



**13th International Congress of Coptic Studies
Göttingen, July 27 – August 1, 2026**

(Second Circular, June 25, 2025)

The Organising Committee is pleased to welcome you to the 13th International Congress of Coptic Studies in Göttingen. The congress is organised jointly by the Göttingen Academy of Sciences and Humanities in Lower Saxony (Digital Edition of the Coptic Old Testament) and the University of Göttingen (Institute for Egyptology and Coptic Studies), under the patronage and in close cooperation with the International Association of Coptic Studies.



The congress will take place from Monday, July 27 to Saturday, August 1, 2026 at the main campus site of the University of Göttingen. All information about the congress will be available on the following website: <https://iccs13.com>. All questions or requests concerning the congress etc. should be directed to the following email address: coptic-congress-2026@uni-goettingen.de.

1. Venues

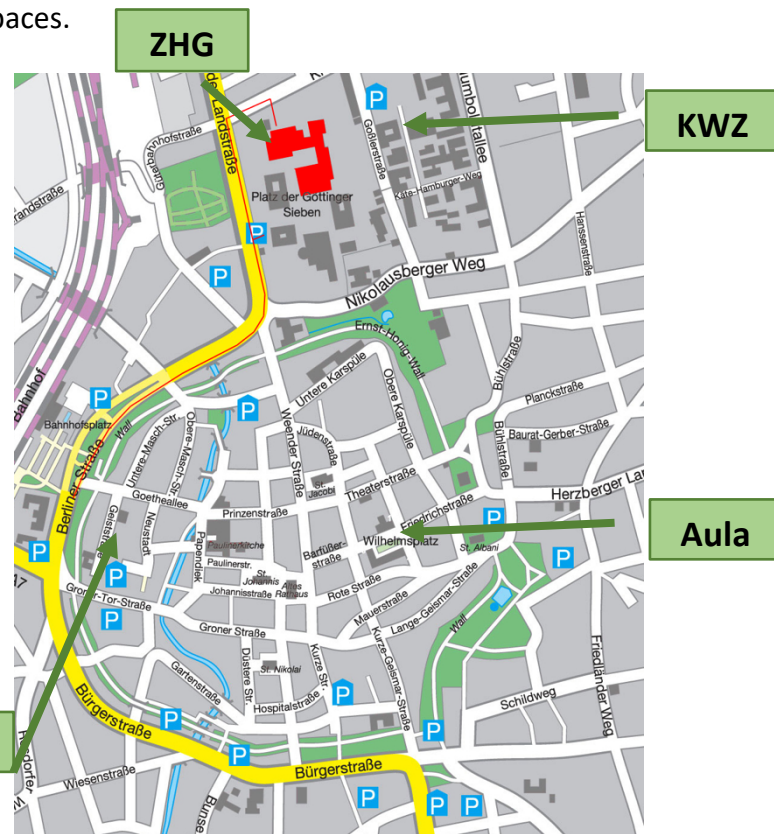


The inaugural morning session of the congress, on Monday, July 27, will take place in the 19th century *Aula* (festal hall) of the University in the city centre.

The plenary sessions, the panels, and the individual papers will all be presented in the Central Lecture Building (*Zentrales Hörsaalgebäude*, ZHG) on the main Campus of the University. The Campus area is in walkable distance from all locations in the city centre of Göttingen.¹ In the ZHG, two large lecture theatres and four lecture halls will host all sessions of the congress. The plenary sessions will be held in the lecture theatres, and the parallel sessions of the panels etc. will be allocated to any of the available spaces.

2. Registration

Registration for the conference is now open, and must be done on the Congress website through this online registration form [link](#). During the registration process participants will be informed about the payment procedure for the applicable fees. We apologise that it is current University policy to allow bank transfers as the only possible payment option. As soon as the payment has been confirmed a receipt will be issued. A higher fee will apply to participants registering later than **March 31, 2026**. The registration fees are as follows:²



¹ For orientation this interactive map can be used: <https://lageplan.uni-goettingen.de>.

² Registration fees can also be found in the menu "Fees" in the online registration form.

	Congress Registration	Late Registration	Congress Dinner
IACS Members			
Regular	€ 175	€ 225	€ 50
Reduced ³	€ 100	€ 150	€ 50
Non-IACS Members			
Regular	€ 225	€ 275	€ 50
Reduced	€ 125	€ 175	€ 50
Residents of Egypt	€ 75	€ 125	€ 50

Congress registration fees are set as low as possible to allow for a separate booking of the congress dinner. For sustainability reasons, the dinner will be optional. The cost will be the same for all categories and is not included in the registration fee.

Residents of non-EU countries, especially if needing a visa to travel to Germany, are encouraged to register as soon as possible as there may be delays and obstacles in the visa application process.

Several travel grants will be available to scholars and students residing in Egypt whose contributions to the congress have been accepted.

