



EBERHARD KARLS
UNIVERSITÄT
TÜBINGEN



CSC-Tübingen PhD Scholarship Program

2025 application round: prospective PhD positions at the University of Tübingen

- Faculty: Faculty of Science
- Institute / Section / Subject: Institute for Pre- and Protohistory and Medieval Archaeology
- Supervising Professor(s): Prof. Nicholas J. Conard Ph.D. (MA, MSc, BA, BA)
- About the Supervisor(s): Nicholas Conard is a prehistorian who regularly directs excavations in Europe, SW Asia and Africa. His expertise covers many areas of archaeology, Quaternary studies and human evolution.
- Specification: Identity and the social-economic context of the earliest tradition of three dimensionally shaped personal ornaments
- Topic Description: The earliest personal ornaments are modified natural forms, most notable perforated shells and teeth recovered from multiple regions of Africa and Eurasia. With the beginnings of the Upper Paleolithic personal ornaments become more abundant and more diverse. The first record of the systematic manufacture and use of three dimensionally shaped ornaments comes from the Swabian Aurignacian dating to 42.5 – 35 ka BP. These artifacts include many forms carved from mammoth ivory, most notably the iconic form of oval double-perforated beads which are well-documented at Sirgenstein, Geißenklösterle, Hohle-Fels and Vogelherd – all UNESCO World Cultural Heritage sites - in the Ach and Lone valleys of southwestern Germany. Although scholars including Hahn, Wolf and Conard have addressed the context and variety of these important artifacts, which are thought to document aspects of identity within and between social groups, more work is needed to determine the precise methods that Aurignacian people used to make the artifacts and to ascertain how the artifacts were used, recycled and ultimately discarded or lost. This CSC Doctoral Fellowship would fund research on microscopic studies of use-wear and experimental studies to determine how these artifacts were made and used. Based on contexts of their discovery, it should also be possible to embed the finds within the narrative of the social lives of Aurignacian people who settled the upper reaches of the Danube Valley. This work should illuminate the social and evolutionary questions surrounding the issue of the interbreeding between early modern humans and Neanderthals and ultimately the replacement of Neanderthals who had lived in the Danube region for many tens of thousands of years before the successful spread of *Homo sapiens* around 40 ka BP.
- Intended Degree: Dr. rer. nat. in Prehistoric Archaeology
- Type of the PhD Study: Full-time (complete doctoral studies at the University of Tübingen)
- Required Degrees and Qualifications: Master's degree in prehistoric archaeology, experience on archaeological excavations and with archaeological labwork
- Language Requirements: Good knowledge of English. Some knowledge of German would be helpful