



**Cherene de Bruyn**  
AFHEA

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## KEY SKILLS AND ABILITIES

- Project Organization, & Time Management
- Communication & Interpersonal Skills
- Teamwork & Leadership
- Adaptability & Flexibility
- QGIS & Google Earth
- ArcGIS Online, Collector & Survey123
- MS Office Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
- Afrikaans, English (Excellent), French (Novice)

## EDUCATION

<b>2024-2028</b>	<b>Liverpool John Moores University, United Kingdom</b> , Postgraduate Researcher in Molecular Biology, Biophysics and Biochemistry Project: The detection and investigation of mammalian remains using forensic ecology and remote sensing approaches. Supervisors: Dr T.K. Ralebitso-Senior, Dr K. Scott, Dr H. Panter, Dr F. Bezombes
<b>2016/2017</b>	<b>University College London, United Kingdom</b> , MA in Archaeology Thesis Title: Investigation and analysis of burial equipment of the royal tombs in Giza from the Fourth Dynasty, Egypt. Supervisors: Dr C. Näser and Dr A. Stevenson
<b>2015</b>	<b>University of Pretoria, South Africa</b> , BSc Honours in Physical Anthropology Research Project: A Bioarchaeological analysis of historic human skeletal remains recovered from Lancaster Mine, Witwatersrand. Supervisor: Dr A. Meyer
<b>2013</b>	<b>University of Pretoria, South Africa</b> , BA Honours in Archaeology Research Project: Investigations on an Iron Age settlement on a hill site in the Masebe Nature Reserve, Limpopo Province. Supervisor: Dr C. Ashley
<b>2010-2012</b>	<b>University of Pretoria, South Africa</b> , BA Archaeology, Anthropology, and Ancient Culture Studies

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

<b>2024-Present</b>	Teaching Support Officer, Liverpool John Moores University, Liverpool, UK
<b>2022-2023</b>	Archaeologist, Museum of London Archaeology, Northampton, UK
<b>2020-2022</b>	Archaeologist, PGS Heritage, Pretoria, RSA
<b>2018</b>	Heritage Manager, Archaeologist and Heritage Consultant, NGT Holdings, Johannesburg, RSA
<b>2018</b>	Lascaux Exhibition Tour Guide, Sci-Bono Discovery Centre, Newtown, RSA
<b>2018</b>	Field and Lab Assistant, Umbelli Beli Middle Stone Age Excavations, KwaZulu-Natal Province, RSA
<b>2017</b>	Causal worker, Tower Bridge Exhibition, City of London, UK
<b>2017-2019</b>	PAST-ASAPA Southern African Archaeology Student Council Event's Organizer
<b>2016</b>	Field and Lab Assistant, Umbelli Beli Middle Stone Age Excavations, KwaZulu-Natal Province, RSA
<b>2016</b>	Field and Lab Assistant, Leakey Foundation and Wenner-Gren Foundation-funded Grassridge Archaeological and Palaeoenvironmental Project, Eastern Cape Province, RSA
<b>2016</b>	Archaeological Contractor, Bio-Archaeological Analysis and Archaeological Geophysics Unit, University of Pretoria, RSA
<b>2015</b>	Teaching Assistant, Human Osteology (ANA 122), Department of Anatomy, University of Pretoria, RSA
<b>2015</b>	Field and Lab Assistant, Leakey Foundation and Wenner-Gren Foundation-funded Grassridge Archaeological and Palaeoenvironmental Project, Eastern Cape Province, RSA

<b>2014</b>	DST-NRF Archaeological Intern, Forensic Anthropological Research Center, Department of Anatomy, University of Pretoria, RSA
<b>2013</b>	Heritage Tourism Management (EFK 120) Student Tutor, Department of Anthropology and Archaeology, University of Pretoria, RSA
<b>2012</b>	Student Field Assistant, Department of Anthropology and Archaeology, University of Pretoria, Archaeology Field School in Phokeng, Boekenhoutfontein Farm, North West Province, RSA
<b>2011</b>	Student Field Assistant, Department of Anthropology and Archaeology, University of Pretoria, Archaeology Field School in Lephelale, Limpopo Province, RSA
<b>2010</b>	Student Field Assistant, Department of Anthropology and Archaeology, University of Pretoria Archaeology Field School in Sudwala Caves, Lydenburg, Mpumalanga Province, RSA