- The organisers are very grateful to the members of the St Shenouda the Archimandrite Coptic Society for offering 12 travel grants of EUR 250 each.
- A private donor is offering three travel grants of EUR 250 each in memory of Professor Martin Tamcke (1955-2024) and his outstanding contribution to the study of Oriental Christianity as well as to ecumenical and interfaith dialogue.

The modalities of the application procedure will be announced separately.

3. Accommodation – Recommended Hotels

The centre of Göttingen is not too large, and most locations are within walking distance. There is a substantial number of hotels, guesthouses and hostels in the city and in nearby towns and villages, which are easily accessible by public transport. Accommodation in the old town should be booked as soon as possible, as hotel capacities here are limited.

Hotels in Göttingen:

Romantik Hotel Gebhards ****

Goethe-Allee 22-23 (0.3 km distance from the station; old town)

<https://www.gebhardshotel.de/>

Hotel Stadt Hannover ***

Goethe-Allee 21 (0.4 km distance from the station; old town)

<https://www.hotelstadthannover.de/>

G-Hotel ****

Bahnhofsallee 1a (0.4 km distance from the station)

<https://www.ghotel.de/hotels/goettingen/>

³ Reduced fees apply to students and accompanying persons.

Hotel Freigeist „Innenstadt“ ****

Berliner Straße 30 (0.4 km distance from the station)

<https://www.freigeist-hotels.de/de/freigeist-hotels/freigeist-goettingen-innenstadt/>

Box-Hotel

Weender Landstraße 3-5 (0.6 km distance from the station)

<https://www.boxhotel.de/boxhotel-goettingen-city>

B&B Hotel ***

Maschmühlenweg 19-21 (0.7 km distance from the station)

<https://www.hotel-bb.com/de/hotel/goettingen-city>

Holiday Inn Express ***

Carl-Zeiss-Straße 1 (0.7 km distance from the station)

<https://www.ihg.com/holidayinnexpress/hotels/de/de/gottingen/zeugt/hoteldetail>

Leine-Hotel ***

Groner Landstraße 55 (0.9 km distance from the station)

<https://www.leinehotel-goe.de/>

Hotel Central ***

Jüdenstraße 12 (1.0 km distance from the station; old town)

<https://www.hotel-central.com>

Hotel Freigeist „Nordstadt“ ****

Weender Landstraße 100 (1.6 km distance from the station)

<https://www.freigeist-hotels.de/de/freigeist-hotels/freigeist-nordstadt/>

Eden Hotel ****

Reinhäuser Landstraße 22a (1.9 km distance from the station)

<https://www.eden-hotel.de/>

Hotel Novostar ***

Kasseler Landstraße 25d (2.0 km distance from the station)

<https://www.novostar.de>

Park Inn by Radisson ****

Kasseler Landstraße 25c (2.1 km distance from the station)

<https://www.radissonhotels.com/en-us/hotels/park-inn-gottingen>

Parkhotel Ropeter ****

Kasseler Landstraße 45 (2.3 km distance from the station)

<https://parkhotel-ropeter.de>

Jugendherberge Göttingen

(Please note: Youth Hostel Association membership required)

Habichtsweg 2 (2.3 km)

<https://www.jugendherberge.de/jugendherbergen/goettingen>

Hotel Astoria ***

Hannoversche Straße 51/53 (2.4 km distance from the station)

<https://tripinn-hotels.com/goettingen/>

Best Western Hotel ****

Hermann-Rein-Straße 2 (2.5 km distance from the station)

<https://www.bestwestern.de/hotels/Goettingen/Best-Western-Hotel-Am-Papenberg/hotel>

Adesso Hotel ***

Kasseler Landstraße 118-120 (2.7 km distance from the station)

<https://adessohotel.de/>

Hotel Rennschuh ***

Kasseler Landstraße 93 (2.8 km distance from the station)

<https://www.rennschuh.de/>

The following hotels have reserved a special room allocation under the keyword “Coptic Congress 2026”: Hotel Astoria, B&B Hotel, Hotel Stadt Hannover, Leine Hotel, and Hotel Rennschuh. Participants wishing to avail themselves of this offer should use the following link: <https://s.gwdg.de/UawlWI>. Please note that the preset dates (26.7.-1.8.26) can be changed, and arrival and departure dates as well as occupancy (e.g. single or double) can be adjusted individually.

4. Provisional Programme

The Congress will be officially inaugurated on Monday, July 27, with the morning session in the *Aula* building.

4.1 On-Site Registration

On-site registration for the participants will be available both on Sunday, July, 26 and on Monday, July 27. On Sunday, July 26, early registration will be available from 2 pm to 8 pm in the building of the Academy of Sciences and Humanities in [Geiststrasse 10](#), very close to the train station.

