



CeNT-15-2026

**Director of the Centre of New Technologies of the University of Warsaw, with the Project Leader, announce opening of the competition for the position of PhD Student in the Laboratory of Paleogenetics and Conservation genetics – Centre of New Technologies of the University of Warsaw.**

## JOB OFFER

Position in the project:	PhD Student
Laboratory:	Laboratory of Paleogenetics and Conservation Genetics
Scientific discipline:	Biological Sciences
Keywords:	ancient DNA; genomics; cave bear; evolution
Job type (employment contract/stipend):	stipend
Number of job offers:	1
Remuneration/stipend amount/month:	5 000 PLN gross gross* * If the student is enrolled in a doctoral school, the stipend is increased by the additional funding provided through the doctoral school stipend.
Position starts on:	01.10.2026 or as soon as possible after that date
Maximum period of contract/stipend agreement:	48 months
Institution:	Centre of New Technologies, University of Warsaw
Project leader:	The project is a scientific consortium between Wrocław University and the University of Warsaw. Dr hab. Adrian Marciszak from Wrocław University leads the project while dr Danijela Popović leads the University of Warsaw team.
Project title:	<i>The unresolved and complicated evolutionary history of the cave bear Ursus spelaeus sensu lato in Central Europe</i>
NCN programme:	OPUS 29
Project description:	This project investigates the diversity, evolution, and population history of cave bears in Central Europe using a multidisciplinary approach. Recent morphometric analyses of newly identified material indicate the presence of at least four chronosubspecies in the region: <i>Ursus spelaeus spelaeus</i> , <i>Ursus spelaeus ingressus</i> , <i>Ursus spelaeus cf. eremus</i> , and the unexpected steppe form <i>Ursus savini rossicus</i> , previously unknown from Central Europe. The project aims to verify these taxonomic identifications through genetic analyses, direct dating (AMS radiocarbon and U-Th), and stable isotope studies. These methods will allow us to determine the timing of occurrence and possible coexistence of different cave bear forms, reconstruct their ecological niches and dietary adaptations, and clarify their evolutionary relationships and migration routes across Eurasia. By integrating genetic, isotopic, and chronological data, the research will also test hypotheses concerning competition between cave bear chronosubspecies, potential hybridization with brown bears, and



	<p>the ecological and evolutionary mechanisms that ultimately led to the decline and extinction of these populations. Project description: <a href="#">NCN OPUS29</a></p>
Key responsibilities include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Extracting DNA from ancient samples.</li><li>- Preparing DNA sequencing libraries.</li><li>- Sequencing on an Illumina platform.</li><li>- Analysis of sequencing data, including population genomic analyses.</li><li>- Active contribution to preparing data for scientific publications.</li></ul>
Profile of candidates/requirements:	<p>The competition is open for persons who meet the conditions specified in the regulations on the allocation of resources for the implementation of tasks financed by the National Science Centre for <a href="#">OPUS 29 grant</a>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- MSc degree in biology or related discipline. The MSc degree should be obtained before the date of employment in the project.</li><li>- Confirmed status of a PhD student (on the date of starting work in the project at the latest).</li></ul> <p><b>Other requirements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Basic knowledge of molecular and population genetics.</li><li>- Ability to work in a group, curiosity, and motivation to learn.</li><li>- Willingness to work in interdisciplinary and international teams.</li><li>- Fluency in written and spoken English.</li></ul> <p><b>Additionally appreciated:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Experience in work with ancient DNA.</li><li>- Experience in high-throughput sequencing on Illumina platforms (i.e. DNA library preparations).</li><li>- Knowledge of Linux operating system.</li><li>- Familiarity with bioinformatic analyses of raw sequencing data and genomic analyses are highly valued.</li></ul>
Required documents:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Cover letter.</li><li>2. Current curriculum vitae.</li><li>3. Copy of MSc certificate (or, if the MSc certificate has not been obtained yet, a certificate/document about the date of MSc defense).</li><li>4. Document confirming the status of PhD Student (to be provided before starting work in the project).</li><li>5. Signed <a href="#">information on the personal data processing</a>.</li></ol> <p>Before entering the competition, candidates are obliged to familiarise themselves with <a href="#">Internal Reporting Procedure</a>.</p>
We offer:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- possibility to work in friendly and motivating working environment</li><li>- participation in an exciting research project using the state-of-the-art research techniques</li><li>- participation in scientific courses and conferences funded by the project</li><li>- access to fully equipped ancient and modern DNA laboratories</li></ul>
Please submit the following documents to:	e-mail: <a href="mailto:d.popovic@cent.uw.edu.pl">d.popovic@cent.uw.edu.pl</a>
Application deadline:	<p>03.05.2026</p> <p>Selected candidates will be invited to an online interview scheduled for 4–12 May 2026.</p> <p>Candidate selection will be carried out in accordance with the regulations of the National Science Centre.</p>
Date of announcing the results:	15.05.2026
Method of notification about the results:	e-mail, CeNT UW website



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