



Università  
Ca' Foscari  
Venezia

Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici

Università Ca' Foscari Venezia  
Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici  
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**Research fellowship on “Environmental History in the medieval Islamicate Mediterranean, c. 650-1050” - 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: **“Environmental History in the medieval Islamicate Mediterranean, c. 650-1050”**, Academic discipline: STAA-01/J History of Islamic Countries, area Cod. GSD (vd. DM 639/2024) - 10/STAA-01, duration 24 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 research fellow will examine the history of water and the broader environment in the Islamic Mediterranean from the 7th century to the early 11th century, focusing on social and/or intellectual themes. They will conduct original research on Arabic sources, and may also use archaeological evidence, to examine human relationships with the environment, with particular attention to the role of water and climate fluctuations. They will collaborate with the SSE1K research team to make comparisons between different contexts and regions across the Mediterranean.

The research fellow will define a topic of study and the most promising approach suited to their skills in discussion with the PI and the research team. Applicants should therefore outline their proposed area of research in the motivation letter (maximum 500 words). The research fellowship is particularly, but not exclusively, focused on water in terms of toponymy, ritual practices, resource management, reaction to climate events, and scientific knowledge. The geographical area of interest ranges from Mesopotamia to the Islamic West, with a particular focus on the latter.

Excellent knowledge of the Arabic language and research experience with premodern Arabic written sources is required. Knowledge of other languages relevant to this area, such as Syriac, Hebrew, or Greek, is desirable. In addition to preparing their own research for publication, the fellow will collaborate on various activities of the SSE1K project, including participating in team meetings and dissemination activities (conferences, seminars, workshops) on the project's topics.

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 (or equivalent), or equivalent title obtained outside Italy, in history or a related discipline, and should have a professional scientific curriculum suitable for carrying out the research activities.**

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 (approximately starting: January 2025)

**Stipend:** The research fellowship amounts to **57,000.00 Euros**, including taxes and social charges.



**Deadline for submission of applications: 12<sup>th</sup> November 2024, h. 12.00 noon (Italian time).**

#### How to apply:

Candidates shall submit:

1. The application form;
1. 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;
2. The attachments called "obligations and understanding" and "participation and compatibility";
3. All documents, qualifications and publications relevant for the selection procedure (please, see the notice - [link](#));
4. A copy of a valid identity document (either Identity Card or Passport);
5. (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;
6. (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;
7. 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/2024-dsu-ar-14>

Foreign citizens not yet in possession of the Italian Tax Code can use the following link: <https://apps.unive.it/utills/cf> to obtain a temporary one and be able to proceed with the request.

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 re-access the application for updating any data and materials by the link provided in the e-mail; in any case, any updates must be made no later than the deadline on **12<sup>th</sup> November 2024, h. 12.00 noon (Italian time)**. Please note that the University can be contacted for any support needs by the candidate until **11<sup>th</sup> November 2024** (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 conferment of the title;
- b) Specialization diplomas and certificates of attendance of post-graduate specialization courses, obtained both in Italy and abroad, carrying out of documented research activities at public and private entities with contracts, research grants, scholarships or assignments both in Italy and abroad;
- c) List of publications on research topics related to the subject of the project and 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);
- d) Attached 'preferential securities', if the candidate possesses them - see Article 5 of the competition available in Italian ([link](#));
- e) 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 historical context of the Mediterranean as it relates to the [SSE1K project](#);
- Familiarity with topics in the field of environmental history, broadly defined;
- Familiarity with relevant textual sources related to the medieval Islamicate Mediterranean;
- Excellent knowledge of the English language;
- Excellent knowledge of pre-modern Arabic.

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

- The preparation of two scholarly articles on the subject;
- contribution to co-authored articles as part of the ERC project SSE1K;

### Selection procedure

The interview will be on **5<sup>th</sup> December 2024, h. 10:30 p.m. (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 **20<sup>th</sup> November 2024** ([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 "**Environmental History in the medieval Islamicate Mediterranean, c. 650-1050**" – ERC "SSE1K" project).