



SAPIENZA
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS:

1 POSTDOC POSITION IN ARMENIAN STUDIES

The Department of History, Anthropology, Religions at Sapienza University of Rome invites applications for 1 Postdoc position in Armenian Studies, as part of the ERC Starting Grant Project *MASLAB-Making the Islamicate Bishop: Episcopal Governance and Networks under Islam* (2026-2031; PI: Marianna Mazzola).

ERC Project Description

MASLAB investigates how Christian bishops in the Near East navigated the social, political, and religious transformations of the 7th-10th centuries, as communities transitioned from Byzantine and Sasanian to Islamic rule. Drawing on a diverse, multilingual corpus, the project examines how episcopal authority, networks, and resources were reconfigured within these new landscapes.

The project combines qualitative and quantitative methods to map bishops and dioceses of the Islamic period while comparing experiences across different eastern Christian traditions.

It focuses on three main objectives: (1) assembling and analysing largely untapped sources to produce a prosopographic and topographic study of eastern Christian bishops and dioceses; (2) conducting comparative studies of bishops' interactions with institutional power, episcopal interconfessional dynamics, socio-spatial analysis of episcopal networks and governance, confronting different areas of specialism (Armenian, East Syrian, Melkite, Coptic, Syriac Orthodox); (3) developing a new account of episcopal leadership under Islamic rule that reflects the complexity and interconnectedness of the societies in which bishops operated.

What we offer:

- Postdoctoral contract for 4 years (2 years, renewable for an additional 2 years)
- Annual salary in accordance with Italian salary scale regulations (ca €38,000 gross)
- 90% income tax exemption for eligible researchers establishing tax residency in Italy during the period of the contract (eligibility: prior non-resident with ≥2 years of research or teaching experience abroad)
- Full social security coverage (pension contributions, unemployment benefits, maternity...)
- Research and travel funding
- Shared office space on Sapienza University's centrally located campus

What we are looking for:

- A PhD in a relevant field (e.g. History, Near Eastern Studies, Philology, History of Religions)
- Excellent knowledge of Armenian
- Experience with social history, or the willingness to acquire some
- Good research record, including peer-reviewed publications and participation in conferences
- Good command of English
- Ability to work independently and as part of a research team
- Flexibility, adaptability, and commitment to deadlines

Tasks and Responsibilities:

- Conducting individual research on a topic related to the project's objectives, with a view to peer-reviewed publications
- Carrying out research in relevant manuscript libraries
- Collecting and analyzing information in Armenian-language sources to contribute to a prosopographical database
- Participating in and co-organizing team meetings, workshops and conferences
- Contributing to the project's daily operations

Research Environment

The successful applicant will join a multidisciplinary ERC team with expertise in Syriac, Christian Arabic and Coptic studies. Sapienza University offers a vibrant academic environment with strong expertise in Religious Studies, the History of Christianity, and a wide range of disciplines relating to the Late Antique and Medieval Mediterranean and Near East. In addition to Sapienza's library holdings, Rome is home to renowned academic institutions with rich library collections, as well as a lively scholarly community with regular national and international engagement.

Sapienza University is committed to fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion, and we welcome applications from candidates of all backgrounds.

Application Procedure:

Please **strictly follow** the instructions provided in the **official call** on the University's website:

<https://trasparenza.uniroma1.it/page/5/details/30935/bando-contratto-di-ricerca-codice-concorso-cdr-2-2026-ssd-hist-04a-armenistica-finanziato-con-il-progetto-maslab-project-101218152-erc-2025-stg-cup-b83c25004990005erc-resp-scientifico-profssa-m-mazzola-saras.html>

Applicants must submit the required application documents through the X-UP portal <https://xup-saras.cloud/Home/CPService>

- Application form (annex A)

- Curriculum Vitae (annex B)
- Up to 3 scientific publications
- Statutory declaration (annex C)
- Research proposal (annex D)
- PhD Diploma certificate

For **the complete set of documents required and guidelines**, please read the official call. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the PI, Marianna Mazzola.

Deadline for applications:

The application deadline is **Sunday 25 October 2026 at 11:59 PM.**

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to interview.

Contact Information

For any inquiries about the project and the application process, please contact the PI Marianna Mazzola (marianna.mazzola@uniroma1.it)