



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 “Environmental History in the medieval Islamicate Mediterranean, c. 600-c.1050 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: “**Environmental History in the medieval Islamicate Mediterranean, c. 600-c.1050 CE**”, Academic discipline: L-OR/10 – History of Islamic countries, 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 work on environmental history in Muslim-ruled territories around the medieval Mediterranean (c. 650-1100), ideally with a particular focus on water and landscapes. They will carry out original research into Arabic sources, such as geographical accounts and cartography, legal texts as well as scientific treatises which they will consider with reference to published archaeological evidence as well as palaeoclimate and palaeoenvironmental studies to analyse attitudes and activities connected to water. They will identify specific rituals, practices, and significant events and/or conflicts that relate to the history of water and environment. The researcher will be based at Ca'Foscari, Venice, but will work with Prof. Theresa Jäckh (Eberhard-Karls-Universität Tübingen, Germany / Deutsches Historisches Institut Rom, Italy) to make comparisons across different contexts and regions including the Islamicate West. Excellent knowledge of Arabic is required; the knowledge of other languages relevant to this area (such as Latin, Hebrew, Greek) is desirable but not essential. The motivation letter to be included with the application should contain a) a list of the candidate's modern and ancient language skills and b) a proposal of the research that the candidate would aim to undertake during the research fellowship. 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.

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 position will focus on the Islamicate Mediterranean to consider relationships between people and environments in different geographical regions. Here, they shall investigate how people reacted to or dealt with changing environments in different regions in order to understand social interactions with, and attitudes to, water and related practices. The postdoctoral researcher will be based at Ca'Foscari, Venice, but will work with Prof Theresa Jäckh (Eberhard-Karls-Universität Tübingen, Germany / Deutsches Historisches Institut Rom, Italy) to examine legal, narrative historical and scientific texts, and they will also integrate analysis of toponymy and excavated and published archaeological sites. They will contextualise their research with reference to published palaeoclimate and palaeoenvironmental studies, with support from Prof. Dominik Fleitmann (Universität Basel, Switzerland) and Prof. Dan Lawrence (Durham University, UK).

Who can apply

Prospective candidates are expected to hold a **master's degree (or equivalent) or equivalent degree obtained abroad, in history or a related discipline and should have a suitable scientific / professional track record, in which an excellent working knowledge of English and of Arabic must be declared, with demonstrable experience of dealing with relevant medieval Arabic sources.**

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 November 2023)

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

Deadline for submission of applications: 15th September 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-6>

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 **15th September 2023, h. 12.00 noon (Italian time)**.

Please note that the University can be contacted for any support needs by the candidate until 14th 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), 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) Documented research activity carried out with contracts, research grants, short-term research fellowships, research fellowships and assignments;
- 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 the Islamicate sphere and the medieval Mediterranean;
- Knowledge of environmental history in the Mediterranean;
- Familiarity with relevant textual sources relating to the medieval Islamicate Mediterranean;
- 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 three scholarly articles on the subject;
- Contribution to co-authored articles as part of the ERC project SSE1K.

Selection procedure

The interview will be **on 29 September 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 on 26 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 (email object: Research Fellowship on "Environmental History in the medieval Islamicate Mediterranean, c. 600-c.1050 CE" – ERC "SSE1K" project)