

# JURASSICA

JURASSICA Museum (Porrentruy, Switzerland) in collaboration with the Department of Geosciences of the University of Fribourg (Switzerland).

**Two open Ph.D. positions within the SNF project: *Revision of the European "Grande Coupure": Comparative analysis of the evolutionary and diversity dynamics between small and large herbivorous mammals.***

Since January 2015, the JURASSICA Museum (Porrentruy, Switzerland) includes an academic unit in Geosciences affiliated with the Department of Geosciences of the University of Fribourg. This unit invites applications for two 3-years Ph.D. positions funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF).

The project is focused on comparing the evolution of large and small mammals through the Eocene-Oligocene transition in Europe. Both Ph.D. candidates will work in parallel, one studying large mammal communities with a systematic focus on perissodactyls (supervised by Dr. Damien Becker and Dr. Loïc Costeur), whereas the other Ph.D. candidate will study small mammals with a systematic focus on rodents (supervised by Dr. Damien Becker and Dr. Olivier Maridet). Prof. Walter Joyce will serve as the administrative advisor from the University of Fribourg. The project includes various approaches involving systematic palaeontology (including international travel to visit museums for anatomical comparisons), cladistic analyses, palaeobiogeographic analyses, 3D reconstruction based on CT-scans and palaeontological fieldwork. The ideal candidates will be highly motivated students with a palaeontological or biological background, and will have good skills in geology, systematics, anatomy, and mammalian evolution. Details of the project will be discussed with preselected candidates. Good English writing skills are required. French language skills are not necessary at first but the candidates should be willing to learn it during their stay in Porrentruy.

The successful candidates will be registered and employed at and will obtain their Ph.D. diploma from the University of Fribourg, but will work and reside in Porrentruy with the regular staff of the JURASSICA Museum.

The JURASSICA Museum is a natural history museum located in Porrentruy, a small French-speaking town near the French border, about 45 min by car from Belfort, 1 hour by train from Basel and Biel, and 2 hours from Fribourg. The closest airport is the EuroAirport Basel-Mulhouse-Freiburg (1.5 hours by train). Working in a Museum will provide the Ph.D. students with the opportunity to become involved in exhibit design, public outreach and collections management. The JURASSICA Museum and the Department of Geosciences of Fribourg offer all necessary research facilities in an international and stimulating academic environment.

Candidates of all personal backgrounds are welcome to apply, but preference will be given to candidates with the appropriate scientific background.

To apply, please send the following by email:

- 1) a one page cover letter highlighting your background and motivations;
- 2) a detailed curriculum vitae;
- 3) names of two references and their contact information.

Please ensure that the application package is combined into a single PDF-file.

Applications will be reviewed starting February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016. However, the positions will remain open until suitable candidates are found. For all questions and for submission, please contact Dr. Damien Becker ([damien.becker@jurassica.ch](mailto:damien.becker@jurassica.ch)) or Dr. Olivier Maridet ([olivier.maridet@jurassica.ch](mailto:olivier.maridet@jurassica.ch)).

Starting date of the project is July 2016 (negotiable); students are expected to have received their masters degree or equivalent by the start of the Ph.D.