



Foto: Dunja Antic

## The Berlin Graduate School of Ancient Studies (BerGSAS)

The Berlin Graduate School of Ancient Studies (BerGSAS) is a fundamental building block of the Berliner Antike-Kolleg. It offers structured PhD programs for graduate students from Germany and abroad and encompasses all of the disciplines involved in ancient studies research at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin's Faculties of Philosophy, Humanities and Social Sciences, Language, Literature and Humanities and Theology and the Freie Universität Berlin's Departments of History and Cultural Studies, Philosophy, Humanities and Geosciences. The two universities are ranked equally and both are represented by a spokesperson.

The programs are conducted by the universities in cooperation with non-university partners: the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, the German Archaeological Institute, the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science and the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation. This arrangement provides doctoral candidates with opportunities unique throughout Europe, not only by offering a broader range of research-based instruction, but also by enabling candidates to gain experience through contact with research institutions specializing in various fields of advanced research. All of the programs at the Dahlem Research School and the Humboldt Graduate School are accredited, thus guaranteeing their continued adherence to international standards of excellence.

| [www.berliner-antike-kolleg.org/en/bergsas](http://www.berliner-antike-kolleg.org/en/bergsas)

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## Ancient Objects and Visual Studies (AOViS)

## A Doctoral Program of the Berlin Graduate School of Ancient Studies





## Doctoral program Ancient Objects and Visual Studies (AOViS)

“*Primum monumentum, deinde philosophari.*” This quote, for which many antiquity researchers have been credited, has neither lost its validity nor relevance. To this day it stands at the beginning and heart of archaeological research, large or small, prominent or obscure. Only one who is able to create a conclusive material base and command its analysis can aim at providing any further conclusions regarding cultural backgrounds, social contexts and structures, in which the object had its original place. Additionally, fundamental knowledge of handling imagery, especially in terms of hermeneutical aspects, becomes increasingly important in the archaeological-historical discipline.

The unique situation of the Ancient Sciences in Berlin, where the wide range of University programs is enriched through cooperation with external institutions, notably with the National Museums in Berlin – Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation (SPK), offers an introduction to the study of the material and visual legacies of antique cultures, that is utterly unrivaled. The doctoral program AOViS was conceptualized in close cooperation with the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation, which consolidates a number of museums with different focal points under its roof, allowing the program to offer doctoral candidates with the ideal prerequisites for their studies.

The program is not just about single cultural areas, time periods, research questions or methods. Instead, the connecting element is the work on precise objects and especially on the image. Where as the processing of groups of objects or artifacts normally forms the main emphasis for the specialized orientation of a dissertation, it is here the superordinate aspects of visual culture and conservation, archiving, museology and information technology and even law and politics that are brought to the fore and emphasized.

Through the integration of all these facts with the study of objects, which cannot be achieved by a graduate program solely rooted in a University, the doctoral program Ancient Objects and Visual Studies is truly unique.



## Partner of the doctoral program The Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation (SPK)

Founded in 1957, the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation (SPK) is one of the largest cultural institutions in the world. The Berlin State Museums (SMB), the Berlin State Library (SBB), the Prussian Privy State Archives (GStA PK), the Ibero-American Institute (IAI) and the State Institute for Music Research (SIM), which were originally part of the collections and archives of the Prussian state, are united within the foundation into a closely woven net of cultural heritage. Its extensive collections and its expertise in researching and imparting knowledge on antiquity makes the SPK an ideal partner for the Berlin Graduate School of Ancient Studies. It plays a decisive role in the doctoral program Ancient Objects and Visual Studies, especially through the SBB, the SMB and the archaeological museums. The focus is on conveying aspects of museum work ranging from conservation, archiving, museology, and IT to legal and political aspects.

The new Archaeological Center, together with the Central Archive of the SMB, the Central Archaeological Library and workshops and depositories, offers doctoral candidates optimal research conditions. Located in the immediate vicinity of the museums on Museum Island, the center is uniquely suited for work combining archaeological theory with museum-oriented archaeological practice.

[www.preussischer-kulturbesitz.de/en](http://www.preussischer-kulturbesitz.de/en)



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