

PhD Fellowship Byzantine Literature at Ghent University

Well-qualified candidates are invited to apply for a 4-year PhD position, starting on 1 October 2022, within the research project “Epistolary codes: socio-rhetorical strategies in Byzantine letters of the tenth to twelfth centuries” funded by FWO (Research Foundation Flanders) and supervised by Floris Bernard, Department of Literary Studies, Ghent University.

Framework

The successful applicant will be expected to work on a dissertation that contributes to the objectives of the project. The project aims to gain insight in the “epistolary codes” governing the genre of the Byzantine letter. Its objective is to understand the intertwining of literary strategies (notably allusion, quotation, etc.) with social interests in Byzantine letters. Literary analysis (especially intertextual study) will be paired with historical research.

Requirements

- A Master’s degree in Classics and/or Byzantine Studies, with preferably an emphasis on Byzantine literature;
- an excellent knowledge of Ancient and Medieval Greek;
- knowledge of Byzantine history and culture;
- acquaintance with literary theories and methodologies, and an interest to further develop this;
- excellent command of English, and at least good passive knowledge of French, German, and Italian.

Candidates must have obtained their MA degree at the time of application, or be able to demonstrate that they will have that degree in hand by the start of the doctoral fellowship.

Expectations

- Complete a doctoral dissertation within the four years of the fellowship;
- regularly work together with the supervisor on specific topics related to the project, with a view on co-authored publications;
- organize scholarly events and participate in academic activities related to the project;
- contribute to the intellectual life of the Department of Literary Studies and especially the section of Greek.

Remunerations and benefits

- Full-time employment as a PhD student for four years;
- an internationally competitive tax-free bursary in accordance with the salary scales for PhD students established by the Flemish government;
- a substantial allowance for research-related travel and equipment, and office space in the faculty;
- a lively international intellectual community of Byzantinists at Ghent University, which is home to many successful projects and fellowships;
- a PhD training at UGent Doctoral Schools, with opportunities to acquire transferable skills.

Applications

Applications should consist of the following materials, to be sent by email to the supervisor of the research project, Floris Bernard, floris.bernard@ugent.be, no later than 31 May 2022:

- A cover letter explaining your background and expertise, and the reasons why you think your knowledge, skills and interests will be valuable for the project;
- a curriculum vitae;

- transcripts or scans of diplomas (grades transcripts can also be included);
- a writing sample (e.g. your MA thesis);
- two letters of reference, to be sent separately by the referents to the supervisor of the project (please mention the names in your cover letter).

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for interviews in the second half of June.

Please address any queries to Floris Bernard (floris.bernard@ugent.be).