

## Job Title: **Website & Database Development Consultant Contract**

### Job Description:

The Shanati project of the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York University, seeks bids from a **Website & Database Developer** or team to design and construct a technologically robust website (mainly backend), including the following features:

- Database
- Advanced custom search with export
- Simple date conversion interface that will also be available as an embeddable widget
- API
- Automated data input portal

The individual or company should be experienced in state-of-the-art backend, database, and frontend construction and coding. Scientific/mathematical data will need to be integrated, but will be supplied by another member of our team. We are flexible on specific languages and web packages. However, use of free and open-source frameworks and tools is required. A software stack built on Ubuntu, Apache, and Varnish is preferred. No knowledge of ancient studies required. We are offering a contract to build the website over the course of four months, from 9/1/2022 to 12/31/2022. Compensation for this consultancy is competitive and in line with our pre-budgeted sum. *Work must be done remotely* and not require technical or academic resources from NYU. *US and Non-US citizens are encouraged to apply.* Taxes will not be withheld. This position is overseen by Alexander Jones and will work collaboratively with David Danzig.

Please submit cover letter, CV, and portfolio, as well as at least two references, to alexander.jones@nyu.edu. Interviews will be scheduled on a rolling basis.

### Description of the Shanati project:

Shanati's goal is to reconstruct the daily ancient Babylonian calendar between 750 BCE – 100 CE by collecting and integrating all available textual evidence (mainly in cuneiform economic and scholarly texts), and coupling that with a calibrated astronomical model for first lunar visibility. There are four major areas of research. One is providing evidence for the length of months, in particular those with a 30<sup>th</sup> day. Two is providing evidence for the addition of extra, intercalary months in the calendar. Three is providing evidence for the sequence of regnal years and potential regnal overlaps, particularly at times of chronological uncertainty, often due to political and social unrest. Four is investigating the ancient Babylonian methods, practicalities, and theories of making these calendrical decisions. The output timeline will be aligned with the proleptic Julian Calendar, as well as other ancient calendars, to allow for conversions of any date back to 750 BCE.

Shanati will present these results in a book length print publication, as well as in a state-of-the-art website that will include an embeddable widget, API, simple date conversion interface, advanced custom search, and automated data input portal. The API and embeddable widget will allow for the use of Shanati's results by other websites. The search interfaces will allow for quick date conversions and for in depth studies that show the full range of evidence supporting any specific date. The portal for further

input of data will allow for more attested dates to be added in the future, as more texts are discovered, read, and databased, in a fashion that will update the integration of all the data anew to create the most accurate version of the daily chronology.

Shanati is proud to be funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities with a Digital Humanities Advancement Grant for two years, with Alexander Jones, Director of New York University's Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, as its Principal Investigator, and David Danzig, Researcher at ISAW and the project's creator, as its Lead Researcher. See [shanati.org](http://shanati.org) for more information.