



International PhD Opportunity:

Holocene Hunter-Gather Archaeology in Northeast Asia

General Background

An exciting opportunity has arisen to undertake a four-year international PhD project in the **Holocene hunter-gatherer archaeology of Northeast Asia**. Two years should be spent at the Arctic Centre, Groningen Institute of Archaeology, University of Groningen, the Netherlands, and the other two years can be spent at the University of Alberta, Canada, and/or at suitable partner research institutions in Northeast Asia and/or on related field-based or collections work.

The thesis defense will take place in Groningen and the PhD will be awarded by the University of Groningen, the Netherlands.

The PhD thesis should be written in English.

Research Themes

Holocene archaeological sequences in Northeast Asia (Eastern Siberia; Russian Far East; Japan) contain a uniquely rich and detailed record of prehistoric hunting, fishing and gathering societies undergoing long-term cultural transformations. Good examples include the Jomon archaeology of Japan, the burial and habitation complexes of Lake Baikal, the Neolithic archaeology of the Russian Far East (i.e. pottery-using hunter-gatherers) as well as more recent cultural developments like the Okhotsk Culture and the formation of contemporary indigenous groups such as the Ainu, Nivkh and others.

Only in the last few years has this general research area started to receive sustained international interest, and the **Baikal Hokkaido Research Project** (BHAP) is now leading the way in developing collaborative research efforts across this dynamic and rapidly expanding field.

Support for this new PhD project is derived jointly from Dutch and Canadian sources, and is situated at the heart of these international collaborative efforts. The successful applicant will derive supervision, training and access to collections, analytical equipment and excavations through BHAP's well-established academic networks that now span Europe, Russia, Japan, Canada and the USA.

At this stage in the application process, the scope of the new PhD project remains broad, both in terms of research question, and also in terms of precise thematic, temporal and geographic coverage. Suitable topics include, but are not limited to: the emergence of maritime adaptations in NE Asia; the rise of prehistoric hunter-gatherer exchange networks in NE Asia; innovations in prehistoric food technologies; Mid-Holocene climate change and cultural response; the archaeology of maritime forager-traders in NE Asia (Okhotsk Culture); Ainu ethnogenesis (and/or other indigenous groups in the Russian Far East); ethnoarchaeology of Northern Eurasia.

Please note that applicants are expected to provide a **detailed research plan** of their intended project as part of the application process. The successful candidate will be chosen on the basis of their previous academic performance (40%), but also in relation to the originality, feasibility and overall quality of this PhD research proposal (60%).

The International Research Network

The PhD project will be co-managed by Professor **Peter Jordan** (Director, Groningen Arctic Centre) (primary supervisor) and by Professor **Andrzej Weber** (Director, BHAP) with additional supervisory inputs from other academic staff.

The **Arctic Centre** forms part of the **Groningen Institute of Archaeology**:

<http://www.rug.nl/research/arctisch-centrum/arcticcentre/>
<http://www.rug.nl/research/groningen-institute-of-archaeology/?lang=en>
<http://www.rug.nl/>

The **Baikal Hokkaido Archaeology Project** is a Major Collaborative Research Initiative funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), and is headquartered at the **University of Alberta**:

<http://bhap.artsrn.ualberta.ca/>
<http://www.ualberta.ca/>

Supervisory Arrangements, Tuition Fees and Financial Support

As the PhD awarding institution is the University of Groningen, the candidate will be expected to adhere to the PhD regulations of this university. The candidate will also be required to meet all satisfactory progression requirements in the PhD training program of the Groningen Graduate School for the Humanities and furthermore take part in the national research school ARCHON.

The PhD candidate will receive a package of **financial support** from the Universities of Groningen and Alberta, totaling approximately €1.700,00 per month, and extending for up to four years, subject to satisfactory progression.

After the end of the first year, there will be an assessment of the candidate's progress towards the goals of their project; this will be used to decide whether the funding package can be continued.

Some additional funding for **fieldwork** and **conferences** will also be available from the University of Groningen / BHAP.

Application Requirements

- Undergraduate and Master's degrees in Archaeology or a closely-related discipline (with excellent grades)
- A suitable research topic, as evidenced by a written research proposal (see below).
- Excellent spoken and (academic) written English. Depending on the specific nature of the project, reading knowledge of Japanese and/or Russian may also be useful, but is not necessarily essential.
- Applicants should also be ambitious, enthusiastic and ideally have relevant international experience (or an international outlook); they should also be able to demonstrate their capacity to work independently and also perform well in teams.

Application Process

Applicants should provide the following documents:

- **Covering letter** (max 1500 words, size 11 font) outlining their general motivation and suitability for the PhD
- Detailed **research proposal** (max 3000 words excluding references, size 11 font). This should identify primary research **questions**, discuss the wider research context, include a predicted **timetable**, and include information about the kinds of **data** and **methods** required to complete the research.
- Current **CV** (max 3 A4 pages, size 11 font, with names and contact details of three academic referees).
- Copy of **passport** (i.e. the photo ID and personal data page)
- Detailed overview of grades received at undergraduate and masters levels; scanned copy of **Master's certificate**.

These documents should be emailed as a **single pdf document** to p.d.jordan@rug.nl

The application **deadline** is midnight on **Friday 26th September 2014**.

The **start date** is flexible but the PhD project should ideally start by the end of 2014.

Further questions?

For any further enquiries or to discuss potential research projects please contact:

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