



Summer Academy Samarkand (Uzbekistan) 2024

Living in and with cultural heritage

Description

Cultural heritage is of enormous importance throughout Central Asia. This is not only true for top-down state branding, identity building and the promotion of tourism but also for daily, affective or unspectacular encounters of local communities with cultural heritage. What is considered cultural heritage by different stakeholders, and who can claim legitimate right to engage with cultural heritage is not always coherent. In the Central Asian republics, the understanding of cultural heritage and how to live with or even in it is informed by current national and international discourses as much as it is by colonial legacies and thus reflects societal change as well as geopolitical orientations.

With its venue, Samarkand, the Summer Academy is literally situated within a UNESCO cultural heritage site and thus in an ideal place to explore past and present experiences of living in and with cultural heritage. We regard heritage here as cultural infrastructure that shapes discourses, practices and politics on different scales, from the local to the translocal. The material and immaterial legacies around us will offer multiple vantage points for discussing theories, methods, and approaches to cultural heritage.

Where: Samarkand

When: Sept. 30 – Oct. 10 2024

Language: English

Level: Graduate students (MA and PhD), exceptions for advanced BA (see below)

Credits: 10 ECTS

Course directors: Jeanine Dageyeli (University of Vienna), Florian Schwarz (Austrian Academy of Sciences)

Costs and scholarships: Course fee 200 EUR including tuition, study materials and excursions. Full scholarships (course fee waivers, travel and accommodation grants) are available for participants enrolled in an institution of higher learning in Uzbekistan or other Central Asian countries. Other participants can apply for a number of scholarships including travel and accommodation grants. Other expenses such as insurance, visa, meals and individual activities during the weekend are not included.

Programme

Through a programme of lectures, reading/discussion sections, cultural visits and small research exercises, participants are offered diverse ways of engaging with cultural heritage, practices and meanings around it, as well as with contested, muted or 'difficult' heritage. At the same time,

participants will acquire and deepen knowledge about the cultural history of Samarkand, Uzbekistan and Central Asia. Specific attention will be paid to questions of cultural heritage in the urban space (e.g. urban planning, archaeology in the urban space, monuments and their context or changes in concepts of preservation of sites of historical interest through time). Pending confirmation, the programme will include an excursion to Bukhara.

Participants

The Summer Academy offers spots for 16 participants, eight of which are reserved for participants who at the time of the Summer Academy are or will be enrolled at institutions of higher learning in Uzbekistan or other Central Asian countries. The Summer Academy is open to MA- and PhD-students from disciplines such as history, anthropology, area studies, fine arts, cultural studies and human geography with an interest in cultural heritage and the Central Asian region. Advanced BA-students may be exceptionally considered on the basis of strong letters of motivation. Successful attendance of the Summer Academy is equivalent to 10 ECTS. The Summer Academy will be held in English. Knowledge of languages spoken in the region is an asset but not a requirement.

Requirements

English language competency on a level sufficiently high to read, discuss and write is expected (at least an equivalent of iBT TOEFL 80/PBT TOEFL 550 for non-native speakers).

Participants are responsible for organising their own travel to Samarkand, including visa (if applicable) and insurances. The organisers of the summer academy reserve the right to adapt the schedule to local circumstances and requirements. All changes will be announced in due time.

Summer Academy Faculty

The Summer Academy is led by Jeanine Dağyeli (University of Vienna, Dept. of Near Eastern Studies & Austrian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Iranian Studies) and Florian Schwarz (Austrian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Iranian Studies) in collaboration with Samarkand State University in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. It is financially supported by a grant from the Austrian Cluster of Excellence Eurasian Transformations.

Application

If you want to apply for the Summer Academy Living in and with Cultural Heritage, please send your application including a CV and a letter of motivation to iran.office@oeaw.ac.at by June 10, 2024.

PhD candidates should additionally provide a short description of their research project.

Please indicate in your application which of the following options applies to you:

- you will be enrolled at the time of the Summer Academy at an institution of higher education in Central Asia country and are eligible for a full fee waiver and travel and accommodation scholarship

Or, if you are not enrolled at an institution of higher education in Central Asia, please indicate whether

- you would attend the Summer Academy with your own funding from your home institution or other funding sources, or whether
- you are applying for a full or partial travel and accommodation scholarship.

Timeline:

10 June 2024	Deadline for applications
21 June 2024	Notification of applicants about outcome of selection process
24-28 June 2024	Further organizational information for successful applicants Preliminary notification on scholarships
July 2024	Scholarship details, reading materials, further details on programme and teaching faculty
30 September 2024	2 pm (local time Samarkand, Uzbekistan): start of Summer Academy
10 October 2024	3 pm (local time Samarkand, Uzbekistan): end of Summer Academy

Contact

If you have any further questions regarding the Summer Academy, please feel free to contact the organisers directly:

Jeanine Dağyeli: jeanine.dagyeli@univie.ac.at

Florian Schwarz: Florian.Schwarz@oeaw.ac.at

