



# **Ancient DNA analysis of ancient North Africans as a means to provide new insights to population history and health**

## **Project Description**

A RCUK funded PhD position is available for 36 months, working with Dr. Linus Girdland Flink, Professor Joel Irish and Dr. Gareth Weedall at Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU) on ancient DNA from prehistoric North Africans. The project is aimed at increasing our knowledge of African population history and health by analysing genomic data from different archaeological contexts in Egypt, Nubia, Morocco and the Canary Islands. The project also forms part of ongoing national and international research collaborations.

We are seeking a highly motivated candidate with a strong background in molecular biology, genetics and bioinformatics. Preference will be given to candidates with experience with analysing population genomic data in a Linux environment. General programming skills (e.g. in R and/or Python) is also highly advantageous. An interest in African prehistory and archaeology is also strongly desired.

The successful candidate should spend approximately one year generating data in a dedicated ancient DNA laboratory at LJMU, one year analysing data on Linux servers, and one year writing their thesis. The prospective candidates must hold an MSc (or equivalent) in Archaeology, Biology, Evolutionary Genetics, or similar scientific areas. The candidate must have proficiency in written and spoken English.

## **Funding Notes**

Only UK & EU citizens can apply for this studentship. Funding will consist of full tuition fees for three years and the award of a living stipend at UK Research Council rates (2018/19 figure - £14,777). Funding will also consist of up to £1500 per annum towards project costs (bench fees). Funding will be subject to satisfactory progress.

## **References**

For an informal discussion or if you have further questions about this opportunity please email Dr. Linus Girdland Flink ([E.L.GirdlandFlink@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:E.L.GirdlandFlink@ljmu.ac.uk)) or Prof. Joel Irish ([J.D.Irish@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:J.D.Irish@ljmu.ac.uk)) for more information.

Applicants should email a CV, covering letter detailing their suitability for the project and contact details of two referees to Dr. Linus Girdland Flink ([E.L.GirdlandFlink@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:E.L.GirdlandFlink@ljmu.ac.uk)) tel: +44 (0)151 231 2614)

Applicants must be available for interview during the first two weeks of September. Please note that the University introduced fixed enrolment windows in the 2018/19 academic year, and scholarship students should be in position to complete enrolment between 24th September 2018 – 5th October 2018.

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