

Netherlands Research School for Medieval Studies / Onderzoekschool Mediëvistiek
Coordinator: University of Groningen

Organization

Since 1994, the National Research School for Medieval Studies (NRSMS) / Onderzoekschool Mediëvistiek has been the meeting point par excellence for Dutch experts in the formative period of European history commonly referred to as the Middle Ages. Six Dutch universities collaborate in the School: University of Groningen, Leiden University, Utrecht University, University of Amsterdam, VU University Amsterdam and Radboud University Nijmegen. Thanks to a Graduate Programme grant from NWO (the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research), the School is able to offer

4 PhD positions

‘Communication and Exploitation of Knowledge in the Middle Ages’ 1.0 FTE each

This theme lies at the heart of the School’s activities as it demonstrates how the Middle Ages functioned as a breeding ground for the Modern Era. At that time, useful and advantageous information became a widespread phenomenon, enabling new social and ethnic groups to carve out their own niches in existing civilizations. The topic is attractive for students from various disciplines and underscores the relevance of Medieval Studies for our understanding of present-day society.

PhD research project & host university

Each of the four PhD students will conduct individual research within the theme of the Graduate Programme, based on the research proposal they submit. They will each be appointed at one of the six participating universities. Each PhD project will be conducted at the university where the relevant main supervisor works.

The PhD student will participate in the local Graduate School of the host university, and also in the PhD training programme of the Netherlands Research School for Medieval Studies (see www.medievistiek.nl, under ‘Opleiding’).

Qualifications

The PhD student is expected:

- To have graduated in a relevant discipline with an excellent Research MA Thesis
- To be ambitious, highly motivated and wishing to follow a career in research
- To be able and willing to work in an interdisciplinary environment
- To be able and willing to work as part of a team of researchers in the context of a larger research programme
- To have the ability to finish the PhD thesis according to the customs and regulations concerning research of their university in which the appointment is made; i.e. to have good skills in planning, taking the initiative and academic writing.

Application requirements

A complete application consists of the following credentials:

- Curriculum vitae with an overview (c. 600 words) of the factors that have contributed to the development of your current intellectual and scholarly interests and what you hope to learn from your doctoral research.
- Your Research Master’s thesis.

- A research proposal submitted with the approval of the prospective main supervisor, who must be a professor at one of the six universities listed above and be qualified to supervise the proposed research. This proposal (max. 5000 words) addresses the following points: description of the project, position of the project within the discipline, description of the data (texts, corpus, etc.) that you will use or collect, research methods, the relevance and urgency of the project, valorisation: what practical purposes may be served by its results?, statement of a provisional timetable, expected expenses, description of the required research environment.

Deadlines and procedures

The deadline for submitting applications is 15 October 2015. The selection committee will notify shortlisted candidates by 25 October. Interviews with shortlisted candidates are scheduled for the week of 2 November. The successful candidates will be notified within a few days of the interview. The PhD positions will start on 1 January 2016.

Conditions of employment

The appointment will be at the university where the prospective main supervisor works, in line with the conditions in force at that university. Please contact the Human Resources Department of the relevant university for more information.

Application

Please submit your application no later than 15 October to Mr L.M. de Ruiter, Secretary of the Netherlands Research School of Medieval Studies, Oude Boteringestraat 23, P.O. Box 716, 9700 AS Groningen / ozsmed@rug.nl.

Information

For further information, please contact Prof. C.G. Santing, Academic Director of the Research School, c.g.santing@rug.nl.