



Job Description

Research Fellow in Zooarchaeology (EVERYDAYISLAM)

Hours: Full-time (1.0 FTE).

Department: UCL Institute of Archaeology

Grade: 7

Location: 31-34 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PY

Reports to

Prof. Corisande Fenwick, Professor in Late Antique and Islamic Archaeology

UCL Institute of Archaeology

The UCL Institute of Archaeology is recognised as one of the leading academic departments of Archaeology and Heritage in the world. It is the largest department within its field in the UK. It offers a uniquely stimulating environment with more than 60 staff pursuing high-quality research across five continents. We are at the forefront of global archaeology, conservation and heritage studies and have well-equipped laboratory facilities for archaeological science, including a dedicated Zooarchaeology Laboratory with comparative assemblages.

Zooarchaeology and environmental archaeology are dynamic fields of research and teaching at the UCL Institute of Archaeology. We have a lively research community of academic staff, postdocs and PhD students working in environmental archaeology as well as in Islamic archaeology in the Islamic Middle East, Africa and Central Asia. The UCL Islamic Archaeology Network runs regular events including the annual Islamic Archaeology Day.

EVERYDAYISLAM: Project Summary

Applications are now being sought for a 1.0 FTE Research Fellow to support the project 'EVERYDAYISLAM: *Becoming Muslim: Cultural Change,*

Everyday Life and State Formation in early Islamic North Africa (600-1000), at the UCL Institute of Archaeology.

The Muslim conquest of North Africa, subsequent regime changes and the spread of Islam resulted in widespread shifts in housing, agriculture, diet and technology which are fundamental to understanding the development of medieval North African society. EVERYDAYISLAM is undertaking new excavations at sites in Morocco and Tunisia as well as high-resolution scientific analysis of material culture to explore the underlying reasons for the spread of Islamic way of life in North Africa between ca. 600-1000 CE. The overall objective is to rewrite the history of Muslim rule and the Islamisation of daily life from the perspective of the communities living through this pivotal period, using a combination of material and written sources.

Main purpose of the job

We are seeking a Research Fellow with a specialism in zooarchaeology to join the project team at the UCL Institute of Archaeology.

The post-holder will work closely with the PI and will be primarily responsible for recording, analysing and bringing to publication a large faunal assemblage from the medieval urban site of Volubilis/ Walila in Morocco (this will require spending periods of study in Morocco). They will be responsible for studying the mammal and bird bones. They will be expected to lead on the authorship of the faunal chapter for the excavation monograph and at least 1 journal article, as well as to contribute to collaborative publications, presentations and other

project outputs, and assist in the design and delivery of a planned workshop in Morocco. There is potential for the post-holder to conduct ZooMS or isotopic analysis.

The successful candidate will have a PhD in zooarchaeology, or related field, with experience in the analysis of large faunal assemblages from sites with complex stratigraphy. This appointment will involve periods of fieldwork in Morocco. Applicants are, therefore, strongly advised to take into account their resilience and ability to spend periods of times overseas, when preparing their application. We particularly encourage candidates with a demonstrable interest in medieval/ Islamic and/or Mediterranean/Middle Eastern and/ or urban archaeology to apply.

This post is available from 1 June 2024 and is funded until 31 December 2025.

- Show a commitment to working harmoniously with colleagues and students of all cultures and backgrounds

We encourage applications from those who are underrepresented in the sector and in the UCL Institute of Archaeology including, but not exclusive to, people from Black, Asian and ethnic minority backgrounds, women, and people who identify as having a disability.

Note: this job description reflects the present requirements of the post. As duties and responsibilities change and develop the job description will be reviewed and be subject to amendment in consultation with the postholder.

