

Testamentary practices at the periphery of the ius commune tradition: **freedom and oppression** (C. 1420–1620)

Study in Leuven (DC1)

**Doctoral Candidate position within the MSCA Doctoral Network
TESTAMENT.**

About the location

Leuven, a vibrant and historic city, located 25 km east of Brussels, is known as a top European knowledge hub. It is home to KU Leuven, a university which recently celebrated its 600th anniversary. The town is known for its historic architecture. It is bike-friendly and walkable and hosts several museums and churches, the Great Beguinage (UNESCO World Heritage), as well as the “Old Market”, often called the longest bar in Europe.

Description of the project

For this position, KU Leuven Kulak in Kortrijk will be your home base. This campus combines the strength of KU Leuven with the proximity of a close-knit academic community and an educational concept that puts the human dimension at the center of its programs. KU Leuven Kulak has a strong interdisciplinary research profile and focuses on both regional and international collaboration. At KU Leuven Kulak, you will have the opportunity to develop innovative ideas and make a real impact in both research and education.

At the same time, you will be part of the Research Unit of Medieval History, part of the department of History at KU Leuven. Next to a research axis on the history of social, gender and political history, the research unit has a strong focus on power dynamics within families and communities in late medieval Europe.

The Doctoral Candidate (DC) will be supervised by prof. dr. Chanelle Delameillieure (social history, KU Leuven) and co-supervised by prof. dr. Marek Starý (Law, Charles University). In the course of this fellowship, the DC will work six months in Prague, and three months at the Museum Plantin-Moretus in Antwerp.

This DC will focus on generational dynamics within families in the urban Southern Low Countries. For this research, a variety of judicial sources will be used. The DC will study generational dynamics and age inequality in late medieval Brabant, with a focus on acts of last will or on all sort of arrangements with respect to property and inheritance.

Responsibilities

In the framework of the MSCA Doctoral Network “TESTAMENT”, the Doctoral Candidate will have the following responsibilities:

- Researching generational dynamics and property transfers in urban families in late medieval Brabant (15th-16th centuries), and preparing a doctoral dissertation on this topic.
- Actively participating in the activities of the TESTAMENT-network (summer and winter schools, monthly online meetings, concluding conference).
- Presenting the research at at least one international conference.
- Writing at least one peer-reviewed scientific article.
- Actively participating in the activities of the Research Unit and of the Doctoral School of KU Leuven.
- Conducting a six-month research stay at the Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic (which can be divided in several shorter terms).
- Conducting a three-month internship at the Museum Plantin-Moretus, where the DC will be involved inter alia in collaborating with the museum’s volunteers and performing outreach activities related to the museum’s archival collection.

Profile

We are looking for a candidate who meets the following requirements:

- You are creative and ambitious, hard-working, and persistent.
- You have a master's degree in history or law or you will have it by August 2026.
- You have good communicative skills, and the attitude to partake successfully in the work of a research team.
- You have a good command of the English language (spoken and written).
- You have a good passive command of Dutch (or its late medieval/early modern variant) and/or French (or its late medieval/early modern variant). Active command of Dutch is an advantage.
- You have a passive command of Latin.

Eligibility criteria

Supported researchers must be doctoral candidates, i.e. not already in possession of a doctoral degree at the date of the recruitment.

Recruited researchers can be of any nationality and must comply with the following mobility rule: they must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the recruiting beneficiary (Belgium) for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before their recruitment date.

Offer

A meaningful job in a dynamic and ambitious university, in an interdisciplinary setting and within an international network. In addition, we offer you:

- Full-time employment for three years, with an intermediate evaluation (go/no-go) after 1 year.
- The gross amount of the doctoral scholarship (tax-free) will be approximately 3.055,61 euro per month if you are single with no dependent family members. It will be higher if you have a registered partner without income and/or dependent child(ren); it will be lower if you have a registered partner with income.
- Additional benefits are in accordance to KU Leuven regulations.
- High-quality training programs and other support to grow into a self-aware, autonomous scientific researcher.

Application process

Do you recognize yourself in this profile and would you like to know more? Please contact prof. Channele Delameillieure: chanelle.delameillieure@kuleuven.be.

We invite you to submit a complete application by using the online application tool. Only applications that are submitted in this way are taken into account.

The application should include a motivation letter (including the topic of your master thesis project), a curriculum vitae (including contact details of at least two references) and a list of your bachelor and master courses and grades (and ranking, if available).

Promising candidates will be contacted by email. Deadline for applications is Monday 20 April. After a first selection, candidates will be invited for a first round of interviews (online) on Wednesday 6 May 2026. A second round at the location of employment (KU Leuven) will be organized a few weeks later. The successful Doctoral Candidate will be employed from 1 September 2026.

Important Dates

Deadline: Monday 20 April

First round of interviews (online): Wednesday 6 May 2026

Second round: at the location of employment (KU Leuven), a few weeks later

Start date: 1 September 2026

Contact & Application

Contact: prof. Channele Delameillieure:
chanelle.delameillieure@kuleuven.be

Where to apply:

- Website **KU Leuven**: <https://www.kuleuven.be/personeel/jobsite/jobs/60633227?hl=en>
- Website **EURAXESS**: <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/416595>

There are also vacancies for Doctoral Candidates at other faculties and institutions within the TESTAMENT-Consortium. For more information on those other DC-positions, please consult our project's website. Do not hesitate to apply for all TESTAMENT's vacancies you are eligible for.