

Job posting

Type of position

scientific
administrative

Target group

graduates
post docs
other

Title

PhD position (50%)
“Reconstructions of paleo-environmental changes and human activity in the Lone and Ammer Valley of the past 50,000 years”

Institution

The Senckenberg Gesellschaft für Naturforschung (SGN) is a member of the Leibniz Association and is based in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. SGN conducts natural history research with almost 800 employees and research institutions in six federal states, and is also custodian of the UNESCO World Heritage Site at Messel. At the site of Tübingen in Baden Württemberg the Senckenberg Centre for Human Evolution and Palaeoenvironment (HEP) offers historical flair in a university town with numerous local recreation possibilities.

Position

The Human Occupation and Palaeoenvironment Drilling Project is offering a 3-year position. The successful applicant will work on the drill core material from the Ammer and Lone valleys in south-western Germany using geochemical, geophysical and micropalaeontological (in particular pollen and diatoms) methods in order to uncover palaeoenvironmental and paleoclimatic changes before, during and after the archaeological finds discovered from near by excavation sites. The PhD student will closely work together with collaboration partners working on sub-projects on the drill core material. Participation in field campaigns as well as presentations at workshops and conferences and the preparation of manuscripts for scientific publications are expected.

Salary and benefits are according to a half-time public service position in Germany (TV-L E 13, 50%). The contract should start on August 1st, 2018 and will initially be limited until July 31st, 2021. The Senckenberg Gesellschaft für Naturforschung supports equal opportunity for men and women and women to apply. Equally qualified handicapped applicants will be given preference. The place of employment is in Tübingen, Germany. The employer is the Senckenberg Gesellschaft für Naturforschung.

Responsibilities

Southwestern Germany hosts a number of cave and a few open air sites, which have been repeatedly occupied by groups of hominins since at least the last interglacial. The current understanding, however, of the relationship between human occupation and landscape evolution in southwestern Germany relies on data coming almost exclusively from cave sites and

rock shelters. Paleo-environmental data, in particular paleo-vegetation, paleo-lake shores and hydro-balance studies useful for paleoclimate reconstruction are not available for such an archaeologically well-known region whose models of hominin occupation, depopulation, extinction and the emergence of new cultures rely mostly on paleo-climatic assumptions. New drill cores close to excavation sites now provide the highly necessary paleo-environmental frame work to help evaluating the relationship between climate and human occupation, depopulation and resettlements since the last 50,000 years.

Requirements

- M.Sc. in geosciences or a related field
- experiences with sedimentology, plant macro remains, pollen and/or diatom analyses and palaeoenvironmental reconstructions
- interest in working on topics regarding human evolution and palaeoenvironmental reconstructions
- strong English communication skills and proficiency in writing
- willingness to participate in field work in southern Germany

Application procedure (deadline etc.)

Please send your application, mentioning the reference of this job offer (ref. #10-18004) before June 26th, 2018 by e-mail (attachment in a single pdf document) and including a cover letter detailing research interests and experience, a detailed CV and copies of your certification and contact information for two references to the following address.

Contact

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