

Call for applications: 4 pre-doc scholarships starting in July 2024 in the graduate program “Strange/rs in the City”, Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz, Germany

Funded by the Gutenberg Council for Young Researchers at Johannes Gutenberg University, the graduate program "Strange/rs in the City. Potentials of Urban Differentiation and Dynamics of their Activation, Consolidation and Dissolution" is awarding four scholarships for dissertation projects in the fields of **Ancient History, History of Islam in the Eastern Mediterranean, Classical Archaeology** or **Medieval History**, starting 1 July 2024.

Who we are:

Within the MGRK framework scholars will research case studies on diversity and social boundaries in urban contexts from Graeco-Roman antiquity to the 19th century. Our starting point is the observation that under different historical circumstances, key moments can be identified in which previously latent or implicit potentials for differentiation within urban societies are condensed, solidified or dissolved in such ways that they become visible and explicable both for norm-giving authorities and for different groups and actors concerned by these normative interventions. A joint focus on categories of being or being perceived as strange/rs opens up space for comparative discussions of these processes from a multidisciplinary perspective: together, we are investigating the dynamics, catalysts, speeds and turning points of processes of urban differentiation, as well as the written and material traces that these constellations have left behind.

A detailed description of the research program, the scholars involved and the focal points of the participating disciplines can be found on the MGRK website (<https://en.urban-difference.uni-mainz.de>). The dissertation project to be proposed must be closely aligned with one of the participating disciplines and relate strongly to the research program. Examples of possible project topics can be found on our website.

What we offer:

The MGRK scholarship provides the opportunity to prepare a doctoral dissertation as a full-time researcher for a period of **36 months**. The scholarship amounts to **1.450,- € per month** (to be increased to 1.550,- € in Oct. 2024 and to 1.650,- € in Oct. 2025), in addition to a monthly allowance of 100,- € for research purposes and health insurance subsidies. Work on the dissertation project will take place within the framework of an intensive professional and methodological exchange within the MGRK team. JGU Mainz offers a stimulating research environment in the humanities and social sciences. The MGRK is part of the research network *40.000 Years of Human Challenges* (<https://en.challenges.uni-mainz.de/>). The scholarship provides access to the in-depth academic qualification and workshop program of the MGRK as well as access to courses offered by the *Graduate School for the Humanities and Social Sciences* (GSHS) at JGU Mainz.

What we expect:

Generally, prerequisites for consideration in the selection process are:

- an outstanding degree (Master's level) obtained within the past 24 months in a discipline relevant for the chosen doctoral subject (the degree certificate must be issued by 30 June 2024 at the latest),
- an outstanding Master's thesis,
- proficiency in English and German and/or willingness to acquire relevant language skills as soon as possible after the start of the scholarship,
- further criteria for admission as a doctoral candidate in the respective disciplines as listed in the annexes to the doctoral regulations (<https://t1p.de/qmlfx>, pp. 81-83, 96-100, 103-105, in German).

The central criterion for selection is the originality and quality of the research project outlined in a short proposal (see below). We expect a strong interest in the research profile and the theoretical approach of the MGRK "Strange/ers in the City", physical presence at Mainz, a willingness to contribute to the lively exchanges and conversations within the MGRK team as well as with related research initiatives and partners at JGU Mainz. You should have good time management, communication and teamwork skills and a willingness to participate in training courses on research and teaching skills. Applications following previous doctoral scholarships or doctoral positions will not be considered.

How to apply:

The following application documents (in English or German) are to be submitted electronically (PDF):

- letter of motivation (1 page),
- CV,
- available degree certificates (incl. *transcript of records* of the Master's degree),
- manuscript of Master's thesis (or a significant chapter in cases where the thesis is still in progress),
- language certificates (if not covered by the above certificates),
- short proposal of a dissertation project that fits the research profile of the MGRK. The proposal should clearly outline the topic and research question, the expected findings as well as the selection of sources to be worked on and comment on the methodological approach (2 pages + chronological project plan).
- A letter of recommendation, to be sent by a member of faculty or researcher to urban-difference@uni-mainz.de by the deadline (subject line: urban difference + name of the applicant).

As a place of diversity JGU welcomes qualified applications from people with varied backgrounds. JGU aims to increase the number of women in research and teaching and therefore encourages female researchers to apply. Candidates with severe disabilities and appropriate qualifications will be given priority.

The application deadline is 29 February 2024 (receipt of digital documents). Please send your application (in a single PDF-file, 10 MB max.) by e-mail to urban-difference@uni-mainz.de. Interviews are scheduled to take place by mid-March 2024.

Please address any further inquiries at the MGRK representatives.