3-year PhD position in PALYNOLOGY/PALAEOECOLOGY (75% / 30 h per week) at the Institute of Botany, University of Innsbruck, Austria to commence as soon as possible and preferably not later than March 1st 2016 as part of the international collaborative project:

BEYOND LAKE VILLAGES: STUDYING NEOLITHIC ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES AND HUMAN IMPACT AT SMALL LAKES IN SWITZERLAND, GERMANY AND AUSTRIA.

Context: The PhD will form a component part of a unique international collaboration between German, Austrian and Swiss archaeological and palaeoenvironmental researchers studying the prehistoric Lake Villages of the circum-alpine region so as to better understand the changing environmental and climatic setting of this remarkable UNESCO world heritage protected cultural phenomenon. As PhD student of the Institute of Botany, University of Innsbruck, Austria (Prof Jean Nicolas Haas) you will work in close collaboration with the partners at the University of Vienna Department of Prehistoric and Historical Archaeology, Austria (Prof Tim Taylor: co-PI), and with partners at the Institute of Archaeological Sciences, University of Bern, Switzerland (Prof Albert Hafner: Lead PI), the Institute of Plant Sciences University of Bern / Oeschger Centre for Climate Change Research Bern (Prof. Willy Tinner: co-PI), and the County Archaeological Heritage Service, Hemmenhofen, Baden-Württemberg, Germany (Dr Helmut Schlichtherle: Co-PI). Within Austria, the project is a component part of a new prehistoric Lake Village research initiative between universities, UNESCO, the Upper Austrian governmental and state heritage organisations aimed at developing dry-land and underwater archaeological excavation, survey and prospection in tandem with environmental and geo-science.

PhD structure: The advertised PhD palynology/palaeoecology position (funded by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) at 75%, c. € 20,000 netto p.a.) will be supervised by Prof Jean Nicolas Haas at the Institute of Botany, University of Innsbruck and will be concerned with the procurement and high-resolution analysis of annually laminated lacustrine sediments and peat cores from the region around the lakes Mondsee and Attersee in Upper Austria. The aim is to provide detailed palynological and palaeoecological data for the period 5500-2200 BC coterminous with the appearance of the Lake Villages. The results will be integrated within a transdisciplinary project assessing broad-scale climate and anthropogenic impact in the Austrian Salzkammergut in the context of broader regional landscape developments.

Qualifications: The successful candidate should have a masters or equivalent qualification in palynology, palaeoecology, botany, environmental sciences or related discipline with practical experience in palynology including non-pollen palynomorphs (methods and data analysis), a good knowledge of the central European flora, as well as in the quantitative analysis of past vegetation changes. Interest in/knowledge of prehistorical cultural sequences is an advantage. The student will be expected to work within a team environment. Project outputs will predominantly be in English; however knowledge of German would be an advantage.

Inquiries/Application: Application including a curriculum vitae, copy of degree certificates and a one-page statement of motivation by 15 December 2015 to:

Prof. Dr. Jean Nicolas Haas (Jean-Nicolas.Haas@uibk.ac.at)
Institute of Botany, University of Innsbruck,
Sternwartestrasse 15, A-6020 Innsbruck, Österreich – Austria

You can find information on the Univ. of Innsbruck PhD programme at http://www.uibk.ac.at/studium/angebot/phd-biologie/index.html.en. In case of questions, please feel free to contact Jean Nicolas Haas at Jean-Nicolas.Haas@uibk.ac.at;
you are also free to contact the archaeological partner, Professor Timothy Taylor at timothy.taylor@univie.ac.at.