



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

(Fourth Circular, May 31, 2026)

NEW: Preliminary Programme available on the conference website

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 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



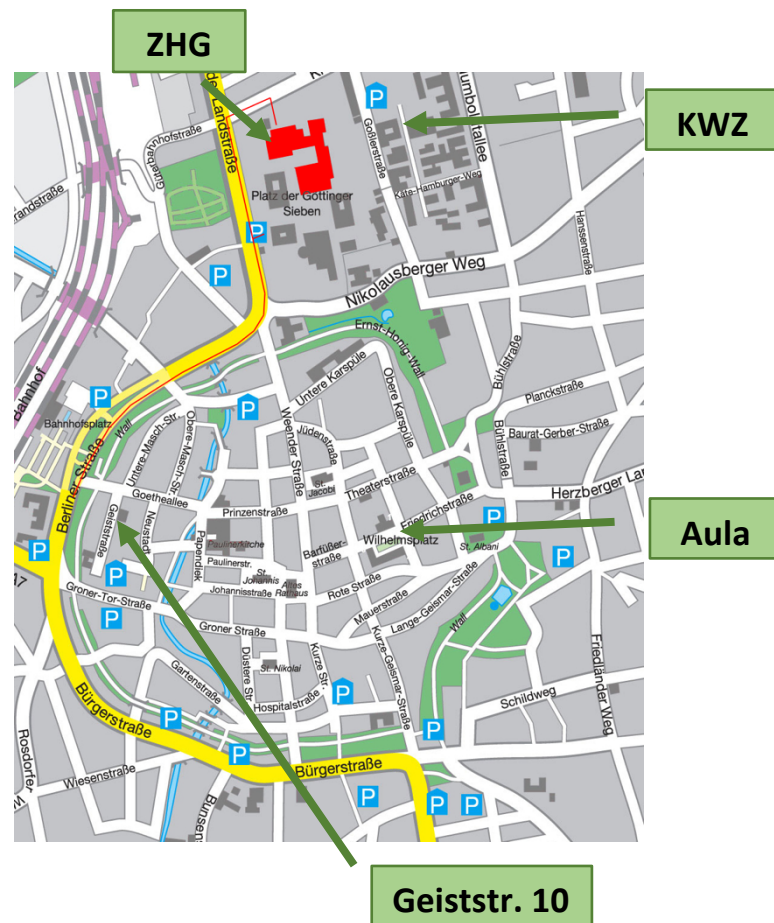
The inaugural morning session of the congress, on Monday, July 27, will take place in the 19th century *Aula* (festal hall) of the University in the city centre.

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

Regular registration closed on March 31, and participants who have not yet registered will be required to pay the late registration fees. Registration remains open until **July 1, 2026**, when it will close permanently. Participants may register via the online registration form available on the [Congress website](#) through the link provided. Details regarding the applicable late fees and payment procedure will be communicated during the registration process. Residents of Egypt are permitted to pay the fees in cash upon their arrival in Göttingen.

Registration for the conference dinner will also close on **July 1, 2026**, as a confirmed headcount is required in advance for catering and all necessary arrangements.



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

The registration fees from April 1, 2026 are as follows:²

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

We would like to kindly remind residents from non-EU countries requiring a visa to travel to Germany to initiate their registration process at the earliest convenience. Please be aware that visa application procedures may be subject to delays and unforeseen complications. It should be noted that German authorities are currently exercising increased scrutiny in the processing of visa applications.

3. Travel Grants for Egyptian Residents

We are pleased to announce that fifteen travel grants of 750 Euros each have been awarded to fifteen colleagues from Egypt. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Martin and Brigitte Krause Foundation and the St. Shenouda the Archimandrite Coptic Society for their generous contributions to this fund, as well as to the *Société d'Archéologie Copte* for kindly offering their support with the visa application process for the successful applicants from Egypt. We do, however, wish to bring to the attention of the recipients that, in the unfortunate event that a visa application is not successful, we regret that we will be unable to proceed with the transfer of the travel grant. We sincerely hope that all applicants will have a smooth and successful visa process and look forward to welcoming them at the conference.

