

## **PhD Studentship in Classics (Mycenaean Archaeology) – Further Particulars**

*Ialysos on Rhodes. A study of Mycenaean chamber tombs and their assemblages from the Biliotti excavations - British Museum Collaboration*

**Faculty of Classics, University of Cambridge**

**Closing Date:** Friday 27 April 2018

**An AHRC CDP Funded PhD position in Classics (Mycenaean Archaeology): a partnership between the University of Cambridge and the British Museum commencing 2018.**

The University of Cambridge and the British Museum invite applications for a **funded, three-year PhD** in **Classics** (Mycenaean Archaeology). The PhD is a collaborative doctoral studentship, jointly supervised by staff at the University of Cambridge and the British Museum. The student will carry out new research on Ialysos on Rhodes – a study of Mycenaean chamber tombs and their assemblages. The thesis will focus on the material excavated by Sir Alfred Biliotti between 1868 and 1871, now part of the British Museum collections.

The PhD is offered as part of an AHRC funded Collaborative Doctoral Partnership (CDP) scheme awarded to the British Museum. The PhD will be registered at Cambridge under the supervision of Dr Yannis Galanakis (Cambridge primary supervisor) and Professor Robin Osborne. The doctorate will be co-supervised by the British Museum under the supervision of Dr Andrew Shapland (BM primary supervisor) and Dr Alexandra Villing.

Cambridge is one of the leading centres for the study of Classics in the world. Its Faculty emerged from the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise and the 2014 Research Excellence Framework with the strongest research profile of any Classics department in the UK. The building contains the Museum of Classical Archaeology, the Faculty Library (an excellent specialised library of c. 70,000 items, to which all graduates have 24h access), and the archival papers of several leading figures in Classics, including Aegean archaeology; it is also very close to the University Library (a copyright deposit library). The Faculty's graduates partake in a rich programme of research and skills seminars.

The British Museum supports 25 collaborative doctoral students, and the student will benefit from joint training and other opportunities arranged by the 28

museums and other cultural organisations that support Collaborative Doctoral Partnership studentships (<http://www.ahrc-cdp.org/>).

This full-time studentship is funded for three years at standard AHRC rates and includes a further 0.5 years of funding to support training and a placement. It is expected that the student will commence their research in October 2018.

The full studentship award for students with UK residency\* includes University tuition fees and a stipend of £14,777 a year plus an additional stipend of £550 p.a. for the 3 years. The AHRC – Student Development Fund (equivalent to 0.5 years of stipend payments) is also available to support the cost of training, work placements, and other development opportunities.

In addition, the student will receive further funds from the British Museum to undertake research (£1000 a year), and some additional support towards further research expenses. The successful applicant will be able to participate in additional training and other opportunities provided to CDP students by the CDP consortium of Museums, Galleries, Libraries and Heritage Organisations, and receive a British Museum staff pass, a workspace with computer and research library access. The successful applicant will also be eligible to apply for travel grants offered by the Faculty of Classics in Cambridge, and as a registered graduate student in the University, will also be a member of a Cambridge college.

\*UK residency means having settled status in the UK (that is no restriction on how long you can stay in the UK); and having been “ordinarily resident” in the UK for 3 years prior to the start of the studentship (that is you must have been normally residing in the UK apart from temporary or occasional absences); and not been residing in the UK wholly or mainly for the purposes of full-time education.

**Project Description:** The 19th-century excavations of chamber tombs at Ialysos, Rhodes were the first systematically to explore a Mycenaean site anywhere in the Aegean. The bulk of this material is today kept in the British Museum, both in the form of extensive archival documents (letters) and objects (more than 500 in total). The PhD dissertation will relate the two in order to contextualise the complete funerary assemblages for the first time. This study will allow a better understanding of these tombs, their relation to more recently excavated material, and provide important new insights into the position of Rhodes in the network of Late Bronze Age Eastern Mediterranean trade.

**Summary of the proposed research:** Networks of trade and cultural contact connected the different areas of the Late Bronze Age Eastern Mediterranean resulting in objects and practices which are often described as 'international'. One of the best sources of evidence for the resulting trade goods and consumption practices in Mycenaean Greece is from burial assemblages. But systematic studies on Mycenaean tombs are disappointingly few – only a tiny fraction of the c. 4000 excavated chamber tombs have been properly published to modern standards – while studies on entire cemeteries (except in the Argolid) and good quantifiable data for any meaningful analysis to be performed are generally lacking. On Rhodes the cemetery evidence has the potential to shed light on the role of this island as an important interface between Aegean, Anatolian and Mycenaean networks of interaction and exchange.

