

# A semester in Rome



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## ACU Semester in Rome 2024 Information Sheet for Students

### ***What is the ACU Semester in Rome?***

The ACU Semester in Rome (SiR) offers eligible undergraduates the opportunity to live and study at ACU's Rome campus for up to 15 weeks, while at the same time immersing themselves in Italian life and culture. Unlike traditional semesters, where you take several units simultaneously, The SiR is designed so that you study one unit at a time in intensive study block mode.

There are **4 study blocks** in total:

- **Block 1:** Italian language intensive (introductory to intermediate level)
- **Block 2:** Select 1 of 2 units
- **Block 3:** Select 1 of 3 units
- **Block 4:** Select 1 of 3 units

All units are worth 10 credit points.

### ***The ACU Semester in Rome is designed to be flexible:***

You can apply for:

- The full semester: 4 units (one unit from each study block)
- 3 units (from 3 different study blocks)
- 2 units (from 2 different study blocks)
- 1 unit (from one study block)

## When is the ACU Semester in Rome?

SiR will be offered from September to December 2024.

If you are enrolled in Study Block 1 (Italian), you will arrive at the ACU Rome Campus on Sunday 1 September. Block 1 will commence on Monday 2 September.

Block 4 finishes Friday 13 December 2024 with students departing on the Saturday 14 December.

Each study block is 3 - 3.5 weeks in length.

### SiR 2024 Timetable:

SiR Block	Units	Study block Start Date	Study block End Date	Notes
SiR Block 1:	Italian intensive. Weeks 1-4	Monday, 2 Sept. 2024	Wednesday, 25 Sept. 2024	All assessment tasks to be completed within this period
Block Break: Thursday 26 Sept. – Sunday 29 Sept.				
SiR Block 2:	HUMA254 THEL215	Monday, 30 Sept. 2024	Wednesday, 23 Oct. 2024	All assessment tasks to be completed within this period
Mid Semester Break: Thursday 24 Oct. – Tuesday 29 Oct.				
SiR Block 3:	HUMA319 THEL214 EDES300~	Wednesday, 30 Oct. 2024	Friday, 22 Nov. 2024	All assessment tasks to be completed within this period
SiR Block 4:	HUMA252 PHCC320 PSYC225 ~	Monday, 25 Nov. 2024	Friday, 13 Dec. 2024	Main/final assessment task may be completed after students have left the campus

~ Units are not eligible for Bachelor of Arts students who are seeking credit for units as part of [the Rome Semester Program](#).

## What are the units on offer?

**Block 1:** Italian Language

### ITAN101 Introductory Italian

This is your opportunity to learn basic Italian or improve your existing Italian *in Italy*. You will enrol in the appropriate ACU Italian language unit. Learning and teaching will take place in the classroom, online, and on the streets of Rome.

**Block 2:** Select 1 of 2 units

### OPTION A: HUMA254 The Idea of the City - A Study of Rome

Cities are more than large population centres; they offer characteristically distinctive cultural, political, and social experiences. Especially crucial to such urban life are shared public things. From roads and crowds to statues and graffiti, cities are defined by what we have in common. But this public quality of cities may be disappearing. As cities change, who are we becoming? How should we live together? This unit offers a critical examination of the city and urban life. You will examine texts and contexts to reconsider the idea of the city, using Rome as a case study.

### **OPTION B: THEL215 Mapping Laudato Si' and UN Sustainable Development Goals**

This unit is a comprehensive introduction to the central precepts, principles, and purposes of Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical, *Laudato Si': On Care for our Common Home*, and the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Structured around a critical assessment of both frameworks, you will assess how the social, cultural, political and legal aspects of the SDGs are addressed, advanced, or challenged by the moral charter of *Laudato Si'* in shaping contemporary concepts of global development.

**Block 3:** Select 1 of 3 units

### **OPTION A: HUMA319 Rome Field School - Landscapes Past and Present**

On this award-winning unit, you will work across traditional disciplinary boundaries, applying and combining concepts and approaches from the allied disciplines of archaeology, history, and geography to the study of Rome's development over three millennia. Taught entirely in the field at sites in and around Rome, you will learn how geography has influenced the city's historical development and how human activity has impacted on the environment. The unit adopts a 'hands on' approach to learning, with site activities designed to maximise interaction and engagement with the physical remnants of human development while engaged in continuous critical reflection.

