



Università
Ca' Foscari
Venezia

Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici

Università Ca' Foscari Venezia
Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici
Palazzo Malcanton Marcorà
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Research fellowship on “Science and the environment in the eastern Mediterranean in the first millennium CE” - Università Ca' Foscari Venezia (Italian law 30 December 2010, n. 240, art. 22)

The present document in English is to be considered as a mere summary of the main provisions of the notice of competition which is available in Italian at the following ([link](#)) The text in Italian is the official text of the notice of competition for all legal intents and purposes and, in the event of non-conformity with the present document, it shall prevail.

Description

The Department of Humanities at Ca' Foscari University of Venice (Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici dell'Università Ca' Foscari Venezia) invites applications for a fellowship in: **“Science and the environment in the eastern Mediterranean in the first millennium CE”**, Academic discipline: M-STO/01 – Medieval history, duration 36 months, tutor prof. Helen Foxhall Forbes, financed by the ERC COG project “SSE1K - Science, Society and Environmental Change in the First Millennium CE”, Grant Agreement n. 101044437, CUP: H73C22001720006, Principal Investigator Prof. Helen Foxhall Forbes.

Abstract: The post-doctoral researcher will carry out original research into the history of science in the eastern Mediterranean in the first millennium CE, and the connections between the study of pre-modern science and the environmental contexts of the writers.

The researcher will examine textual evidence for intellectual and social responses to environmental change, and contemporary awareness of human effects on landscapes. They will contextualise this analysis with reference to relevant archaeological and palaeoenvironmental evidence, supported by project team members (Prof. Lawrence and Prof. Fleitmann). The knowledge of ancient / medieval Greek and/or another relevant eastern Mediterranean language is required.

In addition to preparing their research for publication, the researcher will participate in the various activities of the SSE1K project, including attending team meetings and undertaking dissemination activities (conferences, seminars, workshops) on the project topics.

For needs related to the research project, the renewal of the collaboration with the post-doctoral researcher for an additional year can be envisaged upon successful completion of the research work carried out during the three-year period.

The motivation letter to be enclosed with the application shall include a proposal of the research that the candidate would aim to undertake during the research position.

The research may be carried out in English.

The fellowship is intended to provide the successful candidate with the opportunity to pursue his/her own research while benefiting from the range of expertise at Ca' Foscari University of Venice.

The postdoctoral researcher will be a specialist in Greek texts and intellectual culture, and may also have skills in Arabic/Syriac/Aramaic. They will examine textual evidence for intellectual and social responses to environmental change, and contemporary awareness of human effects on landscapes, contextualising this with reference to relevant archaeological and palaeoenvironmental evidence, supported by Prof. Dan Lawrence (Durham University, UK) and Prof. Dominik Fleitmann (Universität Basel, Switzerland). The researcher will first define a corpus of textual evidence for analysis: this may include letters (e.g. Gregory of Nazianzus), historical texts (e.g. Prokopios, John Malalas, Chronicle of Monemvasia), hagiographies (e.g. Lives of the Desert Fathers), 'scientific' or medical works (e.g. Galen, John Philoponus, Geoponika), documentary records (e.g. administrative/transactional records such as many of the Oxyrhynchus papyri), theological or homiletic texts (e.g. Basil of Caesarea, Athanasios of Sinai). The researcher will also undertake searches for key words in relevant databases (eg. Thesaurus Linguae Graecae) to identify additional relevant written evidence. Once a specific corpus of textual evidence has been identified, in the second stage the researcher will read scholarship relating to climatic/environmental variation within the geographical areas and chronological periods from which the textual evidence originates (as far as it is possible to identify these). The third stage will be to analyse the textual evidence intertextually (by comparing texts and key passages from texts with each other, and by examining them within and in relation to their intellectual, historical, literary and theological contexts) and to contextualise this evidence with reference to data relating to climatic or environmental conditions. An important aspect here will be comparison between different geographical areas and over time, selected on the basis of coverage and where possible to coordinate with available palaeoenvironmental evidence, to identify similarity and variety in responses. The



researcher will also consider the sources of the texts, to ascertain whether (for example), 'scientific' texts simply repeat earlier information or whether authors offer new or different ideas in relation to observed phenomena or their contemporary situations.

Who can apply

Prospective candidates are expected to hold a **PhD in historical studies or related fields, in particular regarding aspects of the history of science or environmental history in the Eastern Mediterranean and should have a suitable scientific / professional track record.**

It is emphasised that the research to be carried out requires knowledge of ancient/medieval Greek and/or another relevant language of the eastern Mediterranean. The candidate is invited to provide a list of his/her modern and ancient language skills.

