

## Call for Applications

### Laskaridis Ph.D. fellowship in Modern Greek Studies (2021)

The Aikaterini Laskaridis Foundation invites applications for **one (1) PhD fellowship in the field of Modern Greek studies**. The selected applicant will pursue his/her doctoral research in English in the Faculty of Humanities, under the supervision of the Marilena Laskaridis Chair of Modern Greek Studies at the University of Amsterdam. The fellowship is for a period of 3 years (starting date: September 2021 - December 2021). The fellowship is granted on a competitive basis and by application.

For information about the criteria, the application procedure, and the fellowship, see below.

#### *About the Laskaridis Foundation*

The **Aikaterini Laskaridis Foundation** is a public benefit cultural institution established in Spring 2007 by Panagiotis Laskaridis and Marilena Laskaridis. Purpose of the Foundation is the promotion – in Greece and abroad – of Greek culture and especially Greek letters and historical and nautical research. As an active and vibrant cultural, educational organization, the Foundation organizes and executes a large number of educational and cultural programs each year, as well as events, lectures and conferences in many areas of literature and culture in general, with the participation of distinguished members of the Academic and University community from Greece and abroad. Since January 2018, the Foundation is the main sponsor of the **Marilena Laskaridis Chair in Modern Greek Studies at the University of Amsterdam**.

#### *About the University of Amsterdam and the Marilena Laskaridis Chair*

The **Marilena Laskaridis Endowed Chair of Modern Greek Studies**, chiefly funded by the Foundation, was established in 2018 by the Dutch Society of Modern Greek Studies ([NGNS](#)), a foundation that promotes research and education of Modern Greek language, literature, history and culture in the widest sense. The Chair is held by Prof. Dr. Maria Boletsi. The Chair bears the name of the late Marilena Laskaridis, former Vice-President of the Foundation.

Located at the heart of one of the most vibrant and internationally oriented cities in Europe, the **University of Amsterdam** is a leading European university and one of the best research universities internationally. It is historically linked with Greek intellect and has one of the richest libraries for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies in Europe. The university's **department of Modern Greek Language and Culture** is the only academic department of Modern Greek in the country and in the Benelux.

### *Who can apply?*

To be considered eligible for this fellowship, the following criteria apply:

- A **Master's (or equivalent) degree with** distinction in a field relevant to the proposed PhD project. The Master's degree should be granted with a GPA of at least 8/10 (for Greek and Dutch universities) or the equivalent thereof for other universities.

Candidates may apply if they have not yet completed their Master's degree only if they provide a signed letter from their MA thesis supervisor or their university's administration stating that they will graduate before 1 September 2021.

- Excellent command of English.
- Excellent research skills.
- Full application documents submitted by the provided deadline (**April 15, 2021**), including a research proposal within one of the fields or themes listed below ("about the fellowship")
- Applicants cannot already be enrolled or employed as Ph.D. candidates at the University of Amsterdam or elsewhere.

### *About the fellowship*

The call for applications is open to research projects in the humanities or at the intersection of the humanities and social sciences that engage with aspects of Modern Greek culture, with a preference for proposals that involve any of the following areas, themes or points of focus:

- The shifting position of contemporary Greece and its culture(s) in Europe, the Mediterranean or the Global South; particularly, 20<sup>th</sup>- and 21<sup>st</sup>-century Greek literature and culture in transnational, comparative contexts and/or as part of wider theoretical and sociopolitical debates (e.g., on crisis, populism, nationalism, ecocriticism, biopolitics, globalization, mobility, translation, decolonization)

- Innovative interdisciplinary projects engaging aspects of Greek culture by combining theoretical approaches and methodologies from the humanities and social sciences
  - The cultural imprint and legacies of recent and ongoing crises in Greece and alternative narratives of the present and the future (incl. utopian/dystopian imaginaries in literature and art, the role of social movements, subcultures, countercultures, counterpublics etc.)
  - New literature(s) in Greece, with emphasis on accented, hyphenated, multilingual, exilic, diasporic, migrant, LGBTQ+ voices; new approaches to 20<sup>th</sup>- and 21<sup>st</sup>-century Greek literature
- The scholarship offers the selected applicant the opportunity to pursue their doctoral research at the University of Amsterdam and be part of a vibrant academic community and a broader, international network in Modern Greek Studies
  - The selected applicant will conduct their doctoral research **under the supervision of the Marilena Laskaridis Chair** (Prof. Dr. Maria Boletsi). Conform with university regulations, **a second supervisor** will also be appointed (to be determined on the basis of the required expertise for the project).
  - The duration of the fellowship is **three (3) years (36 months)**. The starting date of the fellowship can be between **1 September and 31 December 2021** (to be determined in consultation with the selected candidate). The fellowship offers a stipend of €1.200 per month (with a total of €43.200 for the period of three years) by the Laskaridis Foundation with the purpose of covering accommodation, research-related travel, and other living expenses during the period of the doctoral research. The candidate's progress is evaluated at the end of each year by the supervisors and research school: upon a positive evaluation, the fellowship is renewed for the next year.
  - Acquiring this fellowship **does not automatically entail admission to the Ph.D. program at the University of Amsterdam**. The selected applicant will then have to submit all necessary documents and go through the regular procedure for admission to the doctoral program for “externally funded PhD candidates” according to university regulations: see [here](#)
  - The selected candidate is expected to devote their time to research and writing related to their project for the duration of the fellowship as well as actively participate in activities of the Marilena Laskaridis Chair and the Modern Greek Language and Culture group, the research school, and, more generally, academic life in Amsterdam and beyond.
  - The fellow's residence in Amsterdam during the fellowship period is **strongly encouraged but not obligatory**. In case the fellow does not opt to reside in Amsterdam during the fellowship period, she/he is nevertheless expected to come to Amsterdam regularly for meetings with the supervisors and participation in Ph.D.