### **OPTION B: THEL214 Cults, Gods and Religion in Ancient Rome**

Ancient Rome was a breeding ground of religious ideas throughout its long history, from traditional Greco-Roman paganism, to Mithraism, Judaism, and Christianity. Within the confines of its city walls these diverse religious experiences were born and practised, overlapping, and intersecting one another, lived out and modified in dialogue with each other. On this unit you will learn about the major religious sites of Ancient Rome, gain a greater appreciation for the complexity of religious belief and practice, and develop a nuanced understanding of how religious, historical, and cultural influences intersect in multi-layered urban topographies.

### **OPTION C: EDES300 Comparative Education – Local and Global Contexts**

This unit explores diversity by looking at the forces of globalisation and how this phenomenon increasingly links and intertwines economic, political, social, cultural, and human capital across what were once disparate geographical or international borders. The unit focuses on major educational debates occurring internationally and in Australia and the tensions existing between notions of equality and equity, particularly with regard to "developing" and "developed" world contexts, versus quality, efficiency and parental choice. Topics include the historical role education has played in how societies develop, and which aspects of education are unique to particular settings (e.g. Italy / Australia) and which are shared across systems.

**Block 4:** Select 1 of 3 units

### **OPTION A: HUMA252 Art, Politics and Society in Renaissance and Baroque Rome**

The 'Rome of the Popes' was one of the key centres of the High Renaissance and the birthplace of Baroque. On this unit you will engage with works from these periods in situ, looking at how art practice was influenced by the beliefs and politics of the Reformation and Counter-Reformation and the way in which classical iconography was transformed by Renaissance and Baroque artists. The unit illustrates a bridge between the classical and modern periods, demonstrating the influence of the past but also examining the emerging importance of the 'individual', 'truth' and relationships of power that have become key to our understanding of western culture. The unit will provide you with a new way of imagining the socio-political and aesthetic fabric of the period and the ways in which they connect to the history of western humanity and the arts.

## OPTION B: PHCC320 The Just Society

\*\* Core Curriculum Unit

We live in a time of great social, ethical, and political uncertainty. This unit responds to this context, engaging with a range of contemporary philosophical debates and perspectives on the nature of the good society. You will engage in careful examination of some key concepts, theories, and debates concerning issues such as the fair distribution of the burdens and benefits of society, the rights and duties of individuals and communities in local and global contexts, and the understanding and implementation of basic freedoms in areas such as speech, religion, and opportunity. In so doing, you will explore the meaning and contours of key ideas such as human dignity, social justice, human solidarity, and human value.

## OPTION C: PSYC225 Applied Positive Psychology

Positive psychology explores the scientific study of happiness, well-being and flourishing in the human experience. It examines a range of areas such as positive emotions, engagement, creativity, optimism, gratification, strengths, virtues, and meaning. This unit is experiential and project-based, where students will learn topics and theories that help people flourish and live their lives to their full potential. Community engagement will be a complementary opportunity to observe and practice relevant skills learned in the unit.

### **Can I complete semester 2 in Australia and then study SiR Block 3 or Block 4 in Rome?**

Yes, this is possible. **Block 3** SiR units commence in Study Week of semester 2. If you wish to complete semester 2 domestically, you may apply to study in block 3 in Rome – but only if the assessment deadlines for all your domestic units precede the commencement date of block 3: *you should not be completing assessment tasks for domestic semester units while studying in Rome*. **Block 4** SiR units commence after semester 2 finishes. If you wish to complete semester 2 domestically you can apply to study in block 4 of SiR.

### **What are the check-in and check-out arrangements at the Rome Campus?**

If you are taking the full Semester in Rome, you will check-in at the Campus the day before Block 1 commences and check-out the day after Block 4 finishes. If you are studying 1, 2 or 3 blocks (i.e., not the full semester) you will arrive at the Rome Campus on the corresponding “Accommodation check in” date for your first study block as per the following calendar.

Unless you are you are undertaking consecutive study blocks, you will check out of the Rome campus the day after the study block finishes (see calendar). If you are undertaking consecutive study blocks, you can stay in the Rome Campus accommodation between blocks. You will depart on the “Accommodation check out” date of your last block of study.

