

Summer School

Classical Bilingualism: From Greco-Roman Antiquity to Early Modern Europe

Leuven, 12-18 July 2026

Call for applications

Organised within the framework of the [ERC project ERASMOS](#) (P.I. Raf Van Rooy) *From Chrysoloras' Latin to Erasmus' Greek: Renaissance classical bilingualism as a European phenomenon (1397–1536)*, this Summer School takes place at KU Leuven.

Aims and General Context of the ERASMOS project

ERASMOS hypothesises that, in contrast to the tenet, the great age of Latin-Greek bilingualism, especially in its written form, is not to be situated in antiquity. Instead, classical bilingualism flourished in the Renaissance, a pivotal period in canonising classics. Starting in 1397, when Manuel Chrysoloras began to teach Greek in Florence, classical bilingualism developed into an authorial ideal championed by figures such as Erasmus (1466/9-1536). This ideal permeated countless genres, far beyond classical standards. It turned into a common practice shaping Europe's cultural identities across the Republic of Letters, in which Latin–Greek code-switching occurred on a daily basis. Within this novel framework, our summer school aims to explore various aspects of multilingualism in the Early Modern Period, with a special focus on Latin–Greek (classical) bilingualism during the Renaissance and Early Modern Period, but with sufficient attention to the humanists' ancient models.

Program and Activities

The summer school offers a series of lectures and workshops from a wide range of disciplines such as Erasmus Studies, Historical Sociolinguistics, Ancient and Early Modern Multilingualism, Classical (Reception) Studies, and Book History. Participants will actively engage with ongoing research activities of the ERASMOS project, including the DaLeT database of Early Modern classical bilingualism and the OCR software Transkribus, which is used to create a machine-readable and searchable corpus of Erasmus' *Opera Omnia*. Additionally, participants will have the opportunity to share their own research related to the topic of the Summer School and receive feedback from their peers. The program also includes two guided tours: a walk through humanist Leuven and a visit to Park Abbey. The former introduces *inter alia* the history of the Leuven Collegium Trilingue, founded in 1517 under the auspices of Erasmus and dedicated to the teaching of Latin, Greek, and Hebrew. The latter visit will lead you to the place where Erasmus made a life-changing rediscovery.

Lecturers

Prof. Marie Barral-Baron-Daussy (Centre Lucien Febvre)

Prof. Anna Chahoud (Trinity College Dublin)

Prof. Han Lamers (University of Oslo; The Norwegian Institute in Rome)

Prof. Maria Napoli (University of Eastern Piedmont)

Prof. Filippomaria Pontani (University Ca' Foscari)

ERASMOS+ team members (KU Leuven)

Who can apply?

The course is open to 26 participants with a good command of Latin and Ancient Greek from different academic stages (MA/RMA, PhD, postdocs). Applicants with a strong interest in Neo-Latin and New Ancient Greek literature are especially encouraged to apply, but the summer school is also open to students of Classics looking to expand their chronological horizon.

Please note that we can offer accommodation in the Irish College to a maximum of 16 students. You can find more details about accommodation further in this document.

How to apply?

The selection is based on a motivation letter and a curriculum vitae. The application must include

- CV (max. 2 pages);
- a motivation letter explaining your engagement with or interest in Latin–Greek bilingualism (700 words);
- writing sample (optional).

Please submit your application and documents [via this Google form](#).

Course Format and Assessment

The courses will be taught in English. The assessment includes the successful completion of two assignments:

- a finished portion of corrected pages on Transkribus;
- a final essay of max. 2000 words on a topic complying with the program, with a prospect of publishing it on *[Hermes: Platform for Early Modern Hellenism](#)*.

The deadline for both assignments will be determined during the School, but will not be scheduled earlier than 18 August 2026.

In addition, we encourage the participants to prepare a short presentation on a relevant topic of their choice to be delivered during the course (this part is optional).

Deadlines

The deadline for applications is 1 December 2025. The applicants will be notified of their acceptance before 1 February 2026. Should an official proof of acceptance for the visa be needed, please indicate so in your application email.

Dates

The expected arrival date for the participants is Sunday, 12 July 2026. Check-in will be possible in the late afternoon. There will be an opening reception later that day at 19h-21h. The last day of classes is Friday, 17 July 2026. We have reserved rooms from Sunday 12 until Saturday 18 July 2026.

Credits

The study load is equivalent to 6 ECTS (150 hours), as has been validated by the Research Unit Literary and Cultural Studies of KU Leuven. Each student should arrange with their university coordinator whether the course can be a part of the existing curriculum.

Costs

The fee of 300 EUR for the Summer School covers participation in all lectures, the organisational costs and includes accommodation for six nights, breakfast, a welcome reception, two walking tours, and a closing dinner.

Participants who do not wish to apply for accommodation in the Irish College (e.g. students already residing in Leuven / in Belgium) are subject to a fee of 75 EUR to cover the cost of the closing dinner.

Personal expenses such as meals are not included. The participants are expected to arrange their own travel. There may be funding to offer fee waivers. Students who would like to apply for a fee waiver should explain their need in the motivation letter.

Accommodation and Facilities

The Summer School will take place in the idyllic Irish College in Leuven, Belgium. In-house participants will be accommodated in shared rooms (max. 4 persons) with *en suite* bathrooms and WiFi access. Please indicate in the application form whether you would like to share your room with male and/or female participants. Breakfast is included.

Questions?

For any questions regarding your application or the program, please do not hesitate to contact alessandro.bonvini@kuleuven.be.

Organising committee

Prof. Raf Van Rooy (KU Leuven)

Prof. Andrea Cuomo (University of Ghent)

Prof. Wim Vandenbussche (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

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