

## Call for PhD Position in Late Antiquity – 2022-2025 (36 months)

### Function and Meaning of Small Finds from Late Antique *villae* in Middle and Lower Danube Provinces

within the MASLAP Project : Mutation of Architectural, Social and Landscape Space  
in the Mirror of Late Antique Peristyle Buildings along the Danube  
(<https://maslap.univ-lille.fr>)

University of Lille / HALMA-UMR 8164 research centre, France

The proposed PhD dissertation should focus on the small finds and inscriptions connected with Late Antique *villae*, especially peristyle buildings, in selected settlement contexts in Middle and Lower Danube Provinces from the 3rd to the 7th century AD. This analysis constitutes the micro-scale within the structure of the MASLAP-project, its aim being to assess the assemblages, understand what social levels they belong to, and elicit what processes they reveal in terms of the establishment and use of the buildings. Differences and commonalities between societies or elites in the Danube provinces, and transformations within them, can emerge from such an analysis.

New foundation of country estates (with peristyle buildings) are frequently encountered of a new elite in the 3rd/4th century AD in the Danubian provinces. The simply decorated buildings in the *castra* (e.g. the inner fortifications), on the other hand, are likely to reflect entirely different social spheres and initiatives. The PhD should address a range of finds and assemblages (e.g. crossbow brooches, belt buckles; pottery and glass artefacts) from different types of settlements and subject them to comparative analysis. Questions include: is it possible to identify differences in the kinds of artefacts and composition of the assemblages in parallel with the different architectural types of *villae* and peristyle buildings encountered? Is it possible to document differences among the same types of artefacts (e.g. differences in their workmanship, quality, material, manner of decoration, use of symbols)? Not only will the finds from the buildings themselves be taken into consideration, but also the artefacts from related burial contexts. The inclusion of information provided by the inscriptions will allow us to gain further insights into the function of the buildings and the social status of its occupants.

#### HOW TO APPLY: ELIGIBILITY & SELECTION CRITERIA

High potential graduates will be selected among international universities. The University of Lille is the mandatory residence for the position (the candidate will be encouraged to learn French, if he does not already know it).

High valued Master's Degree in Archaeological Studies, Roman Archaeology or related disciplines is required.

Language skills will be particularly valued: English is mandatory, French, German and ancient languages (ancient Greek and Latin) are desirable, while a language of the research area (Hungarian, Serbian, Bulgarian, etc.) is beneficial. The official language of the project is English, for the application and the PhD dissertation (to which will be added a long summary in French).

All candidates must complete a formal application, including:

- Curriculum vitae;
- Academic transcript (from the bachelor's degree);
- PhD project (up to 5 pages) linked to the general topic of the position, including: historical question, state of the art, originality of the topic, methodology, references;
- Academic references are welcome.

The examination takes place in two steps:

1. A selection based upon application;
2. An online interview (only shortlisted candidates).

Elected candidates for the interview will be notified by e-mail.

### **CALENDAR**

Submissions open: 13 June 2022

Deadline for applications: 1 July 2022

Interview: 12 July 2022

Decision: before 18 July 2022

Start of PhD: 1 October 2022

### **CONTACTS**

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