



Doctoral Student / Research Assistant

Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum (RGZM)
Leibniz Research Institute for Archaeology

Closing Date: 15 November 2020

Interview Date: End of November 2020

Start of Contract: 1 February 2021



Römisch-Germanisches
Zentralmuseum
Leibniz-Forschungsinstitut
für Archäologie

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INTRODUCTION

The Emmy-Noether fellow, Niklas Hausmann, has been awarded funding to host a doctoral student/research assistant at the Leibniz Research Institute for Archaeology in Mainz. The project "SEAFRONT: Short-term and Extreme climates causing Agricultural risks at the FRontier Of the Neolithic Transition" is funded with 1.6 million euros over 6 years by the German Research Foundation (DFG) under its Emmy-Noether junior research group program. The project aims to study high-resolution climate records from mollusc shells found within important archaeological sites in the Mediterranean during the Mesolithic and Neolithic period.

As part of this project, you will be carrying out the collection of modern reference samples close to the archaeological sites, the geochemical analysis of these samples together with the analysis of archaeological shells from Franchthi Cave. The project allows for a continuation of the employment after 3 years, given that the professional preconditions for postdoctoral research are met.

JOB DESCRIPTION

At a glance

Salary TV-L E 13 (annual gross salary ~ 50,700 €)

Hours of work Full time (39 hours per week)

Contract type Fixed term (up to 36 months)

Based at RGZM, Ernst-Ludwig-Platz 2, 55116 Mainz

Mollusc shell remains are abundant in the archaeological record and one of the best preserved components of past food processing and consumption. Many molluscs are also exceptional climate records, which built their carbonate shells in daily to subdaily increments. The geochemical composition of this carbonate can be linked to temperature and salinity changes in the environment.

Working with experts in the fields of shell climate records and Neolithic Archaeology, you will compare climatic data from modern and archaeological shells in context with the archaeological records found on site.

For much of the Early Neolithic in the Mediterranean, climate has played an important role in the spread of agriculture into new landscapes. For these people a predictable climate could have been essential in the development of new settlements.

Our shell records will be able to tell us how predictable the climate at that time was and whether extreme climatic events would have been a large risk for farmers, that prevented the successful founding of new settlements and with it the spread of the Neolithic.

Main purpose of the role

- To undertake research work, provide support to research within the overall programme and assist with the day to day operation of the project.

Key responsibilities

(Role holders will be required to undertake some or all of the duties below):

- To adhere to best practices in research and research ethics.
- To undertake collaborative research as part of a team, investigating an area of research as described in the project description.
- To work and collaborate with students and other researchers on the project as well as external collaborators and organisations.
- To contribute to the development of the research project, as well as plan their own activities within the project's framework.
- To undertake background reading and accumulate existing knowledge on the subject, and undertake primary lab and field-based research.
- To work with the PI to present findings at internal meetings, with collaborators and the research network and to participate in the dissemination of research externally at seminars, workshops and conferences.
- To work with the PI to disseminate academic outputs of the project, including writing articles, papers, reports or books as appropriate.
- To work with the PI on public engagement and impact of the project and dissemination of the project to wider audiences.
- To adhere to agreed timelines for the work and ensure that components of the project are completed on time.



THE RESEARCH MUSEUM

As a Leibniz Research Institute and Museum for Archaeology, the Römisch-Germanisches-Zentrum (RGZM) researches the material legacies of 2.6 million years of human history. The aim is to use archaeological finds and records to show and understand human behaviour and actions, human activity and thinking, and the development and change in societies.

The RGZM is active worldwide and has so far carried out successful and comprehensive research in various regions of Africa, Asia and Europe, with a geographical focus on Central and Southern Europe and the Mediterranean region. The unique concentration of archaeological, scientific, restoration and information technology skills combined with important workshops, laboratories and archives, enables object-oriented research to be carried out on the archaeology of the ancient world (Asia, Africa, Europe) from the beginnings of human history to the modern age. In five interdisciplinary research fields spanning the ages, fundamental questions of human history are examined, ranging from the evolution of our behaviour to complex social systems and human-environment relationships. In order to increase scientific knowledge, we combine the humanities and natural sciences with the fundamental inclusion of our restoration expertise in an interdisciplinary approach that links the different scientific cultures.

The Römisch-Germanisches-Zentrum (RGZM) was founded in 1852. It has been a member of the renowned Leibniz Association since 2002.

JOHANNES GUTENBERG UNIVERSITY MAINZ



Foto: ©Thomas Hartmann / JGU

THE UNIVERSITY

The RGZM has a strong collaboration with the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, which was originally founded in 1477 and today still strives to emulate the innovational spirit of its namesake: the promotion and introduction of new ideas, the use of knowledge to improve people's lives and encourage them to overcome the many boundaries they encounter daily.

With around 31,000 students from over 120 nations, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz (JGU) is one of the largest and most diverse universities in Germany. As the only German university of its size, nearly all of the institutions of JGU are located on one single campus near the city center, which is also home to four partner institutes involved in top-level non-university research: the Max Planck Institute for Chemistry (MPI-C), the Max Planck Institute for Polymer Research (MPI-P), the Helmholtz Institute Mainz (HIM) and the Institute of Molecular Biology (IMB).

As an open university, JGU offers a unique portfolio of information dissemination concepts that extend far beyond the scope of standard popular academic formats. Through its system of university governance, JGU makes sure that its members participate in the strategic planning and that outstanding academics get involved.

THE CITY AND THE REGION



The City of Mainz

The Lonely Planet guide describes Mainz as “filled with pretty pedestrian precincts and a savoir vivre dating from Napoleon's occupation (1797-1814)”. The history of Mainz (Mogontiacum) dates much farther back into the Roman period and much of this is still visible today.

But the Mainz of today has much to offer as well: It boasts culturally vibrant neighbourhoods along the Rhine river, a selection of theatres (to which students can get free access), live music venues and clubs. Mainz is exceptionally proud to be Germany's wine capital.

Housing and Schools

Whether you choose to live close to the city, in one of the surrounding villages or further afield, you will find a range of housing within comfortable distance of Mainz and the Museum, which is well connected via the train station “Römisches Theater” just outside the building.

Great Location

Mainz is extremely well connected to the Frankfurt airport (only 30 minutes by train) and major European cities (Paris, Brussels, Prague, Hamburg, Bern) reachable within 5 hours by car.

The Rhineland

At the banks of the river Rhine there are well developed hiking and cycling paths with many small hotels and restaurants making day trips and longer rides a pleasant experience.

Mainz is a corner point of this picturesque landscape and the city itself contains many cycling roads to ease the travel within it.



Apply now!

You will need to submit your completed application by midnight (CET) on 15. November 2020!

Send your application to:

applications@seafont-project.com

What will I need?

You will need:

- your CV
- a letter describing how you meet the requirements of the job
- 2 reference letters
- 1-page research proposal

The Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum, Leibniz Research Institute for Archaeology promotes equal opportunities for women and men as well as the compatibility of family and work. Since 2016, the RGZM has been certified by audit berufundfamilie.

The RGZM is committed to employing more physically impaired individuals. Persons with severe disabilities will be given preferential consideration if they otherwise have the same professional and personal qualifications (please enclose proof).

Help and assistance

Direct any informal queries to:

Dr. Niklas Hausmann (hausmann@rgzm.de)



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