



Matthew Collins

Location:	University of Copenhagen
Host professor:	Tom Gilbert
Total grant:	30.9 million DKK

Tom Gilbert: How will Matthew Collins enrich Danish research?

As a member of the British Academy Matthew is uniquely placed to bridge the Humanities-Science, Divide. He has a track record of developing collaborative archaeological science, and particular expertise in the study of ancient proteins, perfectly complementing Danish expertise in ancient biomolecules and evolutionary genomics.

What makes the Natural History Museum of Denmark, Section for Evolutionary Genomics at University of Copenhagen attractive to you?

Matthew Collins: My horizons have been expanded in all directions since arriving, not only by the dynamic group there, but also from the Centres for Protein Research and

GeoGenetics both world leading groups with overlapping interests. A further attraction is the Museum's appointment of Associate Professor Enrico Cappellini who brings a wealth of expertise with him.

How are you going to increase the internationalization of Evolutionary Genomics at University of Copenhagen in the five-year grant period?

Matthew Collins: Obviously I am using my award to help make things happen. Small sums are being used to attract visitors to Denmark, but I will also help realise some cross and trans-disciplinary workshops, which I hope will lead to new research projects with international partners. We have already made a start on this, as we were lucky enough to be awarded a European Joint Doctoral training programme ArchiSci2020 which links Copenhagen with three other Universities. Enrico Cappellini is leading TEMPERA, which is bringing proteomics to address issues of cultural heritage.

Lead by Hannes Schroeder with colleagues across Copenhagen we are planning a Summer School this summer, which brings Scientists and Archaeologists together, which will attract scholars for overseas and if successful will be a more permanent showcase for Danish research.

What will the long-term effects on Danish research be with this grant?

Matthew Collins: It is hard to say at this early stage. I hope to build long lasting collaborative links between researchers within Denmark and beyond, especially between the Sciences and the Humanities, recognising the remarkable role that Archaeology can play in troubling times. The museum will be redeveloped of the course of my award, and I hope I can contribute to the new vision. Ultimately I hope to grow palaeo-proteomics as a research focus and research strength within Denmark.