#### **Check-in and check-out dates:**

SiR Block	Accommodation Check in	Study block Start Date	Study block End Date	Accommodation Check Out
SiR Block 1:	Sunday, 01-Sep-24	Monday, 02-Sep-24	Wednesday, 25-Sep-24	Thursday, 26-Sep-24
SiR Block 2:	Sunday, 29-Sep-24	Monday, 30-Sep-24	Wednesday, 23-Oct-24	Thursday, 24-Oct-24
SiR Block 3:	Tuesday, 29-Oct-24	Wednesday, 30-Oct-24	Friday, 22-Nov-24	Saturday, 23-Nov-24
SiR Block 4:	Sunday, 24-Nov-24	Monday, 25-Nov-24	Friday, 13-Dec-24	Saturday, 14-Dec-24

## Am I eligible to apply?

To be eligible to apply, you must have successfully completed 80 credit points of study at the time of application. You will normally be expected to have a Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 4.5.

**It is vital that you also determine whether:**

1. You can count SiR units towards your degree.
2. You have space left on your course to undertake SiR in full or in part.
3. SiR is compatible with your course map/course progression.

If you intend to study less than 4 units (1-3 blocks), you also need to consider what impact this will have on course completion: will it delay course completion?

You **must** discuss these matters with your course coordinator prior to applying.

**You will need to determine if the course rules for your degree, and your course map, allow you to undertake SiR, either in full or in part. For this reason, if you are considering applying for SiR, you must discuss your plans with your Course Coordinator before you apply. The SiR application form *requires* you to confirm that this discussion has taken place, and that your Course Coordinator has endorsed your plans.**

Unit enrolment is capped at a maximum of 25 students per unit. If blocks or units are oversubscribed, preference will be given to students applying for the full semester (4 blocks).

## How much does SiR cost?

You will pay the same tuition fees for SiR units as you do for standard domestic units. Tuition fees will also be paid in the same way as for standard domestic units.

There is an additional SiR fee to be paid to cover costs for accommodation (twin / triple share room), most meals at the Rome Campus, study-related site entrance fees, excursion costs, and other associated running costs.

Students completing 4 SiR Blocks will receive a long-term housing discount of AU\$1000.

Students completing 3 consecutive SiR Blocks will receive a long-term housing discount of AU\$750.

The program costs for each block are as follows:

SiR Block	Block Fees	Example fee: Semester	Example fee: 3 Blocks	Example fee: 1 Block
SiR Block 1:	AU\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	
SiR Block 2:	AU\$3,850	\$3,850	\$3,850	
SiR Block 3:	AU\$3,850	\$3,850	\$3,850	
SiR Block 4:	AU\$3,250	\$3,250		\$3,250
<b>Housing discount for 3 or 4 consecutive SiR blocks</b>		<b>-\$1,000</b>	<b>-\$750</b>	
	Total:	<b>\$12,950</b>	\$9,950	\$3,250

The SiR fee **does not** include return airfares, visas, local travel costs, personal travel or site-seeing, and meals not included at the Rome Campus.

### ***Is there financial help available?***

As a SiR participant you may be eligible for the following funding support:

1. ACU Vice Chancellor and President's Learning Abroad Grant of up to \$2,500
2. OS-HELP Loan: up to \$7,921

Conditions apply. Financial support can be viewed online:

<https://www.studentportal.acu.edu.au/career-and-opportunities/so/costs-and-financial-support>

### ***I'm interested! How do I apply?***

Applications are now open. You can apply online via:

[https://acu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_6xHeizMCjNSdINM](https://acu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6xHeizMCjNSdINM)

Applications will be accepted up until 5 pm. **Sunday 31 March 2024.**

### ***When will I know if my application has been successful?***

If your application is successful, we will send you a letter of offer via your student email in the week starting April 8. If you haven't been able to secure a place, we will let you know at this time.

If we offer you a place, you will be required to sign and submit an acceptance form. You will also need to pay a **non-refundable deposit** of \$500 at this stage. Full details will be provided in the offer letter.

### ***How can I find out more about the ACU Semester in Rome?***

A webinar will be held on **March 20, 2024** at **12pm AEDT** to provide additional advice:

JOIN: <https://acu.zoom.us/j/87497469044>