Spring School 2025

Intensive ENCODE:
Digital Competences in Ancient Writing Cultures

Funding: Erasmus+ Blended Intensive Programme

Venue: University of Parma (Italy)

In-Presence Time Period: May 18-24, 2025

Online Time Period: April 1-May 12, 2025

Languages: English

ECTS: 6

Directors: Cristina Carusi (Università di Parma), Alice Bencivenni (Alma Mater Studiorum Università di Bologna), Federico Aurora (University of Oslo), Holger Essler (Julius Maximilian Universität Wurzburg)

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As part of the Blended Intensive Programme (BIPs), the <u>Università di Parma</u> with Cristina Carusi and Massimo Magnani, the <u>Alma Mater Studiorum Università di Bologna</u> with Alice Bencivenni and Carla Salvaterra, the <u>University of Oslo</u> with Federico Aurora, the <u>Julius Maximilian Universität Wurzburg</u> with Holger Essler, the <u>Universität zu Köln</u> with Martina Filosa, Claudia Sode and Dorothea Rohde, the <u>Democritus University of Thrace</u> with Maria Konstantinidou and Stamatis Bouses, the <u>Universität Leipzig</u> with Monica Berti, the <u>Complutense University of Madrid</u> with Ana Isabel Jiménez San Cristóbal and Macarena Calderón Sánchez, the <u>Vilnius University</u> with Paulius Garbačiauskas jointly offer their students the opportunity to participate in the Spring School "Intensive ENCODE: Digital Competences in Ancient Writing Cultures".

The Blended Intensive Programme has been officially approved by the EU within the framework of the ERASMUS+ Programme BIPs, which are one of the new and innovative formats of student mobility introduced by the new Erasmus+ 2021-2027 Programme.

These programmes, jointly developed by multiple higher education institutions, feature advanced and innovative pedagogical approaches that combine short-term face-to-face (physical) mobilities with portions of virtual learning.

BIPs are inherently transnational and transdisciplinary, as curricula are developed and taught together by partner institutions in different countries. The combination of in-person and virtual learning spaces allows students and academics to experience and exchange highly collaborative, challenge-based and research-steeped methods of teaching and learning.

Description of the Project

Building on the experience of a previous Erasmus+ partnership, the ENCODE project (https://site.unibo.it/encode/en), the partners propose a Blended Intensive Program that aims to train students and researchers in the rapidly evolving field of Digital Humanities and AI. The goal is to prepare professionals capable of using and creating new digital resources for studying, preserving, and giving access to ancient artifacts written in multiple languages and writing systems from ancient Europe, Asia, and Africa. The BIP consists of one week in presence at the University Parma (May 18-24, 2025), preceded by six online sessions (with a mix of lectures, tutorials, hands-on workshops, Q&A sessions, and round-table discussions). The program targets students and academics in a wide range of disciplines (Ancient History, Epigraphy, Papyrology, Paleography, Archaeology, Aegean Studies, Historical Linguistics, Classics, Medieval and Byzantine Studies, Religious Studies, Cultural Heritage, Digital Humanities) as well as professionals in the fields of cultural heritage curation, digital collections of artifacts and texts, and digital publishing.

Number of Participants per Institution

The Spring School is aimed at BA, Master's, and PhD students enrolled in one of the partner institutions as well as teaching, research and administrative staff working at the same institutions.

The Blended Intensive Programme is open to a limited number of participants from each partner institution, and to an overall number of students:

Erasmus+ partners
- Università di Parma (Coordinator):   10 students
- Alma Mater Studiorum Università di Bologna: 04 students
- University of Oslo: 05 students
- Julius Maximilian Universität Würzburg: 02 students
- Universität zu Köln: 08 students + 01 staff unit
- Democritus University of Thrace: 15 students + 01 staff unit
- Universität Leipzig: 05 students
- Universidad Complutense Madrid: 05 students
- University of Vilnius: 11 students

Tentative Programme (see Draft Program)

Online Sessions (April 1-May 12, 2025)

April 1st, 2025: Presentation of the Spring School's structure and program
                          Introduction to the DH/IT basic concepts and terminology.

