

Call for Lectures

The *Studienjahr* (*Academic Year in Theology – Jerusalem*), run by the Dormition Abbey in Jerusalem in cooperation with the Pontifical Athenaeum Sant' Anselmo in Rome and funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), understands itself as an excellence programme for around 20 German-speaking students of Christian Theology. It consists of two directly consecutive semesters and focuses on biblical studies, ecumenical theology, and interreligious and intercultural questions.

The 53rd year runs from 24 August 2026 to 16 April 2027 and is dedicated to the theme

Bodies – Places – Things. Theological Perspectives on Materiality

The Studienjahr program has always been committed to rethinking central theological topics in direct proximity to their biblical and historical sites of origin. In the forthcoming academic year, the very (tactile) graspability of the object of learning itself becomes the topic, and materiality moves into focus: in resonance with a kind of “material turn” in the humanities and cultural studies, bodies, places and things are to be brought to the fore as key theological concepts. How do bodily experience, geographical location and material cult objects shape religious thought? What role does the concrete – the tangible, visible, spatial – play in a religion that speaks of incarnation, the cross and the resurrection of the flesh? What significance do the other Abrahamic religions accord to the body, to materiality and to locatedness? Engaging with biblical texts, historical contexts and current theological debates, and working with archaeology, history and politics, the 53rd Studienjahr opens perspectives on an inter-confessional and interreligious theology that confronts the worldliness of faith. Jerusalem itself – with its history become stone and the people “embodying” it there, with its visual, haptic and olfactory qualities – becomes, as both a real and symbolic place, a resonant space for theological reflection.

On this theme we warmly invite applications from post-doctoral/PhD-holding scholars in all Christian theologies (all sub-disciplines), from Jewish and Islamic theology, philosophy, religious studies, Jewish and Islamic studies, history and political science, as well as from archaeology and other humanities, cultural and social sciences. We invite you to submit a substantive, didactic and methodological outline for a German- or English-language course (lecture, advanced seminar and/or colloquium) of 6 or 10 double sessions (90 minutes each, as a compact course within one week) to be taught within the 53rd Studienjahr.

What we offer:

- A highly motivated, academically advanced learning group of around 20 students of Christian theology
- Coverage of all travel costs; accommodation and full board in the study house *Beit Josef* in the immediate vicinity of the Dormition Abbey and the Old City of Jerusalem for up to two weeks
- For one accompanying person: a 50% subsidy towards accommodation and board in the study house
- The opportunity to participate free of charge in excursions
- The opportunity to publish a scholarly article arising from the course in an edited volume of the series *Jerusalem Theologisches Forum* (Aschendorff Verlag)

What convinces us:

- A doctorate (PhD) and publications in relevant academic journals
- A creative scholarly, didactic and methodological concept for a course that fits the annual theme
- Teaching experience at university level

What we require from you:

- A one-page exposé of the planned course
- A tabular CV (2–3 pages)
- An indication of whether you wish to teach 6 or 10 double sessions
- Information about your availability within the overall period of the Academic Year

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We kindly ask you to submit these by **14 February 2026**. By the end of March you will be informed whether your application has been successful. The selection is made by a committee consisting of the head of studies of the Studienjahr, a representative of the Advisory Board and the students.

Please send your application as a PDF by email to office@studienjahr.de.

We look forward to receiving your exposés!

Dean Prof. Dr Friederike Eichhorn-Remmel

Dean Prof. Dr Daniel Remmel