Call for Applications

Digital Byzantine Studies Fellowship Programme

First Round — Fellowships for 2027

Application Deadline: 31 October 2026

Funded by the Volkswagen Foundation

About the Programme

The Digital Byzantine Studies Fellowship Programme is established within the framework of the project *Creating a Sustainable Digital Infrastructure for Research-Based Teaching in Byzantine Studies (DiBS)*, funded by the Volkswagen Foundation and hosted at the University of Cologne. The programme aims to strengthen Digital Byzantine Studies in Cologne as an internationally visible research hub, and to support the next generation of scholars working at the intersection of Byzantine Studies and Digital Humanities. Fellows will have the opportunity to extend traditionally conceived research projects by adding meaningful digital components, while gaining hands-on competencies in digital research methods. The programme is embedded in a rich academic environment, combining the expertise of the Department of Byzantine Studies and Modern Greek Philology with the infrastructure and knowledge of the Cologne Center for eHumanities (CCeH).

At a Glance

Programme	DiBS Fellowship Programme — First Round (2027)
Fellowship Duration	1 to 3 months (flexible)
Fellowship Types	PostDoc (completed PhD) · PraeDoc (no PhD yet)
Monthly Stipend	PostDoc: €2,500 · PraeDoc: €2,000
Host Institution	University of Cologne
Fellowship Start	January – December 2027
Application Deadline	31 October 2026
Notification	30 November 2026

Eligibility

The programme is open to the following groups:

- Advanced Master's students or recent graduates seeking to pursue a doctorate
- Doctoral candidates (PraeDoc) working on a thesis in Byzantine Studies or a related field
- Early-career researchers (PostDoc) who have completed their PhD in the past 5 years

All applicants must propose a research project that integrates, or is substantially enriched by, digital methods and/or tools. Projects in Byzantine Studies, Digital Humanities, Digital Classics, or adjacent fields (e.g. Computational Archaeology, Digital Medieval Studies) are particularly welcome. There are no restrictions on nationality or current institutional affiliation.

What the Fellowship Offers

Financial Support

- A monthly stipend of €2,500 (PostDoc) or €2,000 (PraeDoc) for the duration of the fellowship
- A travel allowance towards travel to and from Cologne, and for project-related mobility (subject to available funds, with priority for applicants without institutional funding)

Academic Environment

- Workspace at the Cologne Center for eHumanities (CCeH) embedded in a team of over 20 researchers and student assistants active in Digital Humanities projects
- Mentoring by the DiBS team in Byzantine Studies and Digital Humanities
- Individual project planning and dedicated technical support

Academic Integration

- Participation in the monthly Digital Byzantine Forum, a roundtable where fellows present and discuss ongoing work with colleagues from Byzantine Studies, Digital Humanities, and adjacent disciplines
- Opportunity to present results in the Cologne Digital Humanities Colloquium, a curricular series jointly organized by the Institute for Digital Humanities and CCeH
- Access to lectures, workshops, and conferences at the University of Cologne

Practical and Administrative Support

- Assistance with accommodation and visa procedures
- Logistical and financial support for organizing workshops at the University of Cologne during or after the fellowship

Career Development and Networking

- PostDoc fellows: support for external funding applications through the University's Research Management Office
- PraeDoc fellows: opportunities for joint doctoral supervision, support for co-tutelle arrangements and doctoral funding applications
- Long-term membership in an international alumni network fostering future collaborations and academic exchange

How to Apply

Applications must be submitted by email to the programme coordinator (see contact details below) by 31 October 2026. The application dossier must include:

1. Curriculum vitae

A full academic CV, including a list of publications.

2. Letter of motivation

A letter (max. 1 page) explaining your interest in the programme and how the fellowship would contribute to your academic development.

3. Project outline

A research project outline (approx. 3 pages, Arial 11, exclusive of bibliography) describing the project you intend to pursue during the fellowship. The outline should address:

- The research background and objectives of the project
- The digital component(s) to be developed during the fellowship (methods, tools, data)
- For PraeDoc applicants: the status of the doctoral project and timeline
- For PostDoc applicants: potential or forthcoming external funding applications in which the University of Cologne would serve as host or partner institution

4. Preferred timing and duration

Please indicate your preferred start month(s) and duration (1, 2, or 3 months) within 2027. Multiple options may be listed in order of preference. We preferably accommodate stays during April–July and October–February, corresponding to the lecture periods at the University of Cologne; exceptions may be possible.

All documents may be submitted in English or German.

Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed by the DiBS project team. Selection criteria include the quality and feasibility of the proposed project, the fit with the expertise and infrastructure available at CCeH and the Byzantine Studies Department, the applicant's academic profile, and the potential for longer-term collaboration or follow-up funding. Applicants will be notified of the outcome by 30 November 2026.

Contact and Further Information

For questions about the programme, please contact:

Dr. Martina Filosa (Programme Coordinator)

Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies

University of Cologne

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