**Research questions & importance:**

*What can the close study of the surviving material from a particular cemetery tell us about the funerary practices at Mycenaean Ialysos? How do these practices compare to other contemporary Mycenaean cemeteries? How far reaching are the contacts of the tomb-using groups based on the material they selected for deposition in the graves? What do these contacts tell us about the position of Rhodes in Eastern Mediterranean trade networks?*

The complete study of the Ialysos material will offer for the first time the opportunity to get a better understanding of the practices and behaviour in a large Mycenaean chamber tomb cemetery outside the Argolid. Such a study is imperative if we are to better understand the selection, use and deposition of objects in Mycenaean tombs and reconstruct – to the extent that the preserved material allows us – the trade connections and burial practices of this particular community. With some 500 objects including Mycenaean pottery, Egyptian scarabs, and Levantine goldwork, the study of the material from the 39 chamber tombs at Ialysos will help shed light on the position of Rhodes at the interface between the Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean in the 14th and 13th centuries BC.

The Ialysos tombs are the single most important Mycenaean assemblage in the British Museum collection. They were excavated by Sir Alfred Biliotti, British vice consul on Rhodes, between 1868 and 1871. Predating Schliemann's excavations at Mycenae, these excavations are also significant for the history of Mycenaean archaeology. Letters between Biliotti and Sir Charles Newton preserved in the Department of Greece and Rome archives detail the contents of tombs. This archive has never been published, nor has it been systematically studied alongside the finds. The reintegration of archives and objects will allow a reconstruction of tomb groups for the first time since they were excavated. This data will then be integrated with the published data on Mycenaean Rhodes (including material from nearby tombs excavated by an Italian team in 1914 and 1928). Ialysos provides a starting point from which the student can develop their own avenues of research among the published Mycenaean material.

**Eligibility:** This scholarship is open to UK and EU nationals. Only students with UK residency are eligible for the full stipend and payment of University tuition fees. Students with EU residency are eligible for a **fees-only** studentship award (not the full stipend). International applicants are not normally eligible to apply for this studentship.

Applicants are expected to have a Masters Degree or equivalent in Classical Archaeology or a relevant field, with an excellent academic record. They should have a good working knowledge of Aegean (especially Mycenaean) archaeology. Some knowledge on Mediterranean/ Near Eastern Archaeology and experience with ancient ceramics is desirable. They must also have an interest in the history of archaeology. The language of the research is English but a working knowledge of Greek and/or Italian is also desirable. Normally applicants would have, or be expected to obtain by the time of admission, a distinction in their Masters or equivalent degree in a relevant discipline.

**How to apply:** applications should be submitted via the University of Cambridge Graduate Admissions portal [www.admin.cam.ac.uk/students/gradadmissions/prospec/apply/](http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/students/gradadmissions/prospec/apply/) with Dr Yannis Galanakis identified as the potential supervisor. The standard application fee is applied. The University values diversity and is committed to equality of opportunity.

You will be asked to submit the following documents:

- A max 400-word personal statement introducing yourself, describing your motivation and suitability for PhD research and explaining why you are applying for this studentship and how it supports your future career aspirations.
- A writing sample, in English (between 5000 and 10000 words)
- A CV, including publications (if any)
- Transcript(s) of your degree(s)
- Evidence of competence in English (if required:  
<https://www.graduate.study.cam.ac.uk/international-students/competence-english/will-i-have-language-requirement>)
- The details of two academic references. Please also arrange that your referees send their confidential references directly, by email, from their professional address, to the address above by the deadline.
- In the section of the application about 'attainments', please add your museum or archaeological experience (including fieldwork skills), language skills (ancient and modern), and any other relevant and proven research abilities that you think would strengthen your application.

Quote 'Ialysos on Rhodes – CDP studentship' in the proposed title of research and in any correspondence about this studentship.

Please contact Lucy O'Connor at the Faculty of Classics (flo21@cam.ac.uk) if you have any queries about the application process.

**Deadline:** Friday 27 April 2018.

**Interviews:** Wednesday 30 May, from 2.00pm, Faculty of Classics, Cambridge, or by skype.