Duties and responsibilities

- Manage the day-to-day running of the project at UCL.
- Organise, catalogue and archive faunal assemblage of Volubilis.
- Undertake research of published literature on zooarchaeology in North Africa and the Islamic Mediterranean
- Deliver specific pieces of work to an agreed timeline and, where appropriate, within a specified budget.
- Lead on, and contribute to, the writing and preparation of articles, chapters, presentations and other project outputs
- Assist in facilitating effective communication between the UCL team and project partners.
- Assist with the organisation and design of events and workshops.
- Represent the project in the UK and overseas, including attending and presenting at conferences, workshops and other events.
- Carry out any other duties that are within the scope, spirit and purpose of the job as requested by the Line Manager
- Actively follow UCL policies including Equal Opportunities and Race Equality policies
- Maintain an awareness and observation of Fire and Health & Safety Regulations

Person Specification

Criteria	Essential or Desirable	Assessment method (Application/Interview)
Qualifications, experience and knowledge		
<p>PhD in zooarchaeology</p> <p>The successful candidate should hold an MA/MSc or PhD degree in Archaeology. Appointment at Grade 6 or 7 is commensurate with accomplishment and experience. Research staff who hold a PhD in a relevant subject will be appointed at grade 7. Please note that research staff that do not have a PhD in a relevant subject will be appointed on Grade 6B and will have the title Research Assistant.</p>	Essential	Application
Proven ability to undertake research of the highest quality, with a strong publication record for career stage	Essential	Application/Interview
Experience with recording, analysis and report-writing/publication of large faunal assemblages	Essential	Application/ Interview
Demonstrated knowledge of and research experience in medieval/ Islamic archaeology and/ or Mediterranean/Middle Eastern and/ or urban archaeology	Desirable	Application/Interview
Experience analysing and interpreting ZooMS and/or isotopic datasets based on samples from modern and/or archaeological individuals	Desirable	Application/Interview
Skills and abilities		
Excellent oral, written and visual communication skills	Essential	Application/Interview
Experience with Microsoft Excel and other software used for analysing and graphing quantitative datasets (e.g. SPSS; R)	Essential	Application/Interview
Ability and willingness to travel (nationally and internationally) and to work flexibly to support the activities of the project	Essential	Application/Interview
Excellent interpersonal and facilitation skills in the context of a multicultural and diverse student and staff body	Essential	Application/Interview
Ability to work well as a team member and to respect local and project codes of behaviour	Essential	Application/ Interview
Ability to read and synthesise archaeological reports and scholarship in French	Desirable	Application/Interview
Personal attributes		
Ability to work independently and within a team	Essential	Application/Interview
Ability to follow instructions and deliver specific pieces of work to an agreed timeline	Essential	Application/Interview

Application process

Please apply online at <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/hr/jobs/>.

Your application **should include**:

- A **CV** including your academic and employment history, and any additional relevant skills.
- A **Cover Letter** which states how you meet the essential and desirable criteria in the Person Specification part of the Job Description. We shortlist against the essential criteria of the person specification so you must address each of these explicitly in your application. Please provide a clear 2-3 sentence statement in response to **each** of the selection criteria, which shows how your qualifications, experience and training fit each of them (more detailed supporting evidence can be provided in your CV). (By including a Cover Letter, you can leave blank the 'Why you have applied for this role' field in the application form, which is limited in the number of characters it will allow.)
- The names and contact details (including email) of at least **two referees**. Please indicate whether we can contact your referees without further permission from you in advance of the interview date.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend a formal interview (via Microsoft Teams). They will be asked to provide two writing samples (e.g. published article/chapter, thesis chapter or unpublished faunal report), at least one of which should demonstrate their expertise in the documentation and analysis of faunal assemblages.

Informal enquiries may be addressed to:

Prof. Corisande Fenwick
Professor in Late Antique and Islamic Archaeology
UCL Institute of Archaeology
31-34 Gordon Square London
WC1H 0PY
Email: c.fenwick@ucl.ac.uk

If you have any queries regarding the vacancy or the application process, please contact Louisa Goldsmith (l.goldsmith@ucl.ac.uk; HR Administrator).