

Call for Applications Residential Fellowships for the Critical Edition of Key Texts

Fellowships announced to encourage the editing of key texts of the Later Middle and Early Modern Periods of Islamic Intellectual History

This call for applications pursues a novel and yet age-old approach to one of the fundamental challenges of Islamic History, and Islamic intellectual history in particular: With an estimated 85% of the texts of the Later Middle and early Modern periods remaining unpublished, basic research ('Grundlagenforschung') is required to make accessible key texts through critical editions based on a careful selection and comparison of the extant manuscript witnesses. With the support of the Alexander von Humboldt Kolleg of the Islamic Intellectual History of the Later Middle and Early Modern Periods at the University of Bonn, scholars are invited to submit proposals for the critical edition and/or translation into English of key texts of the period 1200-1700.

At a time when critical editions are not the stuff that attracts financial support, this is a unique opportunity to (re-)engage with this kind of philological work. Applications for the completion of editions on which work was already begun are also welcome.

With this call we invite applications for two different strands of residential fellowships, one (i) for an already identified work that we believe deserves publication, and one (ii) for bottom-up proposals for the preparation and publication of a critical edition of a text freely chosen and proposed by applicants. The texts should pertain to the period 1200-1700 and can be written in Arabic, Persian, or Ottoman or Chagatay Turkish. Up to five fellowships will be awarded for the academic year 2022-2023, starting in October 2022.

(i) Call for applications to prepare a critical edition of one of the unpublished parts of Şadr al-Sharī'a's (d. 747/1347) *Ta'dīl al-'ulūm*. Applications are particularly encouraged by such scholars who have previously worked on Şadr al-Sharī'a and/or have already started preparing a (partial) edition, though entirely new projects related to Şadr al-Sharī'a's oeuvre are equally welcome.

(ii) Call for applications to prepare a critical edition and/or English translation of a relevant text freely chosen and suggested by applicants.

Eligibility: Scholars of all nationalities are eligible to apply. Applicants should hold the Ph.D. or equivalent in hand by the time of the start of their scholarship, usually in October of each year, and must demonstrate excellent knowledge of the academic field, historical context, and literary language in which was composed the work they propose to edit, together with a thorough understanding of, and preferably prior experience in, reading and editing Islamic manuscripts according to the latest academic standards.

Duration: While Fellowships at the Alexander von Humboldt Kolleg are usually for the duration of one year, the length of the fellowships can be adjusted as necessary for completing a proposed project.

Fellowship: In addition to a monthly stipend, this research fellowship will provide successful applicants with office space as well as access to the libraries and research facilities at the University of Bonn. Depending on the experience of the applicant, a stipend equivalent to the amount of an Alexander von Humboldt Post-doctoral Research Fellowship (2.650 Euro/month) or Alexander von Humboldt Senior Research Fellowship (for scholars with a university post or equivalent) plus travel to and from Germany and financial support to acquire the relevant manuscripts will be awarded. Information about support needed for the acquisition of relevant manuscripts must be provided together with a reasoned budget at the time of application.

To apply, please submit a letter of interest together with a curriculum vitae, a proposal, and in the case of Post-doctoral applicants also the names and contact details of two referees to avh.editions@uni-bonn.de. The proposal should not exceed five pages, including bibliography, and should review the state of the art, articulate why it is important to publish the selected work, name the manuscript witnesses to be considered for the edition, explain the method to be used and why the applicant is apt to undertake the proposed edition, describe the extent of preliminary work carried out on the edition (if applicable), and provide a realistic and reasoned estimate for the time and resources required to prepare the edition. Proposals for the completion of editions that are already under way are welcome, and will be scrutinized by the same standards as proposals that start from scratch.

Grant value: 2.650,-- Euro/month, plus travel to and from Germany, and financial support to acquire the relevant manuscripts based on the budget submitted at the time of application.

Start date: 1 October 2022 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Closing date for applications is **12 noon on Friday, 24 June 2022**.

To apply for this Fellowship, please submit the required application material to avh.editions@uni-bonn.de.

Prior questions are welcome and may be directed to judith.pfeiffer@uni-bonn.de.