On Monday, July 27, registration will be open from 7:30 am to 12 noon in the [Emmy-Noether-Saal](#) of the University, Wilhelmsplatz 4, just across the square of the Aula building.

From 12 noon onwards, registration will be available in the ZHG near the lecture theatres.

4.2 Plenary Sessions

The 13 plenary papers will be given from Tuesday to Friday in the morning sessions of each day (9:00–10:30 or 11:00) in one of the large lecture theatres. The following plenary papers have been confirmed:

Archaeology in Christian Egypt (2022–2026)	Ina Eichner
Coptic Bible (2016–2026)	Frank Feder
Coptic History and Historiography (2016–2026)	Mary Farag
Gnosticism and Manichaeism in Egypt (2016–2026)	Eric Crégheur
Coptic Linguistics (2022–2026)	Ivan Miroshnikov
Christian Art in Egypt and Museology (2022–2026)	Dobrochna Zielińska
Coptic Literature (2022–2026)	Hugo Lundhaug
Copto-Arabic Studies (2022–2026)	Perrine Pilette
Monasticism in Egypt (2022–2026)	Paul Dilley
Coptic Papyrology (2022–2026)	Esther Garel
Copts in Modern Egyptian History (2022–2026)	Nelly van Doorn-Harder
Ethiopic Literary Production Related to Christian Egyptian Culture (2012–2026)	Martina Ambu
Coptology and Digital Humanities	Caroline T. Schroeder

4.3 Panels, Papers, and Posters

Interested colleagues are again invited to propose thematic **panels**, which should contain at least three papers per panel, as well as individual papers. Both the individual papers and the panels will be divided into 6 parallel sessions, typically running from mid-morning (11:00 am) until the evening.

Exceptions are:

- Monday: sessions start after the lunch break (14:00).
- Wednesday: sessions will only take place before lunch (until 13:00), with the afternoon reserved for cultural activities (exhibition visits and guided tours through Göttingen)

Each paper is allotted a time slot of no more than 20 minutes, followed by 5 minutes for discussion and questions. Prospective panel conveners should submit the title of the panel and a short description to coptic-congress-2026@uni-goettingen.de, as soon as possible, but no later than **September 30, 2025**.

Posters (A0 format) are recommended for the presentation of work in progress, research tools, and similar topics. A dedicated space will be available near the main lecture theatres. Participants unable to bring their posters to the congress should email coptic-congress-2026@uni-goettingen.de. The organisers will provide assistance with the printing.

Short abstracts (ca. 200 words) for panel contributions, individual short papers, and posters need to be sent to: coptic-congress-2026@uni-goettingen.de before **December 31, 2025**. Participants who wish to give a short paper, or to present a poster will be able to indicate this during the online registration process in the menu *Contribution Type*. Papers can be presented in English, German, or French. The congress committee reserves the right to decline any paper or poster proposal in light of time and capacity constraints.

13th International Congress of Coptic Studies – Preliminary Programme



(Göttingen, July 27 – August 1, 2026)

	Monday, 27/7	Tuesday, 28/7	Wednesday, 29/7	Thursday, 30/7	Friday, 31/7	Saturday, 1/8	Sunday, 2/8
9-10.30	7:30 registration (Emmy-Noether-Saal) 10:00 opening speeches and IACS awards Presidential address	9:00 Archaeology (Eichner) 9:30 Christian Art (Zielińska) 10:00 Monasticism (Dilley) ZHG	9:00 Coptic Bible (Feder) 9:30 Coptic Literature (Lundhaug) 10:00 Copto-Arabic Studies (Pilette) 10:30 Ethiopic Literary Production (Ambu)	9:00 Coptic History (Farg) 9:30 Gnosticism and Manichaeism (Crégheur) 10:00 Copts in Modern History (van Doorn-Harder) ZHG	9:00 Coptic Linguistics (Miroshnikov) 9:30 Coptic Papyrology (Garel) 10:00 Coptology and Digital Humanities (Schroeder) ZHG	10-12 IACS Business Meeting ZHG	Optional Post- Congress Excursions, e.g. Coptic Monastery Brenkhausen, Hildesheim or Hannover Museums (individual visits)*
10.30-11	AULA	Coffee Break	ZHG	Coffee Break	Coffee Break		
11-12.30		6 Parallel Sessions ZHG	11.00-11.30 Coffee Break	6 Parallel Sessions ZHG	6 Parallel Sessions ZHG		
12.30-14	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	11:30-13:00 6 Parallel Sessions ZHG	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	Optional Post- Congress Excursions, e.g. Coptic Monastery Brenkhausen, Hildesheim or Hannover Museums (individual visits)*	*The organisers will be happy to provide information and advice on logistics for any of these excursions.
14-16	6 Parallel Sessions ZHG	6 Parallel Sessions ZHG	Optional Activities: 1. Visit to manuscripts in the University Library 2. Student-curated exhibition on the History of Egyptology and Coptic Studies in Göttingen 3. City Tour (Focus: Göttingen and the Decipherment of the Hieroglyphs)	6 Parallel Sessions ZHG	6 Parallel Sessions ZHG		
16-16.30	Coffee Break	Coffee Break		Coffee Break	Coffee Break		
16.30-18	6 Parallel Sessions ZHG	6 Parallel Sessions ZHG		6 Parallel Sessions ZHG	6 Parallel Sessions ZHG		
19		Reception Altes Rathaus		Conference Dinner Alte Mensa			

