated selection in ancient local varieties and trace the presence of wild grapevine genes in their genomes. Detect and study genomic regions transferred from wild to cultivated vines.
3. Agronomic traits: Identify the genes responsible for the agronomic traits observed in the extensive *Rancho de la Merced* grapevine collection, the second largest diversity panel in Spain, located in the historic Jerez winemaking region. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the genes activated or deactivated during the ripening process.

We are seeking a highly motivated candidate with a keen interest in the fields of evolutionary biology, genomics, bioinformatics, statistics, and oenology.

#### Minimum Requirements:

- Bachelor's and Master's degrees in a related field.
- Previous experience in the R statistical environment.
- B2 level of English
- Possession of a valid driver's license.
- Willingness to travel within Spain and abroad for meetings and national/international conferences

The PhD thesis, set to start between 1st September and 1st December, presents a remarkable opportunity to be developed at the University of Cádiz — Puerto Real Campus Site—. The Cádiz province not only boasts a delightful Mediterranean climate but also embraces a rich winemaking heritage centered around the Jerez region, which constantly seeks new avenues for growth and innovation. In addition to its historical winemaking industry, this environment offers professionals an attractive work-life balance amidst its scenic beauty. From the stunning Atlantic coastline to the charming "pueblos blancos" countryside.

Interested candidates who meet the minimum requirements are invited to submit their CV to [jlblancopastor@gmail.com](mailto:jlblancopastor@gmail.com).

We look forward to receiving your expressions of interest. The deadline for submission is June 27th.