

American Academy in Rome

2024 Classical Summer School Guidelines

Rome began as a cluster of Iron Age huts on a hill overlooking the Tiber River. This tiny settlement eventually grew to become the capital of an empire that stretched across the entire Mediterranean basin. The city's development reflects its long and complex relationships with the other peoples of the Italian peninsula, in particular, the Etruscans and Greeks, as well as multiple influences from individuals and groups who came to the city as slaves, merchants, or immigrants. Continuously inhabited since its foundation, the city has been frequently rebuilt, with layer rising upon layer.

This course aims to provide participants with a deep understanding of Ancient Rome as an urban setting (from the Etruscan/Early Roman period through Late Antiquity) through close attention to sources and evidence for ancient topography, art and architecture, as well as the reconstruction of diverse identity experiences in the ancient city.

2024 Program Dates

June 16–July 19, 2024

2024 Application Deadline

February 23, 2024

Notification of acceptance into the program by March 15, 2024; scholarships awarded by the end of March 2024.

The Course

The program of the Classical Summer School focuses on the development of the ancient city of Rome from its earliest settlement through later antiquity. An introduction to the material culture and urban topography of the city forms the core of the course. A foundational goal of the course is to develop participants' skills in analyzing and interpreting archaeological sites and artifacts.

Along with examining the better-known monuments, such as the Pantheon, Forum Romanum and Imperial Fora, the program explores the hidden parts of the ancient city, behind locked gates and below its modern streets. Visits to important Latin and Etruscan sites—such as Veii, Tarquinia, Palestrina, Sperlonga, Terracina, Ostia, and Tivoli—will complement daily field trips within the city. From this series of visits to sites and museums during the five-week program, participants will develop an intimate knowledge of the city and its ancient monuments. Classroom and on-site lectures will relate the material of the course to its historical and social contexts. The development of architecture, sculpture, painting, the “minor” arts, and inscriptions of the republican and imperial city will also be presented.

Readings from primary texts and modern scholarship will be assigned to contextualize monuments and the urban experience of the ancient city. In addition, participants are encouraged to present on a monument or aspect of ancient Roman topography, literature, history, art/architecture, or pedagogy of interest to them or relevant to their own research.

Program participants will also have full access to the Arthur & Janet C. Ross Library of the American Academy, where there are excellent resources on the history, topography, and archaeology of the city of Rome, and to the Archaeological Study Collection.

2024 Classical Summer School

The five-week session will begin on Sunday, June 16, 2024, and conclude with a final dinner on the night of Thursday July 18, 2024. Participants must plan to arrive in Rome by midday on Sunday, June 16 for an afternoon orientation and depart Rome no earlier than the morning of Friday, July 19, 2024. Participants are expected to be present for the duration of the Classical Summer School. The course runs Monday to Friday, with a few Saturday excursions.

Admission

Enrollment is composed of qualified graduate students and middle school and high school teachers, and (on some occasions) college/university teachers. Exceptional undergraduate applicants will be considered in rare circumstances. If the number of applicants is exceptionally high, preference will be given to those teachers and graduate students who have a graduate degree in hand. **All applications for admission must be received by 11:59 pm EST February 23, 2024.**

Important

Please be aware that the Classical Summer School is conducted largely on site in and around Rome. Thus, full participation in the program generally requires physical exertion due to long, strenuous walks and occasional, steep climbs; standing in hot sun at archaeological sites; and standing for prolonged periods of time in museums. The months of June and July are quite hot in Rome, with temperatures often in the 90s and occasionally reaching over 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

Scholarships for 2024

Several scholarships are awarded by the American Academy in Rome upon recommendation of the Classical Summer School Director and scholarship committee. These do not require a separate application. There is a section on the application in which applicants can indicate a preference to be considered for these awards.

Numerous local classical organizations support study at the American Academy in Rome. Check with your local classical association, school, or department for opportunities.

The applicant is solely responsible for finding and applying for financial aid. Every applicant must submit a full Classical Summer