April 7th, 2025: Digital papyrology: Leiden+ and the papyrological editor

April 11th, 2025: Digital Papyrology: Encodings, from Leiden+ to xml

April 28th, 2025: Digital Epigraphy: EpiDoc markup for text

May 5th, 2025: Digital Epigraphy: EpiDoc markup for metadata

May 12th, 2025: Digital Epigraphy: EpiDoc markup for semantic encoding

(The dates of the online sessions may be subject to slight variations; changes will be promptly communicated to participants).

In-presence week (Parma, May 18-24, 2025)

May 18th: Arrival and inaugural reception
May 19th: Presentations of ongoing projects
May 20th: Workshop on Digital Mycenology, EpiDoc encoding of Mycenaean texts, and the interplay of relational databases (e.g. MySQL/MariaDB) and EpiDoc-encoded texts
May 21th: Workshop on Digital Mycenology, EpiDoc encoding of Mycenaean texts, and the interplay of relational databases (e.g. MySQL/MariaDB) and EpiDoc-encoded texts
May 22nd: Presentations of ongoing projects; half-day trip
May 23rd: Return of graded assignments and final roundtable; final reception
May 24th: Departure

How to apply

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must be enrolled in a Bachelor, Master's, or PhD programme at one of the universities participating in the project or be part of the teaching, research or administrative staff at the same institutions. Participation is open to university students enrolled in any discipline related with BIP contents.

Application

Applicants should fill out BOTH APPLICATION FORMS AT THE FOLLOWING LINKS by January 10th, 2025:
1. DUTh application
2. https://www.surveylegend.com/s/5tr8.

The following documents are required to complete the application:
- Copy of ID or passport
- Motivation letter
- Curriculum Vitae
- Any other relevant documents or certifications (non-mandatory, e.g., language certificates, publications, awards, etc.)

Applicants will have to demonstrate their linguistic skills in English.

Selection Criteria and Procedures

Successful applicants will be selected based on previous academic performance and overall strength of the motivation letter, including a demonstrated interest in one or more of the following disciplines: Epigraphy, Papyrology, Paleography, or Digital Humanities (with relevance to the first three disciplines). Applicants may be invited for interview, during which the selection committee will also evaluate the applicant's language skills if no language certificate is submitted. Decisions will be communicated within three weeks of the deadline, along with further instructions for registration and tips for travel and accommodation.

- Motivation (60 points - based on letter of motivation).
- Relevance of BIP program with educational/professional career (30 points - based on letter of motivation and CV, and level of instruction).
- Language skills (10 points – based on the assessment of conversational and reading abilities and, if applicable, on language certificates). All participants must demonstrate a minimum level of B1 CEFR in English language.

The minimum score for admission is 51 points.

SELECTION COMMITTEES

Parma: Cristina Carusi, Massimo Magnani, Marta Legnini.
Bologna: Alice Bencivenni, Carla Salvaterra, Marta Fogagnolo.
Oslo: Federico Aurora.
Würzburg: Holger Essler, Maria Osmers, Jorit Wintjes.
Köln: Martina Filosa, Claudia Sode, Dorothea Rhode.
Komotini: Maria Konstantinidou, Stamatis Bouses.
Leipzig: Monica Berti, Franziska Naether.
Madrid: Ana Isabel Jiménez San Cristóbal, Macarena Calderón Sánchez.
Vilnius: Paulius Garbačiauskas, Nijolė Juchnevičienė, Audronė Kučinskienė.

Financial Support

The attendance of the Blended Intensive Programme may be covered by an ERASMUS+ SMS Short Mobility Grant for all mobile students (excluding students from the hosting University). This financial support may only be guaranteed by the selected student's home University. The University of origin of each selected student is fully responsible for the management of the financial aspects of the mobilities in accordance with the provisions of the competent ERASMUS+ National Agency. No financial support is foreseen for University of Parma and University of Bologna students as they will not be traveling for the purposes of participation in this program (non-mobile participants). Please refer to your local coordinator or Erasmus/International Relations Office for any further information related to the financial support made available. For mobile staff, Erasmus+ STT Short Mobility Grants may be available (please, check with your local coordinator or Erasmus/International Relations Office).

Services at the University of Parma

- Use of a seminar room and technological equipment
- University services (WI-FI, library access, etc.)
- Access to the university restaurant
- Accommodation support
- Social and cultural events

Contacts

Università di Parma (Coordinator) – Cristina Carusi (cristina.carusi@unipr.it)
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