

# Graduate School Scholarship Program

## Advertisement of Two Scholarships for Doctoral Studies in the „Languages and Cultures of the Silk Road“ Program

The Graduate School Scholarship Program (GSSP) of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) is offering two doctoral scholarships to research and complete a doctorate within the “Languages and Cultures of the Silk Road” program at the Berlin Graduate School of Ancient Studies (BerGSAS). We welcome applications from highly qualified graduates from the academic fields of **Central and East Asian Archaeology, Central Asian studies, Iranian studies, Turkology**. Candidates must hold an outstanding Master's degree, or equivalent degree, in one of the aforementioned subjects or be very close to completion. The scholarship is available from **October 2019** for three or four years (subject to a satisfactory annual progress review).

### The call is open only to applicants

- who are not German citizens
- who have not resided in Germany continuously for longer than 12 months as of the application deadline
- whose last final exam (M.A.) should have taken place no longer than 5 years and 9 months ago

### Further qualifications

The “Languages and Cultures of the Silk Road” program covers Central Asia essentially in the period from the beginning of the present era up to the arrival of Islam in the area (e.g., 10<sup>th</sup> c. in Kashgar, ca. 14<sup>th</sup> c. in Turfan) and therefore concentrates on the broad range of attested languages and literatures of Buddhist, Manichaeian and Christian communities and on a lesser quantity of secular documents. The Turfan Collection in Berlin provides an ideal opportunity to study original materials. A wealth of recently excavated sites and find materials in Central and Eastern Asia allow

new approaches to a number of old questions concerning the complex cultural history along the Silk Roads. The candidates are free to choose their own topics, and it is important to remember that artifacts and texts that have already been published often have a lot more to reveal than has already been discovered. The following is an indication of the kind of topics possible and is not intended to exhaust or limit the possibilities.

**Dissertation proposals in the field of archaeology and cultural history:** How did knowledge spread and transform societies in Eastern Central Asia in the first Millennium AD? Reconstruction of the individual life history and kinship of oasis settlers based on objects and texts. Identification of raw materials and products which are representative for particular time periods, locations, or communities in Xinjiang.

**Dissertation proposals in the field of Iranian studies:** For example, Studies on the traditional Iranian religion and on early Zoroastrianism especially in the Eastern context; Studies of the Sogdian Buddhist texts; Studies of the verbal system and a detailed analysis of its use in Middle Persian, Parthian or Sogdian texts; Studies of the composition of the Manichaean Parthian hymn-cycles and so on.

**Dissertation proposals in the field of Turkic studies:** Philological, linguistic, literary, cultural and/or historical research on Old Turkic texts from the period under consideration; A contrastive research on Old Uyghur and Chinese lexicon and syntax on the basis of Buddhist and Manichean texts, focusing on translation techniques and interference between the source and target language.

Pre-knowledge of the textual body to be studied and a good working knowledge of relevant research languages are indispensable. We strongly recommend that you contact a potential supervisor of your choice for your dissertation project, before submitting your application; your first supervisor must be one of the professors at Freie Universität zu Berlin or Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

In accordance with DAAD guidelines, doctoral scholarship holders receive a basic monthly stipend of 1,200 Euros: a travel allowance; a combined health, accident and liability insurance policy; allowances for study and research and, where applicable, rent and family allowances, as well as financial support for a pre-sessional language course.

### **Application process:**

Candidates must send their application before **December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018** to [application@berliner-antike-kolleg.org](mailto:application@berliner-antike-kolleg.org).

### **Please submit:**

- an application form (download on the website: <http://www.berliner-antike-kolleg.org/bergsas/application>)
- a curriculum vitae (CV, resume)
- a cover letter that explains your motivation for applying to the doctoral program
- two letters of recommendation by two university professors from your home university. Please use the DAAD letter of recommendation form (download
- here <http://www.daad.de/imperia/md/content/de/foerderung/recommendation.pdf>). Please note that using this form is mandatory.

- a research proposal (5 pages)
- a work plan and schedule for three years
- a writing sample (15-20 pages)
- copies of certificates and copies of translated documents (the copies don't have to be certified):
  - copies of certificates of annual examinations taken at the home university
  - copies of certificates of any academic degrees or advanced qualifications indicating grades and explaining the home university's grading system
  - copies of document(s) certifying knowledge of English language

**The application procedure takes place in two stages:**

- 1) Candidates submit their applications, including the documents mentioned above, to [application@berliner-antike-kolleg.org](mailto:application@berliner-antike-kolleg.org)
- 2) Short-listed candidates are invited for an interview (on Skype) within two months of the application deadline.

If you have been selected for a scholarship by BerGSAS you will be required to upload your application to the DAAD submission system. BerGSAS will prepare a shortlist, while DAAD will make the final choice. Admission to studies and receiving of a scholarship is based on assessments by both the hosting university and DAAD.

**For further inquiries please contact the BerGSAS Coordinators:**

Dr. Regina Attula, [regina.attula@berliner-antike-kolleg.de](mailto:regina.attula@berliner-antike-kolleg.de); Dr. Carmen Marcks-Jacobs, [carmen.marcks@berliner-antike-kolleg.de](mailto:carmen.marcks@berliner-antike-kolleg.de)

**BERLIN GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ANCIENT STUDIES**