

1 Doctoral and 2 Post-Doctoral positions

PhD in zooarchaeology and isotope analyses (2 + 2 years) – the focus on this doctoral project is to combine zooarchaeological research with isotope analyses on animal remains from post-medieval Madeira (under the supervision of Dr. Ben Gruwier and Prof. Christophe Snoeck). The aim is to understand how and to what extent, Portuguese settlers were able to transform a previously uninhabited insular ecosystem.

Essential

- Master in Archaeological Science, (geo-)chemistry, geology, biology (or similar)
- Experience in zooarchaeology
- Highly motivated and eager to be part of an international team
- Eager to travel across Europe and to work in the labs
- Team spirit and excellent communication skills (B2 English level or above)

Desired

- Experience in isotope analyses
- Driving licence

Two Post-doctoral researchers in isotope analyses of human remains (2 + 1 years)

PD1 – This PD will be responsible for the isotope analyses (C, N, O & Sr) of animal and human remains from High and Late Medieval contexts from Belgium as part of the Make-Up of The Cities project led by Prof. Bart Lambert. PD2 – The main task is to support Prof. Christophe Snoeck in different isotope analyses by MC-ICP-MS as well as in analytical developments with a focus on S, Sr, Nd and Pb isotopic systems. Your application will be considered for both positions.

Essential

- PhD in Archaeological Science, (geo-)chemistry, biology (or similar) and significant experience in biology, chemistry and geochemistry of archaeological human remains (unburned and/or cremated)
- Extensive experience in isotope analyses of H, C, N, O, S, Sr, Pb & Nd (i.e. carrying out all the steps from sampling and pre-treatment to measurements and interpretation)
- Highly motivated and eager to be part of an international team
- Eager to travel across Europe and to work in the labs
- Team spirit and excellent communication skills (B2 English level or above)

Desired

- PD1 - Experience with statistical analyses of large datasets as well as archaeology from High and Late Medieval period of Europe and a willingness to familiarize oneself with insights from historical research
- PD2 - Experience with tuning, maintaining, repairing MC-ICP-MS and in analytical developments on MC-ICP-MS
- Driving licence

The candidates will be based at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) in the Archaeology, Environmental Changes and Geo-Chemistry (AMGC) Research Group where a large analytical arsenal is available (3 IRMS, LA-ICP-MS, MC-ICP-MS, FTIR, μ XRF, μ CT).

TO APPLY

To apply, send your complete academic CV, the e-mail addresses of two potential referees, as well as a cover letter (max 1 page in English) explaining how you could benefit the research of the BB-LAB (www.bb-lab.be) before 8 November 2024 to Prof. Christophe Snoeck (csnoeck@vub.be). Interviews will take place at the end of November with a desired start date on 1 January or 1 February 2025. If you would like to receive more details about these positions, don't hesitate to contact Prof. C. Snoeck (csnoeck@vub.be).