



## 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, and Philosophy and Humanities. The two universities have equal status 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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## Languages and Cultures of the Silk Road

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



## Doctoral program Languages and Cultures of the Silk Road

Languages and Cultures of the Silk Road offers a structured doctoral program for PhD candidates whose research focuses on linguistic and cultural legacies along the Silk Road. The spectrum of possible dissertation subjects spans the disciplines of ancient history, archaeology, Indo-European studies, Iranian Studies, art history, history of religion, sinology, theology, Turkology and Central Asian studies.

Moreover, Berlin's Turfan collection – consisting primarily of religious art and texts from Turfan and other oases along the northern route of the Silk Road in northwest China – represents a unique source of material for researching a broad range of themes concerning religion, language, art and society from the 3rd to the 13th c. and beyond. Because of the movements that once took place along the trade route, research into cultures and texts must extend beyond Turfan and its environs. Hence, in studying early Buddhist art the region from northwest India to China must be taken into account. In examining religious texts, India has to be studied as the homeland of Buddhism, while Mesopotamia has to be investigated as the starting point of Manichaeism and Syrian Christianity. Furthermore, interdependency exists between native languages and material cultures in the research area and, on the one hand, those of China, the northern Steppes and Tibet, and on the other hand, impulses from the West. Alongside

the local languages of Tocharian and Sakan, and the Indian, Chinese and Tibetan influences that affected them, there is the particularly fascinating case of the encounters that occurred from Samarkand to Xi'an between the Sogdians and the westbound bearers of the Turkic languages. The doctoral program thrives on exchanges between doctoral candidates and representatives of the relevant subject areas in an interdisciplinary environment. These exchanges are supplemented by practical training in organization and knowledge transfer.

The program profits from Berlin's especially plentiful supply of available resources. These include, on the one hand, the texts belonging to the Berlin Turfan Collection of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities and to the Oriental Department of the Berlin State Library, as well as murals and other objects from the Museum of Asian Art, and on the other hand, the broad range of specialist courses offered by the Freie Universität and Humboldt-Universität, as well as the expertise of the Eurasian Department of the Germany Archaeological Institute.



## Partner of the doctoral program Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (BBAW)

The Center for the Study of the Ancient World unites all of the research projects at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (BBAW) that deal with the study of antiquity under a single roof: the two corpora of inscriptions, i.e. 'Inscriptiones Graecae' and 'Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum', 'Alexandrian and Antiochian Biblical Exegesis in Late Antiquity', 'Galen of Pergamum. The Transmission, Interpretation and Completion of Ancient Medicine', the 'Commentaria in Aristotelem Graeca et Byzantina', the 'Corpus Coranicum', the 'Turfan Research Project' and the 'Census'. Three completed projects round out the list: 'Greek Coinwork', the 'Prosopographia Imperii Romani' and 'Prosopography in the Middle Byzantine Period'. All of these projects are characterized by a high level of skill in collecting, selecting, editing, commentating, evaluating and performing lexicographic work on ancient sources, and all have at their disposal collections of archival materials, some of which are entirely unique.

In cooperating with the doctoral program Languages and Cultures of the Silk Road, the Turfan Research Project and the Center for the Study of the Ancient World contributes their considerable expertise in the fields of transmission history, textual criticism, paleography, codicology, editorial studies, epigraphy and prosopography. Doctoral candidates profit from this knowledge through seminars, workshops, internships and summer schools.

| [www.bbaw.de](http://www.bbaw.de)

✦ Background: Manichaean double leaf in manichaean writing and parthian language, BBAW, turf collection Inv. M4b / location of picture: Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin Preussischer Kulturbesitz  
✦ Foreground: Omentext in manichaean writing and middle persian language, BBAW, turf collection Inv. M556 / location of picture: Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin Preussischer Kulturbesitz  
✦ Cover: Zoroastrian fire temple, Aspvah in North Khorasan | Photo: Mette Bangsbo Thuesen  
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