



Foundation  
**CALVIN'S  
REFORMING  
CORRESPONDENCE**

# PhD Position

in Historical Theology

## John Calvin's Correspondence

The Foundation "Calvin's Reforming Correspondence" and the Theological University Utrecht (TUU) have launched the research project "Epistolae John Calvin", concerning the correspondence of John Calvin (1509-1564). The project aims in the first place at the publication, annotation and historical embedding of Calvin's letters in hybrid format: publication in the series *Ioannis Calvini Opera Omnia denuo recognita* and making them available in digital format for further scientific research (Open Access).

The research program also includes a PhD project. Therefore, the Foundation for Religious Studies (Bologna/Palermo) and the TUU will be hiring a PhD-candidate for the study of Calvin's correspondence, especially in relation to networks of personal communications of scholars of his day in the so-called Republic of Letters. In this context, scholars shared information about their work, books, and colleagues. For example, good students were recommended; private life also appears in this correspondence. In the sixteenth century, this Republic of Letters continued. The study of the Bible and the Church Fathers took center stage, and also communication about scientific discoveries (e.g., medical, or geographical) increased. This PhD thesis will concentrate on the question how the correspondence of Calvin reflects the situation

of the protestants in France, in connection with the development of the reformation in the Swiss Confederation.

The project proposes two concrete options for research:

1. *Calvin's theological and pastoral formation as reflected in his letters from his Strasbourg period*

Calvin came as a young pastor from Geneva to Strasbourg to serve the French-speaking refugee congregation there. On the one hand he is here continuously in touch with the refugees and the situation in France, which possibly influenced his refugee theology (Oberman). On the other hand, there is his connection with Bucer during these years. How did that influence him and how did it affect his formation?

2. *The situation in France as revealed in the letters of Calvin and Bullinger*

The theme of this research is the perspective of the international connections of the Reformation in the Swiss confederation and their perception and appreciation of events in France. Events that were important to the Swiss situation, due to the broader European political context.

This PhD project is designed in such a way that the research will be mutually beneficial to the new edition of Calvin's letters.

The project will be based academically at the "Giuseppe Alberigo" European School for Advanced Religious Studies in Bologna (Italy) together with the Theological University of Utrecht in The Netherlands. The PhD-candidate will obtain a full-time appointment for a period of three years, of which two years will be spent in Bologna.

### **How to Apply**

To apply for this position, please submit the following documents. The only way to apply is online by sending an email with necessary documents to [secretariaat@tuu.nl](mailto:secretariaat@tuu.nl) before the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 2024. Selection of candidates will take place in June at the earliest in the framework of the Italian Doctoral School of Religious Studies (Dottorato di interesse nazionale in Studi Religiosi).

- Letter of motivation (maximum three pages, including brief ideas on how to approach this PhD topic)
- Curriculum Vitae
- Official copy of your university master's degree and grades (transcripts)
- A copy (PDF) of your master thesis written in English or other research-oriented output. This work must be single- or first-authored. If you are currently working on your master thesis, feel free to submit your thesis draft.
- At least two reference letters.
- Candidates should have a good knowledge of English.

If you have any further questions regarding this vacancy, please do not hesitate to contact:

Dr. Jan C. Klok, Project Director: [jcklok@tuu.nl](mailto:jcklok@tuu.nl).

Dr. Gianmarco Braghi, Deputy Coordinator, "Giuseppe Alberigo" European School for Advanced Religious Studies: [braghi@fscire.it](mailto:braghi@fscire.it)