

## **PhD position on Body Size Dynamics of Cephalopods across the Pliensbachian-Toarcian Crisis (J-body)**

We seek a motivated and talented graduate student for a PhD position in the DFG founded project on “Body size dynamics of cephalopods across the Pliensbachian-Toarcian crisis”. The position is temporary for 36 months (TV-L E13, 75%) and is anticipated to start in July 2016. Place of work is the GeoZentrum Nordbayern, Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nuremberg, Erlangen.

This project is one of eight projects embedded in the interdisciplinary Research Unit FOR 2332 TERSANE: Temperature-Related Stresses as a Unifying Principle in Ancient Extinctions. The research unit combines high-resolution geological field studies with meta-analyses, physiological studies and sophisticated analysis of fossil occurrence data on ancient hyperthermal events to reveal the rate and magnitude of warming, potential causes, impact on marine life, and the mechanisms which led to ecological change and extinction. Geochemistry, analytical paleobiology and physiology comprise our main toolkits. More information on Tersane is available at: <https://www.gzn.fau.de/palaeoumwelt/projects/tersane/>

*Tasks:* The successful candidate will be involved in taxonomic – ecological analysis of Pliensbachian-Toarcian ammonites and belemnites with a focus of quantitative sampling of cephalopods from France, Germany, Portugal and Spain. Statistical analyses should be carried out, in particular in view of body size distribution and in relationship with environmental and facies changes. Fieldwork and analyses occur in connection with other projects within the Research Unit. Applicants are expected to participate in weekly informal seminar, annual workshops and international summer schools with others members of the research unit.

### *Qualifications:*

Mandatory requirements are

- M.Sc. degree in geology or biology
- Experience in fieldwork
- High degree of initiative and motivation
- Ability to work as part of a team
- Very good English skills
- (Basic) knowledge of statistics and R programming

Desirable are

- Background in invertebrate palaeontology
- Driving license

Please submit your application in electronic form (including curriculum vitae, list of publications, statement of research interests; keyword "J-body") by 10 May 2016 to

Dr. Kenneth De Baets  
Section Palaeobiology/Palaeoenvironments  
GeoZentrum Nordbayern  
Loewenichstr. 28  
91054 Erlangen, Germany  
[kenneth.debaets@fau.de](mailto:kenneth.debaets@fau.de)