Ca' Foscari encourages applications from researchers with positive evaluation in all the criteria in individual proposals such as Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions - Individual Fellowships/ERC Starting Grants/FIRB (Italian Fund for basic research investments)/SIR (Scientific Young Independence Research) or similar.

Researchers having successfully completed Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions - Individual Fellowships/ERC Starting Grants/FIRB (Italian Fund for basic research investments)/SIR (Scientific Young Independence Research) or similar funded projects are warmly encouraged to apply.

Duration of contract: 36 months (approximately starting: 1st September 2023)

Stipend: The research fellowship amounts to **85.500,00 Euros**, including taxes and social charges.

Deadline for submission of applications: 17th June 2023, h. 12.00 noon (Italian time).

How to apply:

Candidates shall submit:

1. The application form;
2. A motivation letter along with their CV in European format, duly dated and signed, both to enclosed as a one single.pdf file ([link](#)); a declaration must be appended in the footnote of the curriculum, pursuant to the Italian DPR 445/2000 and subsequent amendments and additions, that the information provided corresponds to the truth. Moreover the candidates have to consent to the use of their personal data for the purposes of this selection procedure pursuant to the Italian Legislative Decree 196/2003 and to the EU Regulations 2016/679;
3. The attachments called "obligations and understanding" and "participation and compatibility";
4. All documents, qualifications and publications relevant for the selection procedure (please, see the notice - [link](#));
5. A copy of a valid identity document (either Identity Card or Passport);
6. (If available) Evaluation Summary Reports of Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions - Individual Fellowships/ERC Starting Grants/FIRB (Italian Fund for basic research investments)/SIR (Scientific Young Independence Research) individual proposals having passed all the evaluation thresholds;
7. (If available) Details of Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions - Individual Fellowships, ERC Starting Grants, FIRB (Italian Fund for basic research investments)/ SIR Scientific Young Independence Research funded projects;
8. Declaration on availability to held the interview in remote ([Link](#)) to be send via email at the following address: ricerca.dsu@unive.it

All the schemes of the quoted documentation are available on the website ([link](#)).

Incomplete applications will be rejected.

How to submit your application



Applications should be submitted by the online procedure, available on the notice webpage ([link](#))

Or submit here: <https://apps.unive.it/domandeconcorso-en/accesso/2023-dsu-ar-2>

The candidate, after the uploading, will receive a submission number and an e-mail acknowledging receipt of his/her application.

The candidate if necessary could access the procedures for updating any data and materials by the link provided by the e-mail, in any case any updates must be made no later than the deadline on **17th June 2023, h. 12.00 noon (Italian time)**.

Please note that the University can be contacted for any support needs by the candidate until 16th June 2023 (h. 1 p.m. Italian time).

Please note that in case of an high number of applications and / or weight of the materials loaded by the candidates the system might become slower, Therefore it is suggested not to start the process close to the deadline.

NB: the University does not take on responsibility for wrong or late communication of addresses, nor for any communication problem not depending on the University.

Evaluation

Up to 100 points, specifically:

For qualifications, publications and possible tests, from 0 to 60;

For interview, from 0 to 40.

The following qualifications are considered as evaluation criteria:

- a) a list of publications on research topics related to the subject of the project;
- b) electronic submission of a maximum of 3 publications (in PDF format), already published or in press, which will be evaluated by the commission (one of which may be a chapter of the candidate's PhD thesis);
- c) documented research activity following the PhD with contracts, research grants, short-term research fellowships, research fellowships and assignments;
- d) languages certifications;
- e) attached 'preferential securities', if the candidate possesses them - see Article 5 of the competition available in Italian ([link](#));
- f) any other element provided for the announcement, to the articles 2, 3 and 5 of the competition available in Italian ([link](#)).

The interview aims to assess the candidates' skills and expertise on the following subjects:

- Knowledge of the history of science and intellectual culture in the first millennium CE;
- Knowledge of the history of the eastern Mediterranean in the first millennium CE;
- Familiarity with relevant textual sources;
- knowledge of the English language.

At the end of his/her research activity, the research fellow is required to provide the Department with:

- the preparation of a monograph on the subject or an equivalent contribution in the form of scholarly articles;
- contribution to co-authored articles as part of the ERC project "SSE1K".

Selection procedure

The interview will be on **27 June 2023, h. 10.30 a.m.** The interview will be held in remote with Zoom.

The short-list of the candidates admitted to the interview, or any postponement, will be published on the University's webpage by 22 June 2023 ([link](#)).



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Information and contacts

Candidates may find further details about the application process and the research project in the official call published on the following ([link](#))

For further information please contact Department of Humanities - Research Office, e-mail: ricerca.dsu@unive.it