

The SEAFRONT Project
is looking for a

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

Closing Date:
5th November 2023
Interview Date:
Mid to Late November



LEIBNIZ-ZENTRUM
FÜR ARCHÄOLOGIE

DFG

THE POSITION

The Emmy-Noether fellow Niklas Hausmann has been awarded funding to host a postdoctoral research associate at the Leibniz-Zentrum für Archäologie in Mainz, Germany.



The project "**SEAFRONT: Short-term and Extreme climates causing Agricultural risks at the FRontier Of the Neolithic Transition**" is funded with 1.8 million euro over six 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.



Job Description

As part of this project, you will be carrying out the geochemical analysis of archaeological shells from Mediterranean sites such as Grotta d'Oriente, Grotta dell'Uzzo, Cyclop's Cave, and Haua Fteah. These analyses will be paired with the statistical analysis using R or equivalent of the palaeoclimatic and archaeological information.

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 Prehistoric Archaeology, you will help to build a high-resolution and bottom-up model of climatic influences on human life during the mid-Holocene.

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.

At a Glance

Salary	TV-L E 13 (annual gross salary > 50,000 €)
Hours of work	Full time (39 hours per week)
Contract type	Fixed term (up to 36 months)
Based at	Mainz (Ludwig-Lindenschmit-Forum 1)

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 undertake work, which may be as part of a research team, investigating a designated area of subject knowledge to promote further understanding.
- To contribute to the intellectual development of the project and plan own activities within the overall research effort.
- With the guidance of the project leader, to undertake a combination of literature searches / scholarly reading, desk- and lab-based research using specialist knowledge, techniques and / or instrumentation as required.
- To document work appropriately and in accordance with research best practice.
- To work closely with the project leader to prepare work for dissemination, presenting preliminary findings at meetings within the research network as appropriate.
- Under the guidance of the project leader, to assist in writing articles, papers, reports or books as appropriate.
- To participate in the dissemination of research findings internally and externally at seminars, workshops and conferences.
- To liaise and collaborate with students and researchers and relevant external contacts and organisations.
- To consider the public engagement and impact of the project and take appropriate steps to maximise these with the support of the research leader.
- To prioritise tasks within an agreed work schedule to ensure that the project(s) are delivered on time.

THE RESEARCH MUSEUM



As a Leibniz Research Institute and Museum for Archaeology, the Leibniz-Zentrum für Archäologie (LEIZA) researches the material legacies of 3 million years of human history. The aim is to use archaeological finds and records to show and understand human behavior and actions, human activity and thinking, and the development and change in societies.

The LEIZA 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 behavior 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 inter-disciplinary approach that links the different scientific cultures.

The Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum (RGZM) was founded in 1852. It has been a member of the renowned Leibniz Association since 2002. In January 2023 the name was changed to Leibniz-Zentrum für Archäologie (LEIZA).

THE UNIVERSITY



Photo: Thomas Hartmann / JGU

The LEIZA 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 (*Moguntiacum*) 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 5. November 2023!

Send your application to:
bewerbungen@leiza.de

Help and assistance

Direct any informal queries to:
Dr. Niklas Hausmann
(niklas.hausmann@leiza.de)

What will I need?

You will need:

- Cover letter describing activities and experience in the field of coastal archaeology/palaeoclimatology or similar (2 pages)
- CV
- Copy of doctoral certificate
- up to 3 relevant publications