

# SUMMER SCHOOL

## Arabic Christianity: History, Culture, Language, Theology, Liturgy

July 18 - August 12, 2016

### Target group

The Summer School addresses PhD students who have advanced knowledge in Classical Arabic. Students may come from a variety of disciplines: Theology, Religious Studies, History, Social Sciences, Classics and Philosophy.

Applications should be sent by April 15, 2016 and include a CV, motivation statement, relevant study and language documentation, as well as a letter of reference by the respective departments of the applicants.

### Costs

The summer school aims to host 20 PhD students. The overall cost for participation is 1,400 Euro per person which is expected to cover board, lodging, and public transportation (bus). 13 scholarships covering the full amount will be available upon selection plus a 500 Euro reimbursement of travel expenses (train, flight). Applications will be assessed by the academic committee of the Summer School.

All participants are requested to make their own arrangements for an international health insurance, visa and any other associated costs.

Coordinator:

**Vasile Octavian Mihoc**

[octavian.mihoc@uni-muenster.de](mailto:octavian.mihoc@uni-muenster.de)



### Call for applications

The Institute for Missiology and the Study of Theologies Beyond Europe, Faculty of Catholic Theology, University of Münster invites for applications for a 4-week Summer School: *Arabic Christianity: History, Culture, Language, Theology, Liturgy*.

Experts and guest lecturers from Germany and abroad will provide a comprehensive introduction to key aspects of Arabic Christianity with concomitant training in advanced Classical Arabic and readings of original texts. The various topics of Arabic Christianity include its origins, ecclesiastic and ethnic divisions, and complex theological relationships with the cultures of the Middle East, Islam, and Eastern and Western Christianity. The program will address also Arabic Christianity's difficult existence and its importance for the Christian-Muslim dialogue today.

Along the programme, important collections of Christian Arabic manuscripts will be introduced and analyzed. The latter part of the Summer School addresses the impact of current Middle Eastern turmoil on the Islamicate societies, as well as in Europe and North America. Additionally, interaction with Arabic communities in North Rhine-Westphalia will provide the chance to experience Arabic Christianity as a living Christian tradition. In short, the summer school offers participants a rare opportunity to study the complex interrelationship between tradition, identity formation and interpretation, past and present, within a fascinating faith community.

Sponsor



VolkswagenStiftung

## Location

The Summer School will be held at the Faculty of Catholic Theology, University of Münster.

## Forms of teaching

- Lectures
- Interactive Seminars
- Working groups
- Exercises in Classical Arabic
- Translation of classical Christian Arabic texts

## Forms of assessment

- Course portfolio
- Presentations
- Test in translations of classical Christian Arabic texts

## Contact hours

Duration and workload of the course is 150 hours.

## ECTS points

Participants will have the chance to earn 6 ECTS points through active participation in the programme, and successful completion of the exams.

## Accompanying programme

Participants in the Summer School are invited to enjoy a parallel cultural programme which will guide them through the history of Münster, its culture, and religious landscape. Participation in liturgy in Arabic is also included as well as meetings with Arabic speaking Christians.

## Background

One of the research priorities of the Institute for Missiology and the Study of Theologies Beyond Europe is the study of Christian cultures of the Near and Middle East, with a special emphasis on inter-religious coexistence and oriental-occidental relations. Arabic Christianity is one of the least known of the Christian traditions, one often ignored in curricula and textbooks. Recently, however, given the political developments in the Near and Middle East, this particular expression of Christianity has become highly relevant. The goal of the Summer School is to assess its significance for Theological Studies. It will demonstrate the fact that the Arabic tradition has preserved important documents, no longer extant in Greek.

## Lecturers

The invited lecturers are specialists in the Arabic and Islamic Studies, Religious Studies, and in related topics. They have long experience on the selected areas of the programme. To the pool of experts, a number is added of young scholars and researchers, whose expertise lies in specific topics relevant to the Summer School.

## Objectives

Participants in the Summer School

will become competent regarding the intertwined relationship between Arabic Christianity and other traditions of Christianity, as well as Islam;

will understand the complex interaction between continuity and transformation in the process of identity-formation in the case of Arabic Christianity;

will develop the ability of correct and positive criticism to deal with historical events by stimulating research and inquiry;

will acquire language skills of advanced classical Arabic grammar and morphology, and be enabled in critical analysis of Christian Arabic texts of different register.

*Welcome to Münster!*