

Intensive Summer School on Comparative Habsburg-Ottoman Paleography – III

7 – 18 July, 2025, Vienna, Austria

*Austrian Academy of Sciences,
The Institute for Habsburg and Balkan Studies (IHB)*

The Institute for Habsburg and Balkan Studies (IHB) at the Austrian Academy of Sciences is pleased to announce the third installment of its Intensive Summer School on Comparative Habsburg-Ottoman Paleography. This two-week intensive program is dedicated to the comparative study of early modern (1500–1800) Habsburg and Ottoman primary sources.

Paleography courses encompass the study of various scripts in the target languages, the utilization of diverse source materials, the examination of intricate linguistic structures, and the critical analysis of primary sources.

Held at the centrally located Austrian Academy of Sciences in the 1st District of Vienna, the program features morning classes led by experienced instructors and afternoon lectures by distinguished scholars. Additionally, participants will engage in guided visits to Austrian archives (HHSStA, ÖNB), selected museums, and a historical tour of Vienna, highlighting sites directly and indirectly linked to Ottoman-Habsburg history.

Course content: The summer school does not follow a specific thematic focus. Morning sessions will begin with foundational instruction in paleography, covering a broad range of scripts in both languages. One morning session will be devoted to introducing digital humanities, with an emphasis on TEI editing. Afternoon lectures will adopt a methodological approach, emphasizing the analysis of primary sources. Participants will explore a wide array of topics related to the history of interactions and exchanges between the Habsburg and Ottoman worlds.

Course program and lectures: The program is divided into two weeks: the first week (July, 7 – 11) will focus on Habsburg sources, while the second week (July, 14 – 18) will concentrate on Ottoman sources. Each day will include morning classes led by instructors, consisting of approximately four 50-minute sessions running from around 9:00 to 12:30. In the afternoons, field experts will deliver source-based lectures, offering in-depth insights into the materials studied.

Confirmed teachers and lecturers:

The Habsburg courses will be taught during the first week (July, 7 – 11).

Teachers:

Zsuzsanna Cziraki (Austrian Academy of Sciences, Austria)

Dimitra Grigoriou (Austrian Academy of Sciences, Austria)

Elisabeth Lobenwein (German Historical Institute in Rome, Italy)

Lecturers:

William Godsey (Austrian Academy of Sciences, Austria)

Timothy Olin (Central College, USA)

Tamara Scheer (University of Vienna, Austria)

The Ottoman courses will be taught in the second week (July, 14 – 18):

Teachers:

Ercan Akyol (University of Vienna, Austria)

Nilab Saeedi (Austrian Academy of Sciences, Austria)

Yasir Yılmaz (Austrian Academy of Sciences, Austria)

Lecturers:

Gisela Prochazka-Eisl (University of Vienna, Austria)

Claudia Römer (University of Vienna, Austria)

Marinos Sariyannis (Institute of Mediterranean Studies/FORTH, Greece)

Hüseyin Yılmaz (George Mason University, USA)

On-site visits: As part of the program, participants will join guided tours of the Habsburg Imperial Archives (HHStA), the Austrian National Library (ÖNB), the Vienna City Museum, and a walking tour through Vienna's first district.

Language: The language of instruction will be English. There are no linguistic prerequisites for registration and applicants in all levels of German and Ottoman Turkish proficiency are welcome. However, the organizers would like to remind participants that at least an intermediate level of reading knowledge in German and Ottoman Turkish is necessary for an efficient completion of the program.

Who can apply?

The program is designed for graduate students, postdocs, and early career researchers. Senior researchers are welcome to apply; however, priority will be given to younger applicants in case the number of applicants exceeds the registration quota, which is currently limited to 20.

Travel and visa: For applicants requiring a visa to travel to Austria, the Institute for Habsburg and Balkan Studies (IHB) will provide a letter of acceptance to the summer school. This letter can be

presented during the visa application to the Austrian embassy in the applicant's country of residence. *Visa support documents will be issued only after the payment of registration fees and do not guarantee that a visa will be granted.*

Would you like to participate in just one week? Priority will be given to applicants who wish to attend both weeks, but it is possible to apply for participation in only one week.

Fee: The summer school has a tiered pricing policy, based on

- participation in one or both weeks
- the geographical location of the candidate's home institution

Duration	Northern America-Western Europe	Eastern Europe, Turkey, Balkans, broader Middle East region
Single week	400 Euros	250 Euros
Two weeks	800 Euros	500 Euros

Scholarship: Two scholarships in the form of tuition waivers will be available for exceptionally successful and talented MA and/or Ph.D. students. Priority will be given to applicants traveling from low-income countries. Applicants are encouraged to explore funding opportunities for summer schools at their own institutions before applying for the scholarship. Those applying for a tuition waiver must provide a letter from their supervisors specifying their need for the waiver.

Application process

Applicants are required to submit a CV, and a statement of no more than 1,000 words describing their current work and how attending the summer school on the given theme would benefit their research and career. If you are working on a specific project (e.g., senior thesis, Ph.D., postdoctoral project), please outline the key research questions, specify the type of sources you are working with, and summarize the major challenges you have faced when working with manuscripts. The statement should also indicate the most relevant courses you have taken in the field, along with your level of research experience and proficiency in German and/or Ottoman Turkish.

Additionally, please also provide the name and contact email of a person (thesis or job supervisor, a former professor) whom the course directors may contact to verify your abilities, qualifications, and academic or professional performance.

Please submit your applications as a single PDF document titled "habsburg_name_surname" OR "ottoman_name_surname" OR "Habsburg-Ottoman_name_surname" by **the deadline of March 16, 2025**, to yasir.yilmaz@oeaw.ac.at and/or ercan.akyol@univie.ac.at.

Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Notification: The organizers will notify applicants about the selection results by 1 April.