

Call for applications

Medieval Summer School Berlin 2021 "From Diplomatics to Genetics. Old and new fundamental research methods in medieval studies"

Date: September 27– October 1, 2021

Convener: Center for Medieval Studies at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, in collaboration with the Historische Kommission zu Berlin e.V.

Organisation: Dr. Jörg Feuchter

Deadline for applications: June 15, 2021

The Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities not only is a more than 300-year-old association of distinguished scholars, but also the largest non-universitarian research institution in the humanities in Germany's capital region. Its Center for Medieval Studies brings together all of the Academy's research projects relating to the millennium between the years 500 and 1500 AD. The main goal of the Center is to promote basic research, in which its members have specialized expertise. In their respective projects they pursue and apply both time-honoured "auxiliary sciences" established since the 19th century and very young disciplines that are recently emerging in the current age of digital and bioscience. The methodological spectrum used at the Center for Medieval Studies ranges from editing, cataloging, and image documentation to manuscript studies, paleography, and diplomatics, as well as interpretative digital humanities and methods of natural science. The great variety of projects at the Center also transcends the geographical and epochal boundaries of Latin Europe. Medieval Studies are conceived as a transcultural and interdisciplinary science of the pre-modern era.

The Medieval Summer School 2021 will introduce its participants to old and new techniques and fields of knowledge of specialized medieval studies. Some of them are hardly taught at most universities anymore due to the reduction of basic formation. Others are so new that they have not even arrived there yet. At the event, participants will become acquainted with a variety of methods used by projects of the Academy's Medieval Center as well as by other medievalist projects in the capital region. The aim is to raise awareness about questions of source criticism, source indexing, and representation of testimony under the conditions of current globalization, digitization, and scientification. However, the concrete practice with materials and techniques will not be neglected. Both in the Center's research projects themselves as well as during excursions to archives, libraries and historical buildings of Berlin, the participants of the summer school will have the opportunity to get into direct contact with scientific objects, ranging from medieval charters to Quran manuscripts to works of church art. The general idea of the Medieval Summer School is to draw connections between old and new basic sciences in Medieval Studies and to highlight the importance of innovation in this field.

Application:

The Medieval Summer School offers 25 places for young medievalists from all over the world. The event is directed at advanced students of all disciplines relating to medieval studies, and also at doctoral students. Good English language skills are required. About half of the modules will be taught in English, the other half in German. For the modules in German accompanying summaries in English will be provided by student translators.

At the moment we are assuming that face-to-face events will be possible again at the end of September. Otherwise, the Medieval Summer School will be held digitally.

Please send your application to medieval.summerschool@bbaw.de (in German or English, in a single PDF file). The application deadline is June 15, 2021

The application should include:

- Letter of motivation
- Curriculum Vitae
- Study certificates (B.A. diploma or similar)
- optional: Application letter for a scholarship. Eligibility: Only applicants who are not citizens of Germany and are not residing permanently in the country. The scholarship will cover the cost of accommodation at Humboldt University's guest house and will provide a subsidy for travel expenses.

Program

Among the topics to be taught are:

Researching Quran manuscripts with scientific methods

Urkundenedition und Regesten (editing and cataloguing of charters)

Digital Historical Semantics

Geschichte der Drucktechnik und Typographie (history of printing and typography)

Kirchenkunst (church art)

Digitale Historische Kartographie (digital historical cartography)

Digital Text Edition

Handwritten Text Recognition

Medieval Manuscripts as Sources for Medieval Studies

The Middle Ages in the Genetics Lab

Analysing multi-religious spaces in the Muslim world

Two public evening lectures will be held during the Medieval Summer School:

September 28, 2021, 6 p.m.: Claudia Melisch (Archaeologist, Berlin): Die ersten Berliner. Körperfunde in der mittelalterlichen Stadtmitte und ihre Untersuchung (The first Berliners. Skeletal finds in the medieval city center and their investigation)

September 30, 2021, 6 p.m.: Adam Izdebski (Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History, Jena): Scientific Approaches to Mediterranean and Byzantine History

Venue: Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Jägerstr. 22-23

Contact: medieval.summerschool@bbaw.de