

A semester in Rome



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ACU Semester in Rome 2025 Information Sheet for Students

Experience the best of both worlds at ACU's Rome Campus - where education meets immersion in Roman life and culture. Our Rome Campus offers more than just academic learning. Here, you will engage deeply with the vibrant Roman lifestyle, forge connections with students from across Australia and around the globe, explore iconic historic sites, enhance your Italian language skills, and pursue your studies with passion. Located just three kilometres from Vatican City and near the trendy Trastevere suburb, the ACU Rome Campus is perfectly positioned for students to explore the rich cultural and historical offerings of the city.

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, fully experiencing 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:** Select 1 of 3 units, including an Italian language intensive
- **Block 2:** Select 1 of 3 units
- **Block 3:** Select 1 of 4 units
- **Block 4:** Select 1 of 4 units

Note: 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?

The SiR will be offered from September to December 2025. Each study block is 3 - 3.5 weeks in length.

SiR 2025 Timetable:

SiR Block	Units	Study block Start Date	Study block End Date	Notes
SiR Block 1:	Italian intensive EDSI413 ~ ENGL333	Monday, 8 Sep. 2025	Wednesday, 1 Oct. 2025	All assessment tasks to be completed within this period
Block Break: Thursday 2 Oct. – Sunday 5 Oct.				
SiR Block 2:	HUMA254 HUMA207 THEL215	Monday, 6 Oct. 2025	Wednesday, 29 Oct. 2025	All assessment tasks to be completed within this period
Block Break: Thursday 30 Oct. – Tuesday 4 Nov.				
SiR Block 3:	HUMA319 THEL214 EDES300 ~ LAWS423 ~	Wednesday, 5 Nov. 2025	Friday, 29 Nov. 2025	All assessment tasks to be completed within this period
SiR Block 4:	HUMA252 PHCC320 PSYC225 ~ LAWS409 ~	Monday, 1 Dec. 2025	Friday, 19 Dec. 2025	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 Semester in Rome program.				

What are the units on offer?

For more information about individual units refer to: [ACU's Handbook](#) and [Student Portal](#).

Block 1: select 1 of 3 units

Italian Language (introductory to intermediate level. Most students enrol in ITAN101 Introductory Italian). Immerse yourself in the vibrant life of Italy by learning or enhancing your Italian skills right in the heart of Rome. Enrol in this unit to not only master the language but also dive deep into Italian culture through classroom lessons, online modules, and real-world experiences on the bustling streets of Rome. Experience the thrill of improving your language proficiency while soaking in the rich history and lively atmosphere of one of the world's most iconic cities.

EDSI413 Educating for STEM

Visit schools using STEM programs as a context, stimulus and tool for learning that develops critical and creative thinking, aligning with interdisciplinary opportunities across the Australian Curriculum. Investigate the natural environment through historic parklands and the built environment through the local architecture and museum exhibits to apply ideas drawn from Italy's historical STEM discoveries. Compare Australian school-industry partnerships with the Roman context such as using local providers of after-school student STEM programs and teacher professional learning STEM programs.

ENGL333 Global Literary Cultures

Explore the global dimensions of literature in English, engaging with historical texts that reflect diverse cultural experiences. Critically study important works of Grand Tour travel writing, English courtship fiction, African slave narrative, New World indigenous critique and Orientalist poetry in the broader contexts of imperialism, cosmopolitanism and globalisation. Investigate and debate central issues in global literary studies, including cross-culturalism, racism, religion, gender, migration, and social justice enhancing your understanding of literature's role in shaping and reflecting global perspectives.

Block 2: select 1 of 3 units

HUMA207 More than a Museum: Modern Rome

Explore the dynamic and complex nature of modern Rome beyond its historical landmarks. Since becoming Italy's capital in 1870, Rome has transformed dramatically. Enrol in this unit to examine its rapid growth, the impact of both internal and international migration, and the broader processes of globalisation. Engage with the city's contemporary culture, economy, and politics through comprehensive study and real-world experiences. This unit offers a thorough understanding of Rome as a living, evolving metropolis, rich in contemporary significance and ever-evolving dynamism.

THEL215 Mapping Laudato Si' and UN Sustainable Development Goals

Delve into Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical, *Laudato Si': On Care for our Common Home*, alongside the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Critically assess the social, cultural, political, and legal aspects of the SDGs and how they are addressed or challenged by the moral framework of *Laudato Si'*. Reflect on contemporary global development issues and the ethical dimensions of sustainability and environmental stewardship.

HUMA254 The Idea of the City - A Study of Rome

Examine urban life through the lens of Rome, exploring the city's unique cultural, political, and social experiences. This unit focuses on shared public spaces like roads, statues, and graffiti, encouraging you to rethink the concept of a city and its role in shaping human interaction and community life. Gain deeper insights into how urban environments influence and reflect societal changes and individual identities.

