

# BERLIN GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ANCIENT STUDIES

BerGSAS, Humboldt Graduate School, Unter den Linden 6, D-10099 Berlin / BerGSAS, Hittorfstraße 18, D-14195 Berlin

Herrn  
Prof. Dr. Erhard Hinrichs  
Text+ Spokesperson  
Leibniz-Institut für Deutsche Sprache  
R 5, 6-13  
D-68181 Mannheim

**Berlin Graduate School  
of Ancient Studies  
(BerGSAS)**

**Sprecher**

Prof. Dr. Cilliers Breytenbach  
(für die Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

Prof. Dr. Monika Trümper  
(für die Freie Universität Berlin)

## Re. Letter of Support from BerGSAS for the NFDI-Initiative Text+

Dear Prof. Hinrichs,

the Berlin Graduate School of Ancient Studies ([BerGSAS](#)), focuses on graduate education in Ancient Studies. Since the very beginning, it was part of our strategy to support of our doctoral fellows, to make full use of the possibilities to facilitate research and organize research data digitally. Several databases in the repository of [edition topoi](#) document what we have hitherto achieved.

In the rapidly developing and changing field of digital humanities, BerGSAS sees an excellent opportunity in a partnership with the NFDI Text + initiative, to enable those doctoral students who work on language and text-based projects to participate in the latest developments. Focusing on ancient texts and languages our students have special challenges, having to cope with the non-Roman alphabets. Egyptologists (including Coptic Studies), Orientalists and Classical Philologists have to process, analyze, organize and store texts, written on clay tablets, stone, papyrus, and vellum. For BerGSAS it is of paramount importance that its doctoral fellows become acquainted with the latest developments and possibilities in the field of digitization of text-based research. Highly competent experts of NFDI Text + will facilitate the training of our doctoral fellows, introducing them into the state of the art use, processing, analysis and their long-term archiving of digital text-based data.

BerGSAS is the only permanent graduate school in the field of Ancient Studies worldwide. It was founded in 2011 on the basis of § 73 of the Berlin Act on Higher Education as a mutual interdisciplinary graduate school of the Free University of Berlin (FU) and the Humboldt University of Berlin (HU). It is supported by three departments of the FU and four faculties of the HU with leading scholars from 19 subjects oriented towards antiquity. As an integrative pillar of the Berlin Antike-Kolleg ([BAK](#)), it significantly benefits from collaboration with specialists of four

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non-university research institutions in Berlin. In its text orientated training programs “Ancient Languages and Texts”, “Ancient Philosophy and History of Ancient Science”, and “Languages and Cultures of the Silk Road”, BerGSAS integrates the renowned expertise of text-based research at the Berlin Brandenburg Academy of Science (e.g. Inscriptiones Graecae, Corpus Medicorum, Turfan Collection) and the Berlin State Museums (e.g. Berlin Papyrus Database). BerGSAS has long running international exchange agreements for doctoral student with Harvard University, the University of Michigan, Princeton University and Oxford University.

This makes BerGSAS highly attractive for German and international students, which is reflected in the large number of currently more than a hundred doctoral candidates. BerGSAS has the necessary structure and size to offer the Text + initiative a broad platform for testing and disseminating the standards and procedures developed by the NFDI consortium. BerGSAS brings together doctoral students from 13 specialist disciplines who conduct text- and language-based research and provides the consortium with a wide range of specialist subjects and their unique challenges. It can therefore ideally address multipliers for the standards developed by Text +. The BerGSAS thus sees itself as the ideal platform to allow the NFDI-Text + project to have a significant impact on young researchers.

The contribution of BerGSAS as a partner would cover the following elements: The organizational support for summer schools, workshops and guest lectures, offered in partnership with Text +. Such forms of teaching and training will give the opportunity to introduce the standards developed by Text + for use and refinement in text-based doctoral research. The content and procedures Text + develops can be disseminated to doctoral fellows through the key qualifications courses, which are part of the curricula of the BerGSAS doctoral programs. Such courses are a compulsory part of all BerGSAS doctoral programs.

BerGSAS is excited about the possibility to let the next generation of researchers focusing texts from antiquity share in the developments generated by the NFDI initiative Text + .

Yours sincerely

*Cillius Bragtenbach*

Spokesperson BerGSAS (HU)

*Manika Trümper*

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