NEER and the University of Western Australia are pleased to announce the following opportunity to attend a week-long Postgraduate Advanced Training Seminar (PATS) on 'Reading pre-modern texts: European Palaeography and Diplomatics', 17-22 May 2008.

Proposed presenters:
Professor Philippa Maddern (History, UWA)
Dr. Bernard Muir (Reader in Medieval English Literature, University of Melbourne)
Dr. Juanita Ruys (ARC Fellow, University of Sydney)
A.Prof Sue Broomhall (History, UWA)
Professor Lorenzo Polizzotto (UWA)
Dr. Stephanie Tarbin (History, UWA)

For the attention of: Any postgraduates, especially in their early years of candidature, working on topics that demand some knowledge of, and ability to decipher, medieval manuscripts or early modern printed material.

Aims and structure of the symposium:
Almost all postgraduates undertaking study on the pre-modern era depend, ultimately, on their ability to read and interpret medieval manuscripts and early modern manuscripts and print documents. Such an understanding does not come easily; it demands a great range of skills, from the base level (being able to read the many medieval alphabets and hands, and decode the systems of contractions and abbreviations used), through more sophisticated understandings (knowing the forms in which pre-modern documents were constructed and the material likely to be conveyed in different genres) to high-level theoretical work (understanding the significances embedded in the mise-en-page, for instance). This PATS offers an introduction to skills. Mornings will be devoted to practice reading sessions of various scripts and hands; in the afternoons, there will be presentations on reading skills and manuscript traditions and contexts. There will also be opportunities for individual postgraduates to make a presentation to the group on the difficulties and possibilities of the manuscripts which they are researching.

A draft programme can be found on the NEER web site:
http://www.neer.arts.uwa.edu.au/events

Registered Postgraduates and ECR Network Participants accepted to attend the seminar may be eligible to receive financial assistance from NEER of up to $500 to attend the seminar (a limit of 5 bursaries available).

Applications to attend should be sent directly to Professor Philippa Maddern (pipma@cyllene.uwa.edu.au) and include:

(i) details of the degree in which you are enrolled (PGs) or the title of your current research project (ECRs).
(ii) a short (c. 300 words) statement outlining how the event will benefit your research.
(iii) whether you wish to make a presentation on the manuscripts you are researching; if so, give a brief outline of the presentation (c. 300 words).
(iv) demonstrated necessity of financial assistance (if applicable)

Closing date: **Friday 28 March 2008**

The PATS is followed by the annual Perth Medieval & Renaissance (PMRG) symposium "Reading Religious Change in Medieval and Early Modern Europe", May 23-24 2008, St. George's College, University of Western Australia, Perth:

http://sponsored.uwa.edu.au/pmrg/annual_symposium