



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

“UNSEALING BYZANTIUM”

INTERNATIONAL TRAINING SCHOOL ON BYZANTINE SEALS

ATHENS • 25 MAY – 5 JUNE 2026

Byzantine seals have recently gained recognition as a crucial source for the study of Byzantium. Nevertheless, the rigorous interpretation of sigillographic evidence and the critical appraisal of existing scholarship necessitate specialised training and expertise that is rarely incorporated into standard academic curricula. To address this need, an international training school is planned to introduce students and scholars of Byzantium to the discipline of Byzantine sigillography. The school is being organised by Olga Karagiorgou (Academy of Athens, KEMBT, Director of Research / Principal Investigator of the Byz-GOVAG project) and Christos Malatras (National Hellenic Research Foundation, Institute of Historical Research, Associate Researcher) in collaboration with the Numismatic Museum.

The school is launched in the framework of the project ***Byz-GOVAG: Agents of Cohesion in the Governance of an Empire: The Anthro-Geography of Byzantium, 7th to 12th Centuries***, hosted at the Academy of Athens (2026–2031) and funded by the European Research Council (Grant agreement no. 101200199).

Content

- Byzantine sigillography: collections and archaeological finds, reading, dating and editing seals.
- The contribution of seals to prosopography, political history, administration and institutions, social history, and the history of art of Byzantium.
- Training in digital databases of seals.

Structure

- In-person instruction conducted in English over a two-week period.
- Teaching sessions (4–6 hours) followed by sessions dedicated to individual study, advanced training, and mentoring (2–4 hours), scheduled Monday through Friday.
- On-site examination of Byzantine seals at the Numismatic Museum, Athens.
- Each participant will undertake, with the guidance of the instructors, an individual project in Byzantine sigillography, tailored to their research interests, which will be presented in an online workshop (30 June–2 July 2026).

Instructors

Olga Karagiorgou (KEMBT, Academy of Athens)

Christos Malatras (IHR, National Hellenic Research Foundation)



Funded by
the European Union



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

ΑΚΑΔΗΜΙΑ



ΑΘΗΝΑΝ



ΕΘΝΙΚΟ ΙΔΡΥΜΑ ΕΡΕΥΝΩΝ
National Hellenic Research Foundation



Visiting lecturers

Maria Campagnolo-Pothitou (Musée d'art et d'histoire, Geneva)

Pantelis Charalampakis (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia)

Pagona Papadopoulou (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki)

Teaching Unit	Hours
Introduction to Byzantine sigillography	4
Methodology and usage of seals	8
Reading Byzantine seals	14
Dating Byzantine seals	6
Research tools and digital databases	4

Eligibility and Application Requirements

The Training School is open to Master students and doctoral candidates, as well as postdoctoral researchers in Byzantine Studies and related fields (such as Classics or Medieval Studies). Priority will be given to applicants whose work relies on, or is directly relevant to, Byzantine Sigillography. Graduates of related disciplines who intend to pursue a master's or doctoral degree with a dissertation on Byzantine Sigillography are also encouraged to apply.

Participation is limited to 10–12 individuals and in-person attendance is mandatory. A solid command of English and of Ancient or Medieval Greek beyond the elementary level is required.

The application form is online and should include among others the contact details of two scholars willing to provide a reference letter, a CV, and statements outlining the applicant's profile, motivation and research interests.

<https://forms.gle/YNUiqWFVFJoNVtt7>

Contact email: Byz-GOVAG@academyofathens.gr

Deadline: 15 March 2026

Provisions for Participants

Accommodation will be provided by the organisers in self-catered shared apartments with private bedrooms, located in the center of Athens. A modest daily lunch subsidy will also be offered. Participants are responsible for arranging their own travel.

Participants will have access to the Library of the Research Centre for Byzantine and Post-byzantine Art of the Academy of Athens, which holds extensive resources in Byzantine sigillography. In addition, a range of digital resources will be made freely available.

The essays produced by the participants will be published online on the Byz-GOVAG website under the name of each contributor.