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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<b>2026</b>	Associate Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (AFHEA): Advance HE
<b>2026-2031</b>	UK Civil Aviation Authority: Drone Pilot A2 Category
<b>2024-2027</b>	British Association for Forensic Anthropology (BAFA): Student Member
<b>2022-2027</b>	Academically Qualified Person AQP: Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS)
<b>2018-2022</b>	Accredited Professional Heritage Practitioner: International Association for Impact Assessment, South Africa
<b>Since 2016</b>	Accredited Professional Archaeologist: Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists. Accreditation in Cultural Resources Management: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Principal Investigator: Grave relocation</li> <li>• Field Director: Colonial Period archaeology, Iron Age archaeology</li> <li>• Field Supervisor: Rock art, Stone Age archaeology</li> <li>• Laboratory Specialist: Human Skeletal Remains</li> </ul>
<b>Since 2011</b>	Golden Key International Honour Society, Member

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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<b>2026</b>	Reviewer, <i>Science and Justice</i> , Elsevier
<b>2025-Present</b>	Journal Co-Founder and Managing Editor, <i>LJMU ASPIRE Journal</i>
<b>2024-Present</b>	Sub-Editor, Research Hive – Science communication Blog Online
<b>2015-2018</b>	Reviewer, <i>International Journal of Student Research in Archaeology</i>

## LEADERSHIP & VOLUNTEER

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<b>2025-2026</b>	School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Science PGR Research Conference Organising Committee
<b>2025-Present</b>	School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Science PGR Representative
<b>2025-Present</b>	Merseyside Archaeology Society Council. Liverpool
<b>2016- 2017</b>	Student Volunteer: UCL Institute of Archaeology, University Archaeology Day, London and World Archaeology Festival, London Student Volunteer, Royal Anthropology Institute Film Festival 2016, Bristol Student Volunteer, Current Archaeology LIVE 2017 Conference, Senate House, London Student Volunteer, Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology, University College London

## AWARDS

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<b>2026</b>	FameLab Science Communication Competition Northwest Region Winner, 24 March 2026
<b>2017</b>	Chevening Bronze Award, 30 hours of Volunteering in 2016/2017, Chevening Secretariat and Foreign and Commonwealth Office

- 2012** Student Award for the Best Student in Archaeology, Third Year, Department of Anthropology and Archaeology, University of Pretoria
- 2010** Golden Rhino Award for the Best Academic Performance in Archaeology First year, Department of Anthropology and Archaeology, University of Pretoria

