

Manuscript Cultures in Connection is an International Summer School jointly organised by the **Department of Historical and Geographical Sciences and the Ancient World (DiSSGeA, University of Padova)** and the **Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures (University of Hamburg)**. It offers an innovative learning programme in ancient manuscript cultures in a global perspective through research-oriented training and a unique interdisciplinary approach, integrating textual scholarship, palaeography, history, material culture, and digital humanities.

The curriculum explores **how texts, manuscripts and written traditions travelled, transformed and acquired meaning across the ancient and medieval world**. The programme features **seminars**, **hands-on workshops**, and **field trips** to important **conservation libraries** across the Veneto region, where some of the most significant book collections in Italian and European history were assembled from the Middle Ages through the 18th century. These include the **Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana in Venice**, and the **Biblioteca Civica Bertoliana in Vicenza**. Here, participants will engage directly with selected artifacts under the guidance of experts with long-standing relationships with these cultural institutions and the personnel in charge of their custody.

Students will participate in **digital humanities workshops** and a walk hunting for the **inscriptions of ancient Padova**, the university town at the heart of a dense network of intellectual and commercial exchanges that deeply impacted the development of early modern science and book culture.

Student target group

The summer school is designed for **advanced BA and MA students in Classics, Ancient History, Manuscript Studies, Medieval Studies, and Cultural Heritage** wishing to develop critical skills applicable to academic research and to work in cultural heritage institutions

(libraries, archives, and museums). **PhD students at the start** of their research journey may also benefit from the Summer School's cross-disciplinary methodological approach.

Workload

The summer school will run for five days (Monday through Friday), for a total of **35 teaching hours**, and will award **3 ECTS**.

Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the summer school, participants will have obtained

knowledge in

- codicology and book history, with a special focus on structuring elements (paracontent) and images
- historical processes of textual transmission
- manuscripts as cultural artifacts
- the provenance of manuscript collections and the ethics of cultural heritage conservation

competences in

- methodologies for the investigation of manuscript cultures and textual transmission
- methodologies to critically evaluate the materiality of manuscripts
- methodologies to explore readers' experiences

skills in

- manuscript description
- critical editing in traditional and digital environments

Selection process and tuition fees

Students will be able to **apply between November 16, 2026, and March 16, 2027**, through the DreamApply platform[1]. Students will need to present the following documents:

- Curriculum Vitae (CV) in English;
- Motivational letter in English;
- Transcript of Academic Records;
- Passport (or another valid identity document, only for EU citizens or individuals residing in Italy).

The participation fee is 500 EUR per student and is due in full upon enrolment confirmation. Fee waivers will be available for students from partner universities: a 50% discount for

[1] Applications submitted by December 11, 2026 will be evaluated by December 18, 2026; applications submitted by January 31, 2027 will be evaluated by February 8, 2027; applications submitted by March 16, 2027 will be evaluated by March 24, 2027.

students from ARQUS universities (including UNIPD) and a 20% discount for students from the University of Padova's other international partnerships.

The fee includes a 5-night stay (Sunday through Friday) at a residence in Padua, a Welcome Kit for attendants, the cost of the excursions to Venice and Vicenza, and a social dinner on Monday, July 19.

Summer school coordinators

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Programma FIS 2 (2023) – Starting Grant, «CoMByN – The construction of Collective Memory in Byzantium: Towards a Network of Byzantine compilation literature across Europe and the Mediterranean»