2023 SSI Fellowship Application

EspañOLS: empowering Open Science ambassadors in Spanish-speaking communities

Melissa Black, PhD





EspañOLS: empowering Open Science ambassadors in Spanish-speaking communities

Open Life Science (UK)

A mentoring and training program for people interested in applying open principles in their work and becoming Open Science ambassadors in their communities.

MetaDocencia (Latin America)

An international community empowering regional scientific, technical and research capacity through open, reusable and accessible educational resources.

The problem

High-quality Open Science resources, events, networks and training initiatives are often only found in English. Language is a prevalent barrier among Spanish-speaking and Latin American scientists.

Our approach

To localise OLS's mentorship and training structure and enable a series of cohorts exclusively in Spanish, leveraging MetaDocencia's extended network to reach Latin American Open Science communities.

Why I want to be a fellow: building the infrastructure for EspañOLS

Technical infrastructure

Supporting the translation of Open Life Science materials into Spanish, making them available on OLS's website

- Mentor and mentee training materials (text documents, slides, surveys, videos)
- Call and meeting templates
- Presentation guidelines
- Structure to promote the cohorts and their results, online and offline

Human infrastructure

Finding and training Spanish speaking mentors and experts

- Identifying Latin American individuals and groups with an interest in Open Science
- Nurturing local communities of practice
- Curating local references (articles, books, websites)
- Gathering experts to share their local and global experiences

Support for fully Spanish-speaking cohorts

OLS cohorts are large (20-30 projects on average) and Latin American folks interested in Open Science are numerous, vet scattered.

After a successful experience in OLS's 5th cohort, the notable demand for new Spanish-speaking groups will be addressed.

We will also be leveraging The Turing Way's localisation experience by collaborating with Andrea Sánchez-Tapia.





Strengthening connections between LatAm and the UK

Sustainability and collaboration

Community engagement for localisation and context integration of the OLS curriculum

Supporting representation and leadership from a truly global community of researchers

Capacity building with diversity

Mutual learning through intentionally deepened research collaboration between the UK and LatAm

Mobilising Spanish-speaking researchers to define their own curriculum goals and approaches to open science awareness

Extending community participation

Visibility for marginalized researchers: decolonising science and promoting ethical research

Culturally diverse software and data science lead to better research output