## GRANTS

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- 2026** Faculty of Health, Innovation, Technology and Science Research Innovation Fund - Awarded: £8050,00  
Project: Advancing forensic burial detection: Integrating microbial genomics, remote sensing, and machine learning across climates  
Recipients: C. de Bruyn, Dr T.K. Ralebitso-Senior, Dr K. Scott, Dr H. Panter, Dr F. Bezombes, Dr P. Shum and Professor S. Wich
- 2025** Turing Scheme Research Placement - Awarded: £838.00  
Project: Research visit to the University of Copenhagen, Denmark, 4 May -30 May 2025  
Recipients: C. de Bruyn and Dr T.K. Ralebitso-Senior (Lead)
- 2025** FORRI Research Support 2025 (19 December 2025) - Awarded: £5000.00  
Project: Support towards research visit to the University of Cape Town, South Africa and sequencing of soil samples  
Recipients: C. de Bruyn (PGR; Lead), Dr K. Scott, Dr H. Panter, Dr F. Bezombes and Dr T.K. Ralebitso-Senior
- 2025** FORRI Research Scholarship 2025 (2 July 2026) - Awarded: £1000.00  
Project: Funding to support the Winter 2025 Forensic Taphonomy experiment the University of Cape Town (UCT), South Africa  
Recipients: C. de Bruyn (PGR; Lead), Dr K. Scott, Dr H. Panter, Dr F. Bezombes and Dr T.K. Ralebitso-Senior
- 2025** FORRI Research Support 2025 - Awarded: £5000.00  
Project: FORRI research support towards the University of Cape Town, South Africa and the University of Copenhagen, Denmark Collaboration  
Recipients: C. de Bruyn (PGR; Lead), Dr K. Scott, Dr H. Panter, Dr F. Bezombes and Dr T.K. Ralebitso-Senior
- 2024** AMI Student Travel Bursary - Awarded: £200.00  
Project: Conference funding to attend the AMI MMEG 2024 on 16-18 December 2024  
Recipients: C. de Bruyn
- 2024** LJMU Doctoral Academy PGR Conference Travel Fund - Awarded: £200.00  
Project: Conference funding to attend the AMI MMEG 2024 on 16-18 December 2024  
Recipients: C. de Bruyn
- 2024** British Association for Biological Anthropology and Osteoarchaeology (BABAO) Microgrant - Awarded: £200.00  
Project: Conference funding to attend the British Association for Forensic Anthropology Winter conference, 30 November - 1 December 2024, Oxford, UK  
Recipients: C. de Bruyn
- 2024** FORRI Research Support: June 2024 - Awarded: £5567.00  
Project: Forensic research visit and collaboration with the University of Cape Town (UCT), South Africa  
Recipients: Dr T.K. Ralebitso-Senior (Lead) and C. de Bruyn
- 2024** FORRI Research Support: June 2024 - Awarded: £2353.00  
Project: Forensic Research Visit to University of Central Lancashire (UCLan)  
Recipients: C. de Bruyn (PGR; Lead), Dr K. Scott, Dr H. Panter, Dr F. Bezombes and Dr T.K. Ralebitso-Senior
- 2016** Chevening Scholarship for Master's study in the UK, British High Commission, Chevening Secretariat, and FCO

- 2013** Conference Funding, Wenner-Gren Foundation, ASAPA Conference in Botswana
- 2013** Kent Bequest - Awarded: R4000.00. South African Archaeological Society, Project: BA Honours project

## **COURSES & WORKSHOPS**

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- 2026** Supporting Learning Certificate, SEDA
- 2026** FameLab Science Communication Masterclass and Media Training, Cheltenham, 1-2 May 2026
- 2026** Courtroom Communication, The Leverhulme Research Centre for Forensic Science, University of Dundee and The Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science at Stony Brook University, 17 March 2026-23 April 2026
- 2025** Trauma and Taphonomy Workshop, British Association for Forensic Anthropology Conference, Liverpool, 29-30 November 2025
- 2025** LEAP Leadership Program 2025, oikos International and Principles of Responsible Management Education, April-September 2025
- 2025** Certified Peer Reviewer Course, Elsevier Researcher Academy
- 2025** Leading with Character, The Oxford Character Project, University of Oxford
- 2024** 3IS Training, LJMU, Liverpool
- 2024** NEOF Metabarcoding and environmental DNA wetlab and bioinformatics, University of Sheffield, 22-26 July 2024
- 2024** Practical in Laboratory Skills and Biotechnology Bootcamp, BioGrad Liverpool, 29 June-10 May 2024
- 2024** Human vs Non-Human - CPD workshop (Online) British Association for Forensic Anthropology, 13th July 2024
- 2023** Forensic Anthropology: An introduction to human osteology, Anglian Ruskin University, 11-12 November 2023
- 2023** Everyday ethics: An introduction to professional ethics and developing your ethical knowledge, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
- 2022** Training Services Programme in Manual Handling, City & Guilds Accredited Programme
- 2021** Heritage Resources Management, University of Cape Town, RSA
- 2019** Level 5 Certificate in Teaching English as a Foreign Language (168 hours), The TEFL Academy
- 2017** Egyptian Archaeology Skills School, Egypt Exploration Society, London, UK

