

## The Future of Manuscript Studies Fifth edition Firenze, 5-6 February 2026 Call for papers

Early-stage researchers working on medieval manuscripts are widely present within PhD courses in various disciplines and subjects, funded projects, universities and research institutions. Their research activities, which contribute in an essential way to building the future of manuscript studies, would highly benefit from a broader comparison of methods and results, both among young scholars and within the wider scholarly community.

The fifth International Contest Fumast - The Future of Manuscript Studies aims to bring together once again - after the first four editions (held in Gaeta in October 2019, online in April 2021, in Udine in December 2022 and in Naples in January 2025) - experienced scholars and young researchers engaged in the study of manuscripts, coming from a variety of countries and scholarly traditions, and working in different and often not directly connected contexts.

Proposals are expected from PhD students and early-stage researchers (within 5 years since completion of PhD; eligibility can be extended for reasons such as maternity, paternity or illness). They may concern ongoing projects as well as first results of scholarly undertakings in the field of manuscript studies (palaeography, codicology, history of illuminated manuscripts, cataloguing practices). Interdisciplinary approaches, including digital humanities, are most welcome. Topics not centred on the study of manuscript books (i.e. those of a purely philological, literary or art-historical nature) will not be considered. Those who have already been selected as participants in previous editions of the FuMaSt contest are not eligible for this edition.

Eight papers will be selected for a 20-minute presentation. The papers will need to conform to a few formalia, in order to make communication more efficient, and should contribute to shaping 'good practices' in the oral presentation of palaeographical and codicological research.

These requirements - which will be sent to the selected speakers - mainly concern the structure of the papers, the relevance, technical quality and organisation of illustrations, and the drafting of a longer abstract in two of the contest's official languages.

The proposals for papers should be written in English, French, German, Italian or Spanish, and contain the following information:

- author's name and affiliation (if applicable);
- a short curriculum vitae (max. 2,500 characters);
- title;
- summary (min 4,000/max. 6,000 characters), offering sufficient information on the context, methods and results of the presented research.

The contest will take place at the University of Florence on 5-6 February 2026. The eight selected speakers will be granted hotel accommodation in Florence and a refund of €100/200 (Italian and foreign speakers respectively) for travel expenses.

The best three presentations, chosen by a panel representing the organising institutions, will be awarded a certificate.

The first-place finisher will also receive a symbolic prize of €500.

The proposals, in PDF format, should be sent to local organiser (irene.ceccherini@unifi.it) **no later than 30 October 2025**.

The selected papers will be announced by 15 November 2025. The complete texts of the papers must be sent by 15 December 2025 to the panel, which may then make further suggestions for the definitive version.

**Local organiser Irene Ceccherini,  
for submissions and further information please contact:  
irene.ceccherini@unifi.it**

Co-organised by:



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Dipartimento di Storia,  
Archeologia, Geografia,  
Arte e Spettacolo  
**Eccellenza 2023-2027**