

# A semester in Rome



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## ACU Semester in Rome 2023 Information Sheet for Students: National School of Arts and Humanities Faculty of Theology and Philosophy

### Q1. What is the ACU Semester in Rome?

The ACU Semester in Rome (ACUSiR) is an initiative started in 2022 by the National School of Arts and Humanities (NSAH) and the Faculty of Theology and Philosophy (FTP), entering its second year in 2023. The ACUSiR 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, ACUSiR 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 2 units
- **Block 4:** Select 1 of 2 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)

## Q2. When is the ACU Semester in Rome?

ACUSiR will be offered from September to December 2023.

If you are enrolled in Study Block 1 (Italian), you will arrive at the ACU Rome Campus on Sunday 3 September. Block 1 will commence on Monday 4 September.

Block 4 finishes Friday 15 December 2023 with students departing on the Saturday 16 December.

Each study block is 3 - 3.5 weeks in length.

### ACUSiR Timetable:

ACUSiR Block	Units	Study block Start Date	Study block End Date	Notes
SiR Block 1:	Italian intensive. Weeks 1-4	Monday, 4 Sept. 2023	Wednesday, 27 Sept. 2023	All assessment tasks to be completed within this period
Block Break: Thursday 28 Sept. – Sunday 1 Oct				
SiR Block 2:	HUMA254 THEL214	Monday, 2 Oct. 2023	Wednesday, 25 Oct. 2023	All assessment tasks to be completed within this period
Mid Semester Break: Thursday 26 Oct. – Tuesday 31 Oct.				
SiR Block 3:	HUMA319 THEL215	Wednesday, 1 Nov. 2023	Friday, 24 Nov. 2023	All assessment tasks to be completed within this period
SiR Block 4:	HUMA252 PHCC320	Monday, 27 Nov. 2023	Friday, 15 Dec. 2023	Main/final assessment task may be completed after students have left the campus

## Q3. 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: 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 B: 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.

**Block 3:** Select 1 of 2 units

### **OPTION A: 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.

### **OPTION B: 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.

**Block 4:** Select 1 of 2 units

### **OPTION A: 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 B: 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.

**Q4. Can I complete semester 2 in Australia and then study ACUSiR Block 3 or Block 4 in Rome?**

Yes, this is possible. **Block 3** ACUSiR 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*. The **Block 4** ACUSiR units commence after semester 2 finishes. If you wish to complete semester 2 domestically you can apply to study in block 4 of ACUSiR.

**Q5. 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:**

ACUSiR Block	Accommodation Check in	Study block Start Date	Study block End Date	Accommodation Check Out
SiR Block 1:	Sunday, 3 Sept. 2023	Monday, 4 Sept. 2023	Wednesday, 27 Sept. 2023	Thursday, 28 Sept. 2023
SiR Block 2:	Sunday, 1 Oct. 2023	Monday, 2 Oct. 2023	Wednesday, 25 Oct. 2023	Thursday, 26 Oct. 2023
SiR Block 3:	Tuesday, 31 Oct. 2023	Wednesday, 1 Nov. 2023	Friday, 24 Nov. 2023	Saturday, 25 Nov. 2023
SiR Block 4:	Sunday, 26 Nov. 2023	Monday, 27 Nov. 2023	Friday, 15 Dec. 2023	Saturday, 16 Dec. 2023

**Q6. 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 ACUSiR units towards your degree.
2. You have space left on your course to undertake ACUSiR in full or in part
3. ACUSiR 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 ACUSiR, either in full or in part. For this reason, if you are considering applying for ACUSiR, you must discuss your plans with your Course Coordinator before you apply. The ACUSiR 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).

### Q7. How much does ACUSiR cost?

You will pay the **same tuition fees** for ACUSiR 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 ACUSiR program 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. The program costs for each block are as follows:

ACUSiR Block	Block Fees	Example fee: Semester	Example fee: 3 Blocks	Example fee: 1 Block
SiR Block 1:	AU\$2,700	\$2,700	\$2,700	
SiR Block 2:	AU\$3,475	\$3,475	\$3,475	
SiR Block 3:	AU\$3,475	\$3,475	\$3,475	
SiR Block 4:	AU\$2,975	\$2,975		\$2,975
	Total:	<b>\$12,625</b>	\$9,650	\$2,975

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

### Q8. Is there financial help available?

As an ACUSiR participant you may be eligible for the following funding support:

1. ACU Vice Chancellor and President's Learning Abroad Grant: \$2,500
2. OS-HELP Loan: up to \$7,348

Conditions apply. Financial support can be viewed online:

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

### Q9. I'm interested! How do I apply?

Applications are now open. You can apply online via:

[https://acu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_aY3lQwNfLn0PjWm](https://acu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_aY3lQwNfLn0PjWm)

Applications will be accepted up until 5 pm. **Sunday 5 March 2023.**

### Q10. 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 March 13. 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.

**Q11. Are there other ACU units available in Rome at the same time as the ACU Semester in Rome?**

Yes. The Education unit *EDES300 Comparative Education – Local and Global Contexts* is offered alongside the ACUSiR units in **block 3**. The Psychology unit *PSYC109 Applied Positive Psychology* is running alongside the ACUSiR units in **block 4**.

**Important** - The two units are NOT part of the NSAH and FTP ACU Semester in Rome. They are NOT available to students enrolling in the full ACUSiR program.

Subject to eligibility, students studying EDES300 or PSYC109 may be able to enrol in the following combinations of units:

- EDES300 followed by PHCC320 or HUMA252.
- HUMA319 or THEL215 followed by PSYC109.

It is important that you check that your course rules/course map allow you to enrol on the above units before you apply. If you're not sure, you should consult your Course Coordinator.

**EDES300 Comparative Education – Local and Global Contexts**

*2-week intensive unit. Start date 13 Nov 2023 (arrive 12 Nov). End date 24 November (depart 25 Nov).*

*Cost: \$1775*

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.

**PSYC109 Applied Positive Psychology**

*3-week intensive unit. Start date 27 Nov 2023 (arrive 26 Nov). End date 15 December 2023 (depart 16 Dec).*

*Cost: \$2975*

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.

**Q12. How can I find out more about the ACU Semester in Rome?**

A webinar will be held in late February to provide additional advice.