5. Sustainability Policy

The aim of the conference is to be as sustainable as possible. Various measures are planned to avoid general and food waste as much as possible, including:



Historic city hall in the town centre

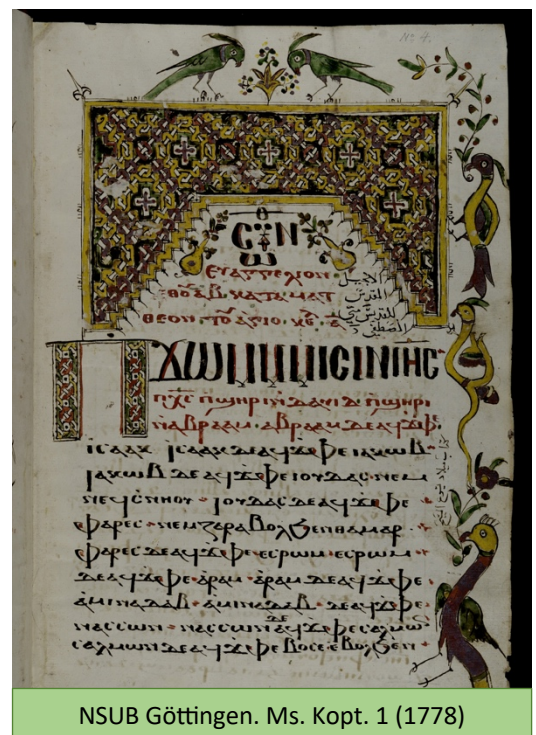
- the use of reusable cups, plates and cutlery
- the provision of tap water (which in Göttingen comes from the Harz mountains and is of excellent quality)
- a separate registration for the congress dinner for better advance planning of the catering

6. Social and Cultural Events

All participants are invited to a reception on Tuesday, July 28 (at the historic city hall of Göttingen) and a conference dinner on Thursday, July 30 (individual registration and separate payment are required) as well as to conference related exhibitions and a guided city tour.

In the afternoon of Wednesday, July 29, several activities are offered.

- The State and University Library will provide the opportunity to visit a showcase of Coptic and Coptic-Arabic manuscripts (in particular the ones bought in Egypt by Heinrich Brugsch in 1878). Pre-registration on the congress website is required, in order to provide enough timeslots for the visits. Participants wishing to study individual manuscripts throughout the congress should make an appointment with the library staff by writing to: hsd@sub.uni-goettingen.de.
- Students from the Institute of Egyptology and Coptic Studies will curate an exhibition on the history of scholarship in Göttingen, which can be visited in the [Kulturwissenschaftliches Zentrum \(KWZ\)](#) near the congress venue (no registration required)
- Students will also offer guided tours through the historical centre of Göttingen, showing, among other landmarks, the houses of the late 18th/early 19th cent. scholars working on the decipherment of the hieroglyphs (registration during the congress)



NSUB Göttingen. Ms. Kopt. 1 (1778)

After the congress, participants may wish to visit the Egyptian and Coptic collections of nearby German museums. The closest museums with extensive collections of Egyptian and Coptic artefacts are in [Hannover](#) and [Hildesheim](#) (25-35 mins on the high-speed train, 75 mins on the local train). The museums of [Berlin](#) are a train ride of about 2:20 hrs away. Public transport is best organised through the [Deutsche Bahn](#) website or app. Participants may also wish to visit the [Coptic Monastery](#) nearest to Göttingen, residence of H.E. Bishop Damian. The congress organisers will offer assistance with the logistics of these visits.

7. Timeline

First circular	January 30, 2025
Second circular, registration opening and call for papers	June 25, 2025
Deadline for abstract submission	December 31, 2025
Regular registration closure	March 31, 2026
Third circular and congress programme	April 2026
Fourth and last circular	Early July 2026
IACS Congress	July 27 – August 1, 2026

Organising Committee

Heike Behlmer, Andreas Effland, Carolina Kolze, and Orell Witthuhn
(Georg-August-Universität Göttingen)

Frank Feder (Congress Secretary), Leila Hyde, Theresa Kohl, Malte Rosenau, and Ernst Völker
(Niedersächsische Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Göttingen)

