



From Closure to Sharing: Exploring Research Data on the Heritage of Afghanistan and Neighbouring Territories

Second French–Italian Summer School

Paris, 15–19 June 2026

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The increasing phenomenon of restricted access to field sites and research data in countries around the world has required Social Sciences and Humanities communities to readjust their methodologies, research questions, and disciplinary approaches. Remote investigation strategies are multiplying in an effort to overcome limitations to conducting fieldwork. The (re)discovery of existing, underexplored archival holdings is one such strategy.

In the case of Afghanistan and its neighbouring territories, the security context has long constrained the organization of field missions; a situation that has worsened since 2021 in Afghanistan, making field research almost impossible. However, access restrictions need not render *research* in the humanities and social sciences in the region defunct. Maintaining high-level international expertise and research, training new generations of specialists, and preserving links with scholars and professionals on the ground are more important than ever. The second French–Italian summer school is guided by this imperative.

Organised in partnership with the Huma-Num Distam consortium (Digital Studies Africa, Asia, Middle East), this summer school aims to showcase, support, and accompany multidisciplinary research on the heritage of Afghanistan and its neighbouring countries (notably, in Iran, Central Asia, and South Asia).

The goal is to highlight the diversity of available archival collections (documentary, manuscripts, photographic, visual, material, sound, etc.) and their multiple uses as sources for research. The summer school will therefore present recent research on the written, material, visual, and sound heritage of Afghanistan and its neighbouring territories.

A further aim is to ensure that research data are shared between international and domestic researchers and interested audiences through digital means. The objective is to introduce and support participants through the lifecycle of their research data. This training will provide an introduction to the theoretical, ethical, and security framework for data management, its use, digital access, and dissemination according to the FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable). The summer school will include hands-on workshops on tools for processing manuscript, visual, spatial and/or sound data as well.

The summer school will take place in Paris from Monday 15 June to Friday 19 June 2026. Activities will include keynote lectures and roundtables; presentations of institutions specialising in research on Afghanistan and neighbouring territories and their archival holdings, via onsite visits to heritage institutions in Paris and formal lectures; presentations of research programmes using data on Afghanistan or neighbouring territories; and workshops on methods and tools for every stage of the data management lifecycle. Participants may work using their own data or datasets provided.

Languages of the summer school: English primarily (French or Italian secondarily)

Organisers:

This summer school is organised by ISMEO and the Università degli Studi di Napoli “L’Orientale”, in partnership with Inalco for the Chair “Arts and Heritage of Afghanistan,” the Délégation archéologique française en Afghanistan (DAFA), and the Huma-Num Distam consortium (Digital Studies Africa, Asia and the Middle East), with the participation of GIS MOMM and GIS Asie.

Application file and practical information:

This summer school is primarily intended for PhD candidates and Master’s students in the Humanities and Social Sciences working on Afghanistan or its neighbouring countries. The training will be led by domain specialists and/or digital humanities scholars.

Participants will be accommodated at the Maison des Chercheurs on Campus Condorcet (Aubervilliers, metro line 12, Front Populaire, Paris). Accommodation, meals and local transport during the summer school will be covered by the organisers.

Travel to Paris is the responsibility of the participants, who should seek support from their home university or research lab. Financial aid may be granted under specific criteria.

Please note that this summer school is part of a Blended Intensive Program organized by Erasmus+. A mobility funding may be provided by an Erasmus+ grant. It is your responsibility to contact the Erasmus+ office at your university. The Erasmus+ coordinator will be responsible for coordinating your participation in conjunction with your university.



Applications (in either English, French, or Italian) must be submitted by 31 December 2025 to: ismeo@ismeo.eu, with cc to m.baldi@ismeo.eu and claire.jeannet@inalco.fr.

The application must include:

- the application form (including a brief presentation of the thesis topic or research project, the sources used, and/or the candidate’s motivations);
- a CV;
- one letter of recommendation by a current supervisor or academic who has intimate knowledge of the applicant’s research.

Incomplete applications will not be considered.



UNIVERSITÀ DI NAPOLI
L'ORIENTALE



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Summer School held in Paris, 15–19 June 2026

APPLICATION FORM

To be sent no later than 31 December 2025 to ismeo@ismeo.eu and cc to m.baldi@ismeo.eu and claire.jeannet@inalco.fr

PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION

Surname:

First name:

Date and place of birth:

Nationality (if several, please list):

Home address:

Email:

Telephone:

Current academic programme the applicant is enrolled in:

- ☐ Master
- ☐ Doctorate
- ☐ Post-doctoral researcher position
- ☐ Other, please specify:

Languages (please specify, whether you are competent/fluent in reading or writing):

Regarding your travel to Paris, please specify:

- Your city of departure:
- Who will cover your travel costs:

HIGHER EDUCATION

Field of university training (History, Archaeology, Sociology, etc.):

Please indicate your highest degree, awarding institution, and year:

If you are currently in a Master's or PhD programme, please specify:

- **Field/discipline of the Master's or PhD:**
- **Institution and date of first enrolment:**
- **Title of your dissertation/thesis:**
- **Supervisor(s):**
- **Do you hold a scholarship or a doctoral contract? (If yes, please specify):**

If you have already defended a PhD thesis:

- **Discipline:**
- **Title of the thesis:**
- **Institution and date of award:**
- **Supervisor(s):**
- **Jury members:**

- **Topic of the research you are currently conducting:**

- **Institution in which you conduct this research (if applicable):**
- **Research laboratory (if applicable):**

If you do not fall into any of the categories above, please explain the reasons for your application:

YOUR CURRENT RESEARCH

Summary of your ongoing research (max. 4,000 characters, spaces included):

Presentation of the sources and data used in your research (nature, accessibility and collection method; place of conservation; issues and difficulties encountered in processing research data, etc.):

Do you have a dataset you would like to work on during the summer school?

☐ No

☐ Yes

If yes, please describe its nature:

Would you be willing to present a poster on your research during the summer school?

☐ No

☐ Yes