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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- de Bruyn, C., Scott, K., Panter, H., Bezombes, F. and Ralebitso-Senior, T.K., 2025. Advancing time-since-interval estimation for clandestine graves: From traditional approaches to forensic ecogenomics using massively parallel sequencing. *Frontiers in Microbiology*, 16, p.1684366 <https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/microbiology/articles/10.3389/fmicb.2025.1684366/full>
- de Bruyn, C., Ralebitso-Senior, K., Scott, K., Panter, H. and Bezombes, F., 2025. Search, Detect, Recover: A systematic review of UAV-based remote sensing approaches for the location of human remains and clandestine graves. *Drones*, 9(10), p.674 <https://www.mdpi.com/2504-446X/9/10/674>
- Harcombe, M. & de Bruyn, C. & Shadrach, K. & Tembe, E. & Bansal, S. & Fraser, L. & Forssman, T. & Lotter, M. 2020. The Southern African Archaeology Student Council. Reflecting on the road thus far and reimagining the future. *The Digging Stick Volume*, 37 (2): 9-13
- de Bruyn, C. & Meyer, A. 2018. Bioarchaeological analysis of the historic human skeletal remains recovered from Lancaster Mine, Witwatersrand, South Africa. *The South African Archaeological Bulletin*, 73(207): 4-12
- Meyer, A. & de Bruyn, C. 2018. Bioarchaeological analysis of historic human skeletal remains recovered from the Lancaster Gold Mine premises, Witwatersrand. A Selection of Abstracts Presented at the 44th Annual Conference of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa (ASSA), May 8–11, 2016,

Bloem Spa Hotel and Conference Centre, Bloemfontein, Free State, South Africa, *Clinical Anatomy*, 31(8): E18

de Bruyn, C. & Jordaan, J. 2017. Regional feature: Perspectives from Southern African archaeology professionals. *International Journal of Student Research in Archaeology*, 2(3): 2-18

de Bruyn, C. 2014. An archaeological investigation in the Masebe Nature Reserve, Limpopo Province, *The Digging Stick*, 31(1):9-11

## **PRESENTATIONS & TALKS**

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Making your research matter: policy and practice engagement for doctoral researchers. Emily Walker-Williams, Liz Edwards, Cherene de Bruyn, & Nosa Aikodon. [LJMU Students at Heart Conference 16-17 June 2026](#)

Eye in the Sky: Drones on the trail of finding hidden graves. Famelab Science Communication Competition Cheltenham Science Festival, Cheltenham, UK. 5 June 2026

Computer vision for locating clandestine burial sites using UAV-image data. School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Science Postgraduate Research Day. Liverpool, UK. 28 May 2026

An Eye for Detail: Finessing my FameLab UK talk on finding forensic graves. LJMU Doctoral Academy PGR Festival. Liverpool, UK. 19 May 2026

Eye in the Sky: Drones on the trail of the missing. Famelab Science Communication Competition NW-Region. Liverpool, UK. 24 March 2026. (NW-Winner)

Soil-ving the Case: Using microbes to find hidden graves. 3MT Faculty of Health, Innovation, Technology and Science, LJMU. Liverpool, UK. 2026 (HITS Faculty Finalist & LJMU People Choice Award)

Clandestine grave detection and time since intervals – Where do we stand? British Association for Human Identification (BAHID) Webinar. 14 January 2026

Justice from the ground up: Exploring multidisciplinary approaches for grave detection. LJMU Research Knowledge Exchange Conference. Forensic Research Institute Session. Liverpool, UK. 15 December 2025

More or less? A mini study comparing soil and forensic DNA extraction kits using variable soil inputs. School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Science Research Day. Liverpool, UK. 30 June 2025. (Best Presentation Winner)

Student research excellence: something to ASPIRE to. School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Science PGR Research Day. 30 June 2025. Bones, Drones & Microbes. Research Roasters Outreach Day. Liverpool, UK. 5 November 2025

