PhD scholarship in Quaternary Geochronology at Griffith University, Australia

A full-time PhD scholarship is available in the new Australian Research Centre of Human Evolution (https://www.griffith.edu.au/environment-planning-architecture/environmental-futures-research-institute/research/human-evolution) at Griffith University, Brisbane, to work on a research project focused on Quaternary Geochronology and Bayesian Modelling.

**Project Name:** Building more robust chronologies to assess the timing and synchronicity of Lower Palaeolithic settlements across the Mediterranean

**Project summary:** When did hominins reach the edges of the Mediterranean? The present project aims to answer this question by building more robust chronologies for Early Pleistocene sites located in non-volcanic context, a major challenge in Quaternary geochronology and Mediterranean archaeology. After thoroughly testing a series of novel dating protocols at known-age localities, a new multi-technique dating approach combining different numerical methods and Bayesian modelling will be applied on a wide range of Lower Palaeolithic sites located in three key areas: Southern Spain, Northern Africa and the Near East. The results will enable to evaluate more rigorously the timing and synchronicity of the Mode 1 and Mode 2 settlements across the Mediterranean.

The successful candidate will mostly apply ESR dating, in association with other geochronological approaches (e.g. OSL, TCN, palaeomagnetism), to a series of Early and Middle Pleistocene archaeological sites located in the Mediterranean area (Northern Africa, Near East and Southern Europe). Knowledge or experience in Quaternary Geochronology is recommended but not required.

The PhD scholarship is ca. $26,000 per annum for up to 3 years (indexed annually). Tuition fees will be covered by Griffith University.

For further discussion regarding the project, applicants are encouraged to contact the supervisor, Dr Mathieu Duval (email: m.duval@griffith.edu.au). Applications should include CV, cover letter (1 p. max.), academic transcript and contact details of one or two academic referees.

To be eligible for a scholarship, applicants are expected to have a record of excellent academic performance and if possible, additional relevant research experience and/or peer-reviewed research activity.