

Call for a funded PhD or post-doc Scholarship in archaeometallurgy at the University of Haifa

The [Metallurgy and Materials Lab](#) at the School of Archaeology and Maritime Cultures at the University of Haifa, Israel, invites applications for:

A 3-year PhD position or a 2-year post-doc position

This is a second call for this position which has not yet been filled, starting as soon as possible. The project aims to evaluate the earliest use of scales, weights, and metal currency in the region. The candidate is expected to write a doctoral thesis (PhD) or publish papers (post-doc) during employment under the supervision of the PI in Haifa. The successful candidate will be part of the DFG Middle-East collaboration project titled “Elusive data? Weights and silver in the EBA-MBA southern Levant (Ancient Canaan)”, headed jointly by Dr. Tzilla Eshel, the School of Archaeology and Maritime Cultures, University of Haifa, and Prof. Dr. Lorenz Rahmstorf at the Seminar of Prehistory and Early History at the University of Göttingen

The project

During the mid 3rd millennium BC the use of silver as currency emerged in Mesopotamia in the form of fragmented silver coils and scrap exchanged for their weighed value. The southern Levant showed urbanized settlement patterns since the EBA II-III and was continually influenced by the surrounding material cultures during the Bronze Age. The project will investigate the source of the silver, and whether silver (and gold) were precisely measured by weight and scales in EBA and the earlier MBA in the southern Levant, as in the rest of the Near East. With the help of the Principal Investigators the candidate will sample and analyze silver items for typology, detailed chemical composition and isotopes. The candidate will investigate the

implications for economic integration, interregional exchange and social organization in Southern Levantine societies. The twin project in Göttingen will focus on weights during the same period and apply analytical work and metrological analyses of potential weights in close collaboration with the Haifa team.

Requirements:

- Academic degree in (Bronze Age/East Asia) Archaeology, Archaeometallurgy or Geochemistry.
- Experience in working with metals and lab work
- Experience with XRF, ICP, ICP-MS – an advantage
- Proficiency in at least one programming language – an advantage
- Enrolment as a PhD/ post-doc student at the University of Haifa and compliance with the Bloom Graduate School requirements and guidelines

Soft skills

- Responsible and self-motivated nature
- Curiosity and critical thinking
- The ability to learn quickly and independently
- Strong teamwork abilities

Responsibilities

- Close cooperation with the project part in Göttingen (PhD and PI Prof. Dr. Lorenz Rahmstorf; weight metrology and economic complexity in the Southern Levant during the Early and Middle Bronze Ages)
- For PhD candidates: Lead a full segment of the project from design to finished doctorate thesis under the supervision of the PI in Haifa (Prof. Tzilla Eshel)
- Collect and organize archaeological metal artifacts

- Apply the established methodology with the help of the PI
- Participation as a co-author in the publication of scientific articles detailing methodology and results of the project in peer-reviewed journals
- Present and communicate the project in different venues

The successful candidate will be able to begin as soon as possible, with flexible start-date options depending on availability. The application must be written in English. Please send a detailed CV, list of publications (if applicable), a short cover letter detailing your motivation, documentation of qualifications (Master diploma, other certificates) and the contact information within **01.01.2026** to teshel@univ.haifa.ac.il.