



Università  
Ca' Foscari  
Venezia

Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici

Università Ca' Foscari Venezia  
Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici  
Palazzo Malcanton Marcorà  
Dorsoduro 3484/D, 30123 Venezia  
P.IVA 00816350276 - CF 80007720271  
www.unive.it/dsu

**Research fellowship on “Towards an economic history of early city-states in Mesopotamia and Syria (ca. 2900-2350 BCE): digitization and study of cuneiform sources within the frame of the ‘Urban Economy Begins’ project” - 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: **“Towards an economic history of early city-states in Mesopotamia and Syria (ca. 2900-2350 BCE): digitization and study of cuneiform sources within the frame of the ‘Urban Economy Begins’ project”**, Academic discipline: **L-OR/01** - History of ancient Near East, duration 24 months, tutor Dr. Massimo MAIOCCHI, financed by the PRIN 2022 project “Urban Economy Begins: Structural and Quantitative Aspects of Early City State Economies in the Ancient Near East (2900-2350 a.C.)” (codice progetto 2022Y893YS), CUP: H53D23000380001, Principal Investigator Dr. Massimo MAIOCCHI.

**Abstract:** The project aims to rethink the economic history of early city-states in Mesopotamia and Syria (Early Dynastic period, ca. 2900-2350 BCE), as emerging from cuneiform sources -- many of which recently published. The work of the research fellow is structured as follows: 1) digitization of primary sources relevant to the present research (acquisition of photos, input of transliterations within the project's database, lemmatization of the sources, English translations); 2) study of materials to be selected on the basis of their historical relevance, in collaboration with the other team members; 3) active participation in the project's life (periodic meetings, workshops, conferences). A basic knowledge of the cuneiform writing system is required.

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.

#### Who can apply

Prospective candidates are expected to hold **a master's degree and a suitable scientific / professional track record.**

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:** 24 months (starting: 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023)

**Stipend:** The research fellowship amounts to **38.734,00 Euros**, including taxes and social charges.

**Deadline for submission of applications:** 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023, h. 12.00 noon (Italian time).

#### How to apply:

Candidates shall submit:

1. The application form;
2. A motivation letter (max 1 page) 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](mailto: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-7>

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 **7<sup>th</sup> September 2023, h. 12.00 noon (Italian time)**.

Please note that the University can be contacted for any support needs by the candidate until 6<sup>th</sup> September 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 PhD, or the completion of a PhD course pending graduation;
- b) list of publications on research topics related to the subject of the project;
- c) electronic submission of a maximum of 3 publications (in PDF format);
- d) specialization diplomas, certificates of attendance of post-graduate specialization courses;



- e) documented research activity in public and private sectors, including contracts, research grants, scholarships and fellowships
- f) attached 'preferential securities', if the candidate possesses them - see Article 5 of the competition available in Italian ([link](#));
- g) 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:

- Good knowledge of ancient Near Eastern history, with special reference to the third millennium BCE;
- Basic knowledge of the cuneiform writing system;
- Basic knowledge of ancient Near Eastern languages (Sumerian and Akkadian);
- Good knowledge of English;

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

- On-line publication of all data digitized for the project (roughly 1.000 cuneiform texts, as an estimate)
- Certificate of attendance to workshop/conference as speaker, on a theme directly relevant to the project

#### Selection procedure

The interview will be **on 13 September 2023, h. 12:00 noon (Italian time)**. The interview will be held in remote with Google Meet.

The short-list of the candidates admitted to the interview, or any postponement, will be published on the University's webpage on 11 September 2023 ([link](#)).

#### 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](mailto:ricerca.dsu@unive.it) (email object: Research Fellowship on "Towards an economic history of early city-states in Mesopotamia and Syria (ca. 2900-2350 BCE): digitization and study of cuneiform sources within the frame of the 'Urban Economy Begins' project" – PRIN 2022 MAIOCCHI project)