

Applications are invited to the

**Research Master Medieval Studies,
Faculty of Humanities,
Utrecht University (Netherlands)**

(deadline: 1 December 2009)

Utrecht University offers students various possibilities for studying medieval history, literature, art, music etc., both at undergraduate (BA) and postgraduate (MA) level. The two-year interdisciplinary 'Research Master' in Medieval Studies, under the responsibility of the Research Institute for History and Culture of the Faculty of Humanities, has been on offer since September 2004. Students are selected on their scholarly merits. After having completed the Research Master programme, they will normally aim to write a PhD thesis, either at Utrecht or elsewhere. Seminars and tutorials in the Research Master programme are mainly taught in English; exceptionally, Dutch, German, Italian, French or other languages may also be used.

Interested? Read On ...

Although the student population in the Research Master is truly international, the Board of Utrecht University has expressed the wish to invite more students from abroad into the programme. Collaboration is therefore sought with the leading universities in Medieval Studies in the countries of East and East Central Europe. Measures are being taken to establish scholarships, allowing students from this region to defray the expenses of both tuition and living in the Netherlands during the two-year programme. Simultaneously, the possibility of offering 'joint degrees' is being investigated (i.e. students may spend the first of the two years of the MA programme in Utrecht, after which they will prepare and write their thesis under the joint supervision of a scholar from Utrecht and a colleague from the student's university of origin). Scholarships will be made available for these students as well.

For Whom?

The Research Master Medieval Studies is open for outstanding students, interested in all disciplines dealing with the medieval period (history and art history, literary studies, Latin studies, English, French and Celtic studies, musicology, theology and philosophy). We invite students who:

- possess a BA grade in the 'Bologna system', or
- possess an MA or its equivalent obtained in the old system of five (or four) years' MA studies,
- whose course work has a significant proportion of credits earned studying medieval topics (preferably the equivalent of 45 ECTS),

- who have sufficient passive and active knowledge of English,
- and who are considering a career in medieval research.

Depending on the personal situation of individual students, the Utrecht Research Master Programme in Utrecht can also play a role in PhD projects in the students' universities of origin.

How to apply?

The application procedure consists of two parts:

- submission of the application form to Utrecht University (**before 1 December 2009 for those students requiring financial assistance**). Suitable candidates will be selected for an interview by telephone.
- submission of an application form for a scholarship (**before 1 February 2010**).

Attention: these deadlines are not flexible!

Further details of the application procedure, information about financial support and application forms can be found at: www.medieval-studies.org
 —> link: Applying from abroad

If you did not find answers to your questions on the website, please contact:
 Dr. Anna Adamska (a.b.adamska@uu.nl).

Outline of the Programme

The academic year at the Utrecht University is divided into four 'blocks', ten-week periods of courses with intervals for exams and the preparation of written papers. Courses start at the beginning of September.

In the first year, there are a number of compulsory courses. The choice of electives is made with the assistance of a designated mentor from the academic staff, and can be made in large part with consideration for the personal needs and interests of individual students. Every student is advised and helped by his/her mentor during the whole two years of the Research Master.

The programme of studies within the Research Master Medieval Studies contains the following components:

First Year of the Programme

1. Courses Providing a Theoretical Background

- *Fundamentals of the Humanities*: an interdisciplinary course given in block 1 of the first year, compulsory for the students in all Research Masters coordinated by the OGC (two classes a week).

- *State of the Art in Medieval Studies*: an interdisciplinary course given in block 2, compulsory for all students in the Research Master Medieval Studies (two classes a week).

Students who have completed this course are invited to attend the International Medieval Congress at Leeds (UK), which takes place annually in July.

2. Research

- *Research Seminars*: chosen by the student according to his/her personal needs and interests, they are offered in history, art history (both over two blocks), literary studies and musicology (for one block each). They are offered in blocks 1 and 2.

- *Skills for Medieval Studies*: a short course in block 1 about the many reference works and bibliographies used in the various disciplines studying the Middle Ages. Through practical exercises students become acquainted not only with some of the major resources available to the student of the Middle Ages.

- *Advanced Research Seminars*: these are offered by teachers from different Research Master programmes in blocks 3 and 4. In 2009-2010, e.g. a research seminar is offered by a medieval historian and a specialist in contemporary media on the subject of 'exercising power through media'. Students will do research in their own field, but are invited to consider also the questions put by scholars in other disciplines.

3. Using the Original Sources

- *Palaeography*: to study medieval sources in manuscript, it is necessary to be able to read medieval and early modern scripts. Those who have not yet acquired this skill follow a course in palaeography (blocks 1-2).

- *Medieval Written Culture*: an advanced course in codicology and palaeography, offered in the block 3. Compulsory for all students in the research master Medieval Studies.

- *Medieval Manuscripts*: interested students can continue in block 4 with an elective specialised research seminar in which uncatalogued medieval manuscripts in Utrecht University Library are investigated and described. This research seminar may be taken instead of the 'advanced research seminar' described above.

4. Medieval Latin

Elective courses are offered on various levels (*Medieval Latin I, II and III*) depending on the skills of individual students (tested at the beginning of block 1). In block 3 there will also be a tutorial on offer for advanced students.

5. Other Courses and Tutorials

There is a rich offering of subjects and disciplines, taught mainly in small groups (1-4 students), answering the needs and interests of individual students. These tutorials can be given in the language most suitable for teachers and students (tutorials have been given in English, German, French, Dutch, Italian, Spanish and Polish). In case a discipline or subject is not catered for at Utrecht University, there are possibilities to follow courses and tutorials at other universities in the Netherlands (Leiden, Amsterdam, Groningen, and Nijmegen). Details of all courses can be found at <http://www2.let.uu.nl/cursuskrant/CursusMasterOz2009.htm>.

Second Year of the Programme

6. 'Across the Border'

During blocks 1 and 2 of the second year, there is a possibility to develop one's scholarly skills at another university in Western or Central Europe, or in the United States. The choice for a university depends on the student's individual needs and interests. Plans for such a stay should be made already during the first year of the programme, with help of the mentor and of the International Office of the Faculty.

Students who wish to stay at Utrecht make a choice from the tutorials and courses on offer at Utrecht and elsewhere in the Netherlands.

7. Research Master Thesis

During blocks 3 and 4 of the second year, a student is expected to write a Research Master Thesis under the control of a personally chosen supervisor. Double supervision is possible. The final grade for the thesis is arrived at considering written reports by the supervisor(s) and by an obligatory second reader (preferably from outside the Utrecht University).

Further Information

If you have any questions, please consult the website, www.medieval-studies.org. If you cannot find the answer to your question there, please contact Dr. Anna Adamska (a.b.adamska@uu.nl).