training programs, seminars and other relevant academic activities.

- The research conducted during the period of the fellowship is aimed to lead to a Ph.D. thesis to be submitted to the opposition committee, preferably by the end of the fellowship period (and no later than four years from the start of the fellowship)
- The fellow is asked to **acknowledge the fellowship and its sponsor** in any publication resulting from research made possible through the fellowship.
- The successful applicant is required to agree to the Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity ([https://www.vsnu.nl/en\\_GB/research-integrity](https://www.vsnu.nl/en_GB/research-integrity))
- The fellowship is granted by the Foundation and does NOT constitute an employment relationship with the University of Amsterdam. The University of Amsterdam will thus not make social insurance contributions or contribute to pension or other insurances. The candidate is responsible for arranging their accommodation and medical or other insurances. The University can offer assistance in finding accommodation through the University Housing Service.
- The University of Amsterdam will provide the fellow with access to university facilities and library resources and (if available) arrange (shared) office space at the university if the candidate resides in Amsterdam.

## Application procedure and required documents

Applicants are requested to submit the following documents **by 15 April 2021**:

- A **research proposal** of max. 1500 words (excluding bibliography) with the following sections: a) summary of the proposed project b) outline of the main issue/problem/question and the project's objectives c) methodology d) objects of research e) time-frame for the proposed project.
- A **motivation letter** (max. 300 words) laying out the reasons for wishing to conduct Ph.D. research and for pursuing this project at the University of Amsterdam.
- A **Curriculum Vitae** that lists (at least) the following information:
  - Full address and contact details
  - Previous education
  - Professional information (previous university or relevant employment, if applicable)
  - Grants/honors
  - Conference presentations and publications, if applicable
  - Language proficiency
- Copies of **Bachelor's and Master's degrees and academic transcripts**. At this stage, a certified document is not yet necessary. If these documents are originally

in Greek they need not be translated into English. In case the Master's degree has not yet been completed by the application deadline, the applicant is required to submit a **copy of the academic transcripts** and a signed **letter** from their MA thesis supervisor or their university's administration stating that they will graduate before 1 September 2021.

- **Copy of certificate of proficiency in English.** The following tests and certificates are accepted (NB: IELTS and TOEFL results should not be older than 2 years from the date of submission):  
Cambridge CPE (Certificate of Proficiency in English)  
Cambridge CAE (Certificate of Advanced English): **minimum score 190**  
IELTS Academic: minimum scores: 7 overall, minimum 6.5 on each sub-score  
TOEFL iBT: minimum overall score: 95

**NB:** Applicants with a Bachelor's or Master's degree from a university program held in English are exempted from the requirement for an English language certificate.

- **1 letter of reference** sent directly by the referent to the following email address: [info@laskaridisfoundation.org](mailto:info@laskaridisfoundation.org) Indication of the applicant's full name must be included in the email subject line. The letter of reference should NOT be submitted by the applicant.
- A **writing sample in English**, such as a paper or chapter of a Master's thesis, up to 5,000 words.

The research proposal, CV, and motivation letter should all be **in English**. The letter of reference, to be sent by the referent directly to the same email address, may be written **either in English or in Greek**.

Please collect these documents and submit your full application as **one PDF file**, using your surname followed by your initials as the file name. Applications that are incomplete or late will not be taken into consideration. Applications should be sent to the following email address: [info@laskaridisfoundation.org](mailto:info@laskaridisfoundation.org)

**Submission deadline: April 15, 2021, at 23:59 (CET).**

The selected applicant will be **notified by late May 2021**.

The selection committee reserves the right to invite applicants for an online **interview**, if deemed necessary. If the committee decides to hold interviews, these will be conducted

in the course of May 2021.

## Selection criteria

Complete applications that meet all the formal criteria will be reviewed by an interdisciplinary scientific committee comprising members from the Foundation, the University of Amsterdam, and another, external university.

Applications will be evaluated based on:

- The scientific quality and innovative character of the proposed research project
- The quality of the applicant's CV and academic record
- Motivation for wishing to conduct the proposed project at the University of Amsterdam and match of the project with listed topics and fields (see above) in the context of the Marilena Laskaridis Chair.

For questions regarding the application and selection procedure, please send an email to [romiou@laskaridisfoundation.org](mailto:romiou@laskaridisfoundation.org)

NB: Please note that we cannot provide content-related feedback to research proposals prior to submission.