



Förderkreis des Rathgen-Forschungslabors e.V.

Rathgen Heritage Science Scholarship 2025

The **Rathgen Research Laboratory** is the leading institution for cultural heritage research within the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz. It investigates aging and weathering processes of art and cultural assets, develops sustainable preservation and restoration strategies in the context of global change, and actively contributes to the sustainability debate in the Green Museum. A particular focus lies on the development of analytical, especially non-destructive, investigation technologies as well as on questions regarding the documentation and digital accessibility of cultural heritage. Further research areas include preventive conservation, art technology, and archaeometry.

The Rathgen Research Laboratory continues the work of the world's oldest museum laboratory, founded on April 1, 1888, as the Chemical Laboratory of the Royal Museums of Berlin. It is named after its first director, Friedrich Rathgen.

The **Friends of the Rathgen Research Laboratory e.V.** support the scientific work of the laboratory in various ways, particularly by promoting young researchers. In this context, the "Rathgen Heritage Science Scholarship" has been awarded annually since 2009.

Objective of the Scholarship

The scholarship enables early-career researchers to conduct a **research project for 1 to 3 months** at the Rathgen Research Laboratory.

Funding:

- **€1,300 per month** for graduates with a university degree
- **€1,600 per month** for postdoctoral researchers

Research Topics

Applicants must choose one of the proposed research topics and demonstrate relevant prior knowledge in the field.

Art-technological examination and material analysis of late Antique and Byzantine, partially painted ivory artworks in the Museum of Byzantine Art

For the new inventory catalogue, late Antique and Byzantine ivories shall be examined with a focus on art-technology and material analysis in collaboration with scientists and conservators from the Museum of Byzantine Art. The group of around 50 works includes pyxides (round boxes), panels, boxes and olifants (ivory trumpets). The analyses (including microscopy, FTIR, XRF) will be carried out on selected pieces that provide an insight into the historical production technique and materiality. Ageing phenomena (such as efflorescence) will be examined on selected examples.

Research on the Effects of Hand-Held Fire Extinguisher Types on Cultural Heritage

The scope of the project is to examine the effects of different types of commercially available hand-held fire extinguishers (e.g., ABC powder, foam, and water fog extinguishers) on cultural assets made of various materials. Their damage potential will be determined and documented as part of a series of experiments.



Prior to this, the current state of research and practical experience will be collected and summarized. The project may result in recommendations for use in a museum context. Further research on cleaning and aftercare is also possible.

All applications will be evaluated by the selection committee based on their scientific relevance and potential synergies with the ongoing research at the Rathgen Research Laboratory.

Application Documents

The following documents must be submitted:

- **1-2 pages summary of the research project**, including:
 - Objectives and scientific context
 - Required technical resources
 - Intended timeframe
 - If available: Summary of previous work with a selected bibliography
- **Curriculum vitae and publication list**
- **Two reference letters**

Deadline for 2025 applications is April 15th, 2025.

Please submit your application electronically to:

rf@smb.spk-berlin.de

or by mail to

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- Scholarship -
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