



Universiteit
Leiden

Vacancy

Research assistants in Assyriology

Vacancy number

17-478

Function type

Non-academic staff

Hours (in fte)

3 or 4 positions, 0.8-1.0 FTE

External/ internal

External

Location

Leiden

Placed on

21 November 2017

Closing date

15 December 2017

Faculty of Humanities, Leiden Institute for Area Studies is looking for a Research assistants in Assyriology (3 or 4 positions, 0.8-1.0 FTE).

Key responsibilities

The Leiden University Institute of Area Studies invites applications for three or four 1.5-year research assistant positions in Assyriology. The assistants will enter data drawn from Babylonian cuneiform sources into a prosopographical database. This relational database is a key research tool to be established within the scope of the ERC-funded project, “Persia and Babylonia: Creating a New Context for Understanding the Emergence of the First World Empire,” directed by prof. Caroline Waerzeggers.

The project seeks to explain the relative success of Achaemenid Persia, which established the first super-size empire in history (c. 550–330 BCE). It will exploit the large corpus of cuneiform texts produced in Persia’s most important periphery, Babylonia, in order to contextualize the emergence of the Persian Empire. A key analytical device in our work will be to compare Persian responses to those of the Assyrians, who were unable to establish control

of Babylonia a century earlier. As part of our activities, we will develop an online prosopography of Babylonia under imperial rule to facilitate future research. Each assistant will work on selected materials from among the private archives found in Babylonia and dating to late Neo-Assyrian, Neo-Babylonian and Achaemenid times (c. 650–330 BCE). Due to the diverse publication state of the sources, this will involve fully edited texts (incl. translation) as well as materials only available in cuneiform copies and/or transliteration. The aim is to document all the persons who appear in these private archives and to trace their business and personal activities along with their connections to other parties and institutions. The database will be published as an open access web-tool with copyright credits to the principal contributors. The research assistants will mainly contribute to the database content but they are also encouraged to develop their own queries and research ideas on the basis of textual data they are working on.

- Entry of cuneiform text data and textual metadata into a prosopographical database;
- Draw information from primary and secondary Assyriological sources;
- Develop an understanding of the Babylonian archival material and its agents;
- Contribute to the development of the database content and its usability;
- Communicate project work to a wider audience through digital media;
- Participate in the research team of the Persia and Babylonia project.

Selection Criteria

- An MA degree in Assyriology, Ancient Near Eastern History, Semitic Languages, or another relevant degree. Candidates near completion of the degree will be considered;
- Excellent command of the Akkadian language and cuneiform script;
- Experience in working with primary source material, preferably of the first millennium BCE;
- Ability to communicate in written and oral academic English;
- Commitment to high-quality research, publication, and dissemination, including through social media, blogs or websites;
- Willingness to work in an international and competitive research environment;
- Ability to work independently and as part of and in support of a larger team.

Our Faculty/Institute

The Faculty of Humanities is rich in expertise in fields such as philosophy, religious studies, history, art history, literature, linguistics and area studies covering nearly every region of the world. With its staff of 995, the faculty provides 27 master's and 25 bachelor's programmes for over 7,000 students based at locations in Leiden's historic city centre and in modern buildings in The Hague.

The Research assistant will hold a position in the Leiden University Institute for Area Studies. LIAS is comprised of a School of Asian Studies and a School of Middle-Eastern Studies, with international staff and student populations. The institute is committed to a present-day vision of area studies, integrating disciplinary and regional-historical perspectives on a solid foundation of excellent language skills.

Terms and conditions

We offer three or four fixed-term posts from 1 February 2018 through 31 July 2019. Salary range, depending on education and work experience, from €1,904 to €2,647 (pay scale 6 in accordance with the Collective Labour Agreement for Dutch Universities) gross per month, based on a full-time appointment.

Leiden University offers an attractive benefits package with additional holiday (8%) and end-of-year bonuses (8.3 %), training and career development and sabbatical leave. Our individual choices model gives you some freedom to assemble your own set of terms and conditions. Candidates from outside the Netherlands may be eligible for a substantial tax break.

Diversity

Leiden University is strongly committed to diversity within its community and especially welcomes applications from members of underrepresented groups.

Information

For questions about the academic aspects of the project and the position, please contact the PI of the research project, Prof. C. Waerzeggers.

Applications

To apply for this vacancy, please send in English an email quoting the vacancy number via the blue button at the top of this text. Please ensure that you include in a single PDF document named 'FAMILY NAME – Given name – vacancy number and in this order:

- A CV including education history and publications;
- A letter of motivation;
- One sample publication or other piece of written work (e.g. thesis chapter);
- Names, positions and email addresses of two referees (no reference letters).

Interviews with shortlisted candidates are scheduled for 22 December 2017.

Acquisition following this advertisement is not appreciated.