



Research fellowship on “Peeking into the Library of Ashurbanipal: layout, form and material features of cuneiform tablets as evidence of the scribal work” – Department of Humanities Ca' Foscari University of Venice

(Italian law 30 December 2010, n.240, art. 22 and subsequent amendments and additions)

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: **“Peeking into the Library of Ashurbanipal: layout, form and material features of cuneiform tablets as evidence of the scribal work”**, Academic discipline: **L-OR/03 Assyriology**, duration 18 months, tutor Prof. Paola CORÒ, financed by the PRIN 2022 - Missione 4 “Istruzione e Ricerca” del Piano Nazionale di Ripresa e Resilienza ed in particolare la componente C2 – investimento 1.1, Fondo per il Programma Nazionale di Ricerca e Progetti di Rilevante Interesse Nazionale (PRIN), project “Exploring scribal minds: the structural and visual organization of knowledge in Mesopotamian archives and libraries” (codice progetto 2022ZST22H), CUP: H53D23000390006, Head of Unit Prof. Paola CORÒ.

Abstract: The so called Library of Ashurbanipal represents the richest collection of literary and scholarly texts from Mesopotamia; its classification absorbed scholarly efforts since its discovery. The research develops in the framework of the project PRIN 2022 “Exploring scribal minds: the structural and visual organization of knowledge in Mesopotamian archives and libraries” which aims at exploring to what extent the physical appearance of cuneiform texts embodied the mental processes of their authors and responded to their intellectual needs as well as to those of further possible users. The candidate will examine the material features of the clay tablets of which it consists, esp. questions of layout and form, building a formal and functional taxonomy, and tagging the formal features of the tablet's photographs with the help of customized digital tools, capable to train the application of computer vision algorithms for automatic detection, with the aim to investigate the flows and dynamics of knowledge, and investigating the role of the scribe(s) and the social contexts where they operate.

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 with dissertation in Assyriology 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: 18 months (approximate starting date: 1st January 2024)

Stipend: The research fellowship amounts to **29,050 Euros**, including taxes and social charges.

Deadline for submission of applications: 11th December 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 (email object: Research Fellowship on “Peeking into the Library of Ashurbanipal: layout, form and material features of cuneiform tablets as evidence of the scribal work” – PRIN 2022 CORO project)

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-26>

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 **11th December 2023, h. 12.00 noon (Italian time)**.

Please note that the University can be contacted for any support needs by the candidate until 7th December 2023 (h. 1 p.m. Italian time).

Please note that in case of a 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 with dissertation consistent with SSD L-OR/03;
- b) list of publications consistent with SSD L-OR/03;

- c) electronic submission of a maximum of 3 publications consistent with SSD L-OR/03 (in PDF format);
- d) specialization diplomas and attendance certificates at post-graduate specialization courses, obtained both in Italy or abroad, documented research activity in public and private organizations with contracts, study grants or assignments both in Italy and abroad with particular reference to SSD L-OR/03;
- 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 thematics related to the Library of Ashurbanipal and the formal features of the texts belonging to it;**
- **Knowledge of Akkadian;**
- **Knowledge and experience with the digital treatment of the material features of cuneiform texts;**
- **Knowledge of the English language.**

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

- **Analysis of the sources: taxonomy of the material features;**
- **Tagging and validation via the dedicated Webapp;**
- **One article on a project-related topic;**
- **Participation in dissemination activities.**

Selection procedure

The interview will be **on 18th December 2023, h. 9:00 a.m.** 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 14 December 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 (email object: Research Fellowship on "Peeking into the Library of Ashurbanipal: layout, form and material features of cuneiform tablets as evidence of the scribal work" – PRIN 2022 CORO project).