

Job announcement ref. #10-24007

The Senckenberg Society for Nature Research (Senckenberg Gesellschaft für Naturforschung, SGN) was founded in 1817 and is one of the most important research institutions around biological diversity. At its 13 sites throughout Germany, scientists from over 40 nations conduct cutting-edge research on an international scale. At the site in Tübingen, Baden-Württemberg, the Senckenberg Centre for Human Evolution and Palaeoenvironment (SHEP) is located in a lively university town with historical flair and numerous local recreational opportunities.

The **Senckenberg Society for Nature Research**, headquartered in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, is seeking to recruit for the **Senckenberg Centre for Human Evolution and Palaeoenvironment (SHEP) in Tübingen**:

**Two Ph.D. Candidates (f/m/d) in
Zooarchaeology / Isotope Analysis
and
Zooarchaeology / Osseous Artifact Analysis
(part-time, 65%)**

Both positions are part of the German Research Foundation (DFG) funded project „From Ornaments to Ecosystems: Exploring Hominin-Mammoth Interactions in the Late Pleistocene of the Swabian Jura (Southern Germany)“.

The goal of this project is to analyse changes in hominin-mammoth interactions in the late Middle Palaeolithic through Gravettian (ca. 60,000 to 30,000 cal BP) of the Swabian Jura, within the context of sites in the Meuse-Rhine-Danube Corridor.

To do so, we will apply a multidisciplinary approach to test potential ecological and social/cultural feedback loops in the relationship between the two species. The core of our study will involve building a database of mammoth remains, zooarchaeological case studies, isotope analyses, and technological studies of artifacts made on mammoth bone and ivory.

We seek two enthusiastic Ph.D. candidates, one of whom will focus on ecological reconstructions of mammoth niches through carbon, oxygen, nitrogen, sulfur, and strontium isotopes, the other will analyse byproducts of osseous tool manufacture as well as formal tools and ornaments, in order to reconstruct the chaîne-opératoire of artifact production. Both candidates will be involved in database building, the taphonomic analysis of mammoth remains, and sample selection for isotope analyses, radiocarbon dating, and ZooMS.

The candidates are both expected to have experience in Palaeolithic archaeology, with a working knowledge of the European Middle and Upper Palaeolithic. Both should have an explicit interest in close collaboration between zooarchaeologists, isotope analysts, and osseous artifact specialists. Candidates should expect regular meetings between team members and a highly international working environment. Proficiency in English is required, and knowledge of German is beneficial. Both Ph.D. projects will result in cumulative (\geq three publication) dissertations.

Your tasks

Zooarchaeology / Isotope Analysis

- Zooarchaeological analysis of mammoth remains
- Screening samples for isotope and radiocarbon analyses
- Conducting lab work and interpreting isotope results
- Participation in EVEREST graduate research school
- Project synthesis (with Pis and other team members)
- Manuscript writing

Zooarchaeology / Osseous Artifact Analysis

- Zooarchaeological analysis of mammoth remains
- Screening samples for ZooMS and byproducts of bone and ivory working
- Analysis of the chaîne-opératoire of mammoth bone and ivory artifact production, including manufacture and use wear
- Participation in EVEREST graduate research school
- Project synthesis (with Pis and other team members)
- Manuscript writing

Your qualifications

Candidate Profile for Zooarchaeology / Isotope Analysis

- Master's degree in prehistoric archaeology or anthropology with experience in zooarchaeology, -or-
- Master's degree in geochemistry with experience in stable isotope analyses
- Experience working with large mammal bones, isotopes, basic databases
- Proficiency in English

Candidate Profile for Zooarchaeology / Osseous Artifact Analysis

- Master's degree in prehistoric archaeology or anthropology with experience in zooarchaeology, -or-
- Master's degree in prehistoric archaeology or anthropology with experience in osseous artifact analysis
- Experience working with large mammal bones, osseous artifacts, basic databases
- Proficiency in English

Beneficial skills

- Written and spoken German

We offer

- an attractive and diverse job in a globally recognized research institution
- independent work in small project teams with flat organizational structures and a high degree of personal responsibility
- flexible working hours – mobile working – support with childcare or caring for family members (certified by the "audit berufundfamilie") – a company ID card in combination with free admission to the Senckenberg museums – a collectively agreed annual special payment – collectively agreed vacation entitlement – company pension scheme

SENCKENBERG

world of biodiversity

Place of employment:	Tübingen (Baden-Württemberg)
Scope of employment:	Part-time, 65% (ca. 26 weekly working hours)
Type of contract:	Start of contract will be June 1st, 2025 running for 36 months until May 31st, 2028.
Remuneration:	According to the collective agreement TV-L, E 13

Senckenberg is committed to diversity. We benefit from the different expertise, perspectives and personalities of our staff and welcome every application from qualified candidates, irrespective of age, gender, ethnic or cultural origin, religion and ideology, sexual orientation and identity or disability. Applicants with a severe disability ("Schwerbehinderung") will be given special consideration in case of equal suitability. Senckenberg actively supports the compatibility of work and family and places great emphasis on an equal and inclusive work culture.

If you would like to apply, please send us your application documents, including:

- ✓ Letter of motivation and indication of the position for which you are applying,
- ✓ Detailed CV,
- ✓ Brief description of your Master's project,
- ✓ Two academic references,
- ✓ Academic certification (copies of your degrees and transcripts)

Send them as a single PDF file, **quoting reference number #10-24007, by February 15th, 2025** to recruiting@senckenberg.de or apply via our online application form <https://www.senckenberg.de/en/career/apply-online/>.

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For questions regarding the specific roles please contact the project PIs

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Further information about Senckenberg Society for Nature Research, please visit our website www.senckenberg.de.