

## Call for Applications

The interdisciplinary Research Training Group 1876 “Early Concepts of Humans and Nature: Universal, Specific, Interchanged” established by the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft) at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz invites applications for

### **1 doctoral position (wissenschaftliche/r Mitarbeiter/in, 13 TV-L 65%)**

starting on **October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020** for three years.

In the Research Training Group’s research programme, the object is to record concepts of humans and nature in the Near Eastern, Northeast African and European area in the period from ca. 100.000 years B.C.E. until the Middle Ages – starting out from textual, pictorial and material sources – by means of examples and to study them in culturally immanent as well as transcultural respects. In order to align the spectrum of potential fields of topics in a targeted manner four main focal points of research have been defined:

- (1) Primordial conditions and elements, the origin and the end of the world;
- (2) Natural phenomena, the forces of nature, and natural catastrophes;
- (3) Flora, fauna, and natural environment;
- (4) The conceptualization of the human body, of disease, healing and death.

Topics for PhD theses must be chosen from one of these four areas.

We are looking for dissertation projects in the fields of Pre- and Protohistorical Archaeology (Pleistocene Archaeology), Near Eastern Archaeology, Latin Studies and Medieval German Studies. Preference will be given to projects that will connect with and complement dissertation projects within the Research Training Group. Some proposed topics can be found below the explanations of the four research domains on the German version of the Research Training Group’s homepage (in German: <https://www.grk-konzepte-mensch-natur.uni-mainz.de/forschungsprogramm/>)

For detailed information regarding our research and training programme and for a list of the academic staff involved in our graduate school, please refer to our homepage (<https://www.blogs.uni-mainz.de/fb07-grk-man-nature/>).

### **Requirements for appointment:**

- a diploma or master’s degree (or equivalent) with excellent results in one of the disciplines mentioned above and fulfilment of the necessary requirements for enrolment on a doctoral degree in either Faculty (Fachbereich) 05 or 07 of Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz (<https://www.studying.uni-mainz.de/doctorate/>)

### **We offer:**

- a salary based on the German public sector pay scale (TV-L)
- a PhD programme with clearly defined steps and instruction
- ample opportunities for intensive professional and interdisciplinary exchange
- close supervision by two professors of different academic disciplines of the Research Training Group’s core faculty
- a mentoring programme with cooperating partners in Germany and abroad
- traineeships within cooperating institutes
- additional funding for staying for up to four weeks abroad at a research institute cooperating with our programme as well as for attending conferences inside and outside Germany
- classes helping you to acquire key qualifications (e.g. time-management or academic writing courses)
- a modern and pleasant working environment

### **We expect:**

- focussed work on a doctoral thesis within our research programme
- scientific training within a structured dissertation programme
- continuous participation in the study programme
- cooperation with other PhD students and scholars from neighbouring fields and disciplines
- presence at the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz
- after the three year funding period: doctorate at the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz

**The following documents must be provided:**

- application form (available on the website for download)
- a letter of motivation
- a curriculum vitae
- a complete transcript of academic records, including the last school report obtained before entering university (Abitur, highschool-diploma or equivalent)
- a résumé of the graduate thesis you submitted (3 pages)
- your graduate thesis in a PDF file
- an exposé for a PhD thesis in one of the areas of the Research Training Group, summarizing the idea, outlining research questions and state of the art, approach and methods to be used, work and time schedule (4 pages)
- two letters of reference from members of academic staff allowing us to judge your abilities (to be sent before the closing date directly to the spokesperson)
- if available: a list of attended conferences and publications

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Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz is keen to increase the number of women among its scholars and thus encourages women to apply. The university supports its members in reconciling professional and family responsibilities and offers family-friendly study and working conditions. Disabled persons will be given preference if equally qualified. It is recommended to refer to a possible handicap in the application.

Further details regarding the application process and the selection of candidates are available on the homepage of our graduate school. You may also contact a member of the Research Training Group's staff in your discipline if you have a specific question. For organizational questions you may contact the coordination office.

Please submit your complete application in electronic form (PDF) no later than **July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020** to the Research Training Group's spokesperson **Univ.-Prof. Dr. Tanja Pommerening** (grk1876@uni-mainz.de).