

## Erasmus+ Staff Training programme at the Rare Book and Manuscript CRAI Library, University of Barcelona



Mercator, Gerhard. *Atlas minor*. Amsterdam : Jan Jansson, 1634, p. 3

In this document, we want to detail in a Q & A format how [Rare Book and Manuscript CRAI Library \(University of Barcelona\)](#) organizes these stays, so that foreign professionals can consider whether they would be interested in joining us in the future.

The initiative is part of the [broader programme](#) of the CRAI Library within the Erasmus+ Staff Training Programme.

### **Where and when will the call for applications be published?**

The University of Barcelona's [Office of Mobility and International Programmes](#) publishes the [call for applications](#) at the beginning of each year. However, the library publishes the call earlier, mainly through the [Exlibris](#) and CERL's ([Consortium of European Research Libraries](#)) mailing lists.

### **Who is eligible?**

Librarians from universities participating in the Erasmus+ programme who work or have experience with rare book collections are welcome to participate.

### **Am I eligible if I don't work in a university library?**

The [CRAI Biblioteca de Fons Antic](#) exceptionally accepts professionals specialized in rare books and special collections from other libraries who do not benefit from the Erasmus+ programme grant. In this case, the expenses must be covered by the participant or their institution.

### **When does the programme take place and how long does it last?**

The programme lasts 5 working days, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily. Ideally, the programme will take place anytime between May and September (with the exception of August).

### **What is the work plan?**

The work plan proposed by [CRAI Biblioteca de Fons Antic](#) includes predetermined activities, but it nevertheless aims to contemplate the preferences of each participant. Likewise, applicants are expected to play an active role, which will be explained further in a separate point.

The first activities are conducted by the staff at [CRAI Biblioteca de Fons Antic](#), according to their area of specialization. The activities include: an introduction to the history and composition of the collection, a visit to the stacks, and an explanation of the different tasks required to describe and promote the collection.

A second set of activities corresponds to visits to the [Historical Building](#), the [Restoration Workshop](#) and the [Pavelló de la República CRAI Library](#). Other visits can be programmed according to the participants' interests.

The third activity, which we consider essential and very stimulating, is a final meeting between the participants and the staff at [CRAI Biblioteca de Fons Antic](#). It is an important moment where we talk about the experience and share points of view, which generally proves to be an enriching exchange for everyone.



Martyna Osuch and Thomas Kohlwein (University of Warsaw and University of Wein). June 2022

### **What is the active role of the participant?**

We consider this to be a fundamental aspect of the programme, since otherwise we would not see a real and effective exchange of knowledge and practices.

Firstly, the participants must prepare a presentation about their library, which they will deliver to the staff during their visit at [CRAI Biblioteca de Fons Antic](#). Occasionally we will invite professionals from other CRAI libraries or other institutions to attend.

Secondly, the participants will work on an aspect of the collection, usually connected with their respective geographical and cultural environments, interests and abilities. For example, the hours reserved for this activity can be used to either add records to the [Material Evidence in Incunabula](#), or to prepare a blog entry on a specific edition or to create a micro- exhibition.

Finally, we strongly encourage foreign colleagues to write a blog entry about their experiences.

For more information see the [blog entries](#) written by past participants as well as their general (and very positive) evaluation of the [first experiences](#).