

The Leonard E. Boyle, O.P.
Toronto-Rome Diploma Programme in Manuscript Studies
Toronto
1 June - 10 July 2026




The Pontifical Institute
of Mediaeval Studies
is pleased to offer
a full curriculum in
Manuscript Studies
leading to
a formal diploma


The programme consists of four core courses, in Latin Palaeography, Diplomatics, Codicology, Textual Editing, plus a variable content Special Subject. Courses are available on a rotating basis, with two three-week courses offered each summer. The venue for teaching alternates between the Pontifical Institute in Toronto and Rome to take advantage of the unique resources available in each location.

Students accepted to the programme may choose to enrol for a single summer only, that is, for the two courses offered any given year. Or, by taking four courses over two consecutive summers, and completing a final project, they can qualify for the Diploma in Manuscript Studies.

The programme is open to students of any nationality who are currently enrolled in graduate programmes, as well as to those who have already earned their degrees but who would like to enrich themselves with further technical training.

Tuition is \$2,000 CAD. The Pontifical Institute is, however, able to offer 12 scholarships of up to \$6,000 CAD per year, for which all applicants will be automatically considered.

Application

Applicants should send a completed application form, two letters of reference, a current c.v., and a statement of research interests by 1 February 2026 to:

Prof. M. Michèle Mulchahey
Director, Diploma Programme in Manuscript Studies
Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies
59 Queen's Park Crescent East,
Toronto, Ontario, M5S 2C4
CANADA

Or via e-mail to: michele.mulchahey@utoronto.ca

Spaces are limited; early application is encouraged.

Further Information

Please visit

<https://pims.ca/article/diploma-programme-in-manuscript-studies/>

for further details about the programme, the application process, housing, and downloadable forms.

The Pontifical Institute's
Diploma in Manuscript Studies

Courses Offered in Toronto,
Summer 2026

MSST 1000: Latin Palaeography

1 - 19 June

An intensive introduction to mediaeval handwriting in the Latin West from the late Roman period until the dawn of print, designed for those who wish to acquire the skills that will enable them to work directly with manuscript materials. Participants will be introduced to all the main mediaeval systems of abbreviations, together with the principles of transcription, through daily exercises in identifying, dating, and transcribing the various scripts. Scribal practices and the basics of manuscript production will also be considered, as will the context within which palaeographical developments occurred. Classes will meet in the Palaeography Room at the Pontifical Institute Library.

Instructor: M. Michèle Mulchahey (Leonard E. Boyle Professor of Manuscript Studies, Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies)

MSST 1002: Codicology

22 June – 10 July

A course examining the physical make-up and production of manuscript codices. The processes of manufacture of medieval manuscripts will be explored, including the making of parchment, the preparation of quires for writing, scribal practices, illumination, and binding. The changing context of manuscript production, from the early monastic scriptoria to the rapid reproduction of texts at the universities of the high Middle Ages, will also be considered. A practicum in making and using ink and glair paint following period recipes will feature this year, as will visits to the Art Gallery of Ontario and the Royal Ontario Museum. The Pontifical Institute's own collection of manuscripts will provide further hands-on experience.

Instructors: M. Michèle Mulchahey (Leonard E. Boyle Professor of Manuscript Studies, Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies)

Alixé Bovey (Professor of Medieval Art History, Courtauld Institute of Art, London)