Block 3: select 1 of 4 units

HUMA319 Rome Field School – Landscapes Past and Present

Experience Rome firsthand through this immersive, hands-on unit. Explore the city's development over three millennia by applying concepts from archaeology, history, and geography. Conducted entirely on location, this unit offers site activities that enhance your understanding of how geographical features and human activities have shaped Rome's landscape over time.

THEL214 Cults, Gods and Religion in Ancient Rome

Immerse yourself in the rich and diverse religious landscape of Ancient Rome. Enrol in this unit to explore traditional Greco-Roman paganism, Mithraism, Judaism, and Christianity, and gain insights into how these religions coexisted and influenced each other within the city walls. Participate in visits to major religious sites, offering a hands-on appreciation of the complexity of ancient religious beliefs and practices. Through this study, you will develop a nuanced understanding of the interplay between religion, history, and culture in Ancient Rome.

EDES300 Comparative Education – Local and Global Contexts

Explore the impact of globalisation on education through this unit, which examines major educational debates and the tensions between equality, equity, quality, efficiency, and parental choice. Compare educational practices in different contexts, such as Italy and Australia, and investigate the historical role of education in societal development. Gain insights into how global forces shape local educational systems and reflect critically on the unique and shared aspects of education worldwide.

LAWS423 Law, Religion and Society

Engage with the complex dynamics between law and religion across European states, focusing on how legal frameworks shape and regulate religious practices, particularly within Christianity. Compare national laws using a comparative legal approach, revealing the often cooperative relationship between State and Religion that challenges popular perceptions of conflict. Explore key concepts in Canon Law, and critically analyse how European legal traditions function within the broader context of international law. Investigate how these traditions provide alternative models for protecting religious practices. Deepen your understanding by examining the role of religion in society through a legal and sociological lens, assessing its impact on societal well-being and cohesion.

Block 4: select 1 of 4 units

HUMA252 Art, Politics and Society in Renaissance and Baroque Rome

Immerse yourself in the artistic and cultural richness of Renaissance and Baroque Rome. Engage with artworks in their original settings and analyse how art practices were influenced by the Reformation, Counter-Reformation, and changing political landscapes. Discover the transformation of classical iconography and the emergence of individual expression, truth, and power dynamics in these pivotal historical periods.

PHCC320 The Just Society = *Core Curriculum Unit*

Engage with contemporary philosophical debates on the nature of a just society. Examine key concepts such as human dignity, social justice, and human solidarity. Explore issues like the fair distribution of societal benefits and burdens, individual and community rights and duties, and basic freedoms. This unit provides a comprehensive understanding of the ethical and philosophical foundations of a just society, preparing you to thoughtfully engage with social, ethical, and political uncertainties.

PSYC225 Applied Positive Psychology

Discover the scientific study of happiness, well-being, and human flourishing through positive psychology. Engage in experiential and project-based learning, exploring positive emotions, engagement, creativity, optimism, and strengths. Participate in community engagement opportunities to observe and practice relevant skills in real-world settings. Learn how to apply positive psychology principles to enhance your well-being and that of others.

LAWS409 Law of the European Union

Deepen your expertise in European Union (EU) Law by engaging with its history, structure, and foundational principles. Gain insight into the key institutions and procedures of the EU, developing a comprehensive understanding of how they function within the legal framework of the single market. Develop advanced theoretical knowledge and technical skills as you tackle complex issues in EU Administrative law. Strengthen your research and writing abilities while applying your insights to real-world legal challenges within the EU context. Cultivate the cognitive and communication skills necessary to navigate and influence the evolving landscape of European Union Law.

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
Block 1:	Sunday, 7-Sep-25	Monday, 8-Sep-25	Wednesday, 1-Oct-25	Thursday, 2-Oct-25
Block 2:	Sunday, 5-Oct-25	Monday, 6-Oct-25	Wednesday, 29-Oct-25	Thursday, 30-Oct-25
Block 3:	Tuesday, 4-Nov-25	Wednesday, 5-Nov-25	Friday, 28-Nov-25	Saturday, 29-Nov-25
Block 4:	Sunday, 30-Nov-25	Monday, 1-Dec-25	Friday, 19-Dec-25	Saturday, 20-Dec-25

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 incl. Italian	Example fee: 3 Blocks incl. Italian	Example fee: 1 Block
SiR Block 1: Italian ^ EDSI413 & ENGL333^	AU\$3,100 AU\$3,850	\$3,100	\$3,100	
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
<i>Housing discount for 3 or 4 consecutive SiR blocks</i>		-\$1,000	-\$750	
	Total:	\$13,050	\$10,050	\$3,250

^ The exact SiR Block 1 fee will correspond to the unit selected: Italian or EDSI413 or ENGL333.

The SiR fee **does not** include tuition, 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 can be submitted online via: https://acu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eg3eaxsAMkiMh8i

Application Deadline: **15 December 2024**

When will I know if my application has been successful?

Successful applicants will be notified early January 2025. Global Learning will send you a letter of offer via your student email and 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. If you haven't been able to secure a place, we will also let you know at this time.