



Full time (4-year) PhD positions for the study of Belgian human cremated bone collections

The Excellence of Science (EOS) framework funded the CRUMBEL Project (No. 30999782) to study the Belgian human cremated remains dating from the Neolithic to the Early-Medieval period using state of the art analytical and geochemical analyses. Recording the Belgian collections in a database including as much osteoarchaeological information represents a crucial part of this project.

Dr. Christophe Snoeck is the scientific coordinator of CRUMBEL, in charge of the daily project management. The funding is split between three universities (VUB, ULB and UGent) and the Royal Institute for Cultural Heritage (KIK-IRPA). As PI, Prof. Dries Tys administers this project from the VUB with the help of Prof. Guy De Mulder (UGent), Prof. Martine Vercauteren & Prof. Eugène Warmenbol (ULB) as well as Dr. Mathieu Boudin (KIK-IRPA) who will provide access to radiocarbon facilities.

The PhD's will be involved in the different parts of the project which include:

- Record museum collections and carry out the osteoarchaeological study of cremated remains
- Carry out analytical and geochemical analyses on cremated bone fragments (FTIR, XRF, C, O, Sr isotopes, etc.)
- Develop new methods for the study of cremated bone

All PhD's will take part in all aspects of the project, encouraging them to bridge the gap between archaeology and geochemistry. We encourage students from archaeology, archaeological science, biology, chemistry and geochemistry to apply for these positions. The PhD's will be based in Gent and/or Brussels (at VUB and/or ULB), though we expect all PhD's to move between the three universities as well as the KIK-IRPA during their PhD.

Selection criteria

Essential

- MA/MSc in archaeology, osteoarchaeology, archaeological science, biology and/or (geo)chemistry
- Highly motivated and eager to cross the boundaries between archaeology and science
- Team spirit and excellent communication skills (B2 English level or above)

Desired

- Experience on working with cremated bone
- Experience with archaeology from the Neolithic to early Medieval period of NW-Europe
- Lab work experience
- Knowledge of French and/or Dutch
- Driving licence

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 CRUMBEL project to Prof. D. Tys (dtys@vub.be) with Dr. C. Snoeck in cc (csnoeck@vub.be) before 12 February 2018. Interviews will take place early March in Brussels. If you would like to receive more details about the project, don't hesitate to contact Dr. C. Snoeck (csnoeck@vub.be).