4. Accommodation – Recommended Hotels

Participants are strongly encouraged to arrange their accommodation at their earliest convenience, particularly those wishing to stay in the historic city centre, where hotel availability is notably limited. It should be noted that, unlike in many other countries, student dormitories remain occupied throughout the entire calendar year and are therefore not available for rental during the summer period. Please note that the organising committee is unfortunately unable to make individual accommodation arrangements on behalf of participants. Those who are unfamiliar with online booking platforms are kindly advised to seek the assistance of a reputable travel agency.

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

³ Reduced fees apply to students and accompanying persons.

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/>

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/UawlWl>. 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.

5. Conference Programme

5.1 Preliminary Programme (NEW)

To date, nearly 300 participants have registered for the congress, resulting in a rich and comprehensive programme. The preliminary programme is now available for consultation on the [congress website](#); however, it remains subject to revision due to late registrations or cancellations and will be updated on a regular basis, with a final version to be published in due course ahead of the opening date.

A book of abstracts will likewise be made available online on the [congress website](#).

It should be noted that this international congress is conceived as an in-person event. Online presentations, whether delivered live or in the form of pre-recorded videos, are considered exceptional arrangements and will only be accommodated for colleagues who are unable to attend due to unforeseen circumstances beyond their control, such as health-related issues.

5.2 Inauguration

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

5.3 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.

5.4 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

5.5 Panels, Papers, and Posters

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:

Whilst the original programme had envisaged sessions taking place exclusively in the morning, concluding at 13:00, the exceptional number of paper proposals received has necessitated the addition of two afternoon sessions, which will run from 14:00 to 16:00. The afternoon, however, remains chiefly 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. The panel conveners are responsible for the quality and the content of the individual contributions to be held in their panel. The organising committee will take care of the individual papers not being part of a thematic panel.

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 can only exceptionally provide assistance with the printing at the University of Göttingen, and this will include a fee that you have to pay for the printing. Therefore, whenever possible, bring your own posters with you.

Participants who wish to give a short paper, or to present a poster should have indicated 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 as well as if they don't meet basic scientific standards.

6. 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

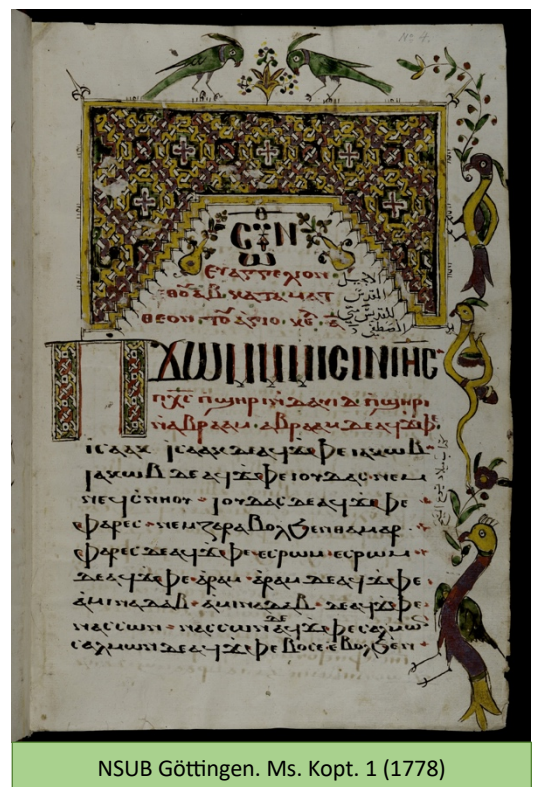
- the use of reusable cups, plates and cutlery
- the provision of tap water (which in Göttingen comes from the Harz mountains and is of excellent quality)
- a separate registration for the congress dinner for better advance planning of the catering

7. 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 an exhibition 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. Visits are also possible during the regular congress schedule, as the exhibition will be open every day from 2 to 5 pm.
- Students from the Institute of Egyptology and Coptic Studies will curate an exhibition on the history of scholarship in Göttingen, which will be exhibited in proximity of the conference posters during the entire duration of the congress (no registration required)
- Students will also offer guided tours through the historical centre of Göttingen, showing, among



NSUB Göttingen. Ms. Kopt. 1 (1778)

other landmarks, the houses of the late 18th/early 19th cent. scholars working on the decipherment of the hieroglyphs (registration during the congress)

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. Metropolitan Damian. The congress organisers can offer assistance with the logistics of these visits.

8. Timeline

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

Organising Committee

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