Finding the Missing. Postgraduate Research Panel. British Science Festival Liverpool X Research Roasters. Liverpool, UK. 10 September 2025

Graveyard Shift: From Grave Relocation to Grave Detection. Merseyside Archaeology Society Evening Lecture: New research by Liverpool students. Liverpool, UK. 20 February 2025

The Hidden Forensics: Soil Microbiomes and Ecogenomic Insights from Graves by Dr Komang Ralebitso-Senior and Cherene de Bruyn. Hosted via MS Teams (online) by the University of Cape Town, South Africa. 26 August 2024

The Hidden Forensics: Soil Microbiomes and Ecogenomic Insights from Graves by Dr Komang Ralebitso-Senior and Cherene de Bruyn. University of Cape Town, South Africa. 27 June 2024

Grave Matters: The science behind forensic investigations. BioGrad. Liverpool, UK. 10 May 2024

A bio-archaeological analysis of historic human skeletal remains recovered from Lancaster Mine, Witwatersrand. Presented at the Student Development Workshop 2015, Southern African Archaeology Student Council. Magaliesberg, 30 November-5 December 2015

Living on a Foothill: An archaeological investigation of the Iron Age settlement found in the Masebe Nature Reserve located in the Waterberg, Limpopo Province. Presented at the Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists Student Development workshop. Parys, South Africa, 15-19 November 2013

## POSTERS

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- de Bruyn, C., Scott, K., Panter, H., Bezombes, F. and Ralebitso-Senior, K., 2026. GRAVES: A framework for forensic research. Migrant Disaster Victim Identification Action Event, International Association of Forensic Sciences Conference. Sofia, Bulgaria. 25-30 May 2026
- de Bruyn, C., Scott, K., Panter, H., Bezombes, F. and Ralebitso-Senior, K., 2024. From decay to discovery: The necrobiome's role in clandestine grave detection. AMI MMEG: Molecular Microbial Ecology Group 2024, Southampton, UK. 16 December 2024
- de Bruyn, C., Scott, K., Panter, H., Bezombes, F. and Ralebitso-Senior, K., 2024. Unseen connections: Why multidisciplinary approaches matter in the identification and detection of human remains. British Association for Forensic Anthropology (BAFA) Winter conference and AGM 2024. Conference Theme: "Bridging the gap between academia and practice, Oxford, UK. 30 November 2024
- Meyer, A. & de Bruyn, C. 2014. Bioarchaeological analysis of historic human skeletal remains recovered from the Lancaster Gold Mine premises, Witwatersrand. 44th Annual Conference of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa, Bloemfontein, Free State Province, South Africa, May 8-11, 2016
- de Bruyn, C., Nienaber, W.C., & Meyer, A. 2014. Reconstructing the past: An analysis of inadvertently discovered skeletal remains and archaeological material from the Soutpansberg region. DST-NRF 2014-2015 Intern's Research Presentation Day, Birchwood Hotel & OR Tambo Conference Centre, 20 February 2015
- de Bruyn, C. 2013. Living on a foothill: Archaeological investigations on a hill settlement in the Masebe Nature Reserve, preliminary results. Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists Biennial Conference, University of Botswana, Gaborone, Botswana, 3-7 July 2013

## ONLINE/BLOG ARTICLES

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- De Bruyn, C. June 2026. [Parameters of Animal Self-Medication Behavior](#), The Observatory Human Bridges
- de Bruyn, C. April 2026. [Why Teaching Deserves Thought: The Case for Associate Fellow of the Higher Education Academy \(AFHEA\)](#). Research Hive
- de Bruyn, C. Decemeber 2025. [Parameters of Animal Mortuary Behavior](#). The Observatory Human Bridges
- de Bruyn, C. August 2025. [The PhD Confirmation process is not a hurdle – It's a crucible](#). Research Hive.
- de Bruyn, C. September 2024. [Starting Strong: Productivity Tips for the First 6 Months of Your PhD](#). Research Hive

## TECHNICAL AND HERITAGE IMPACT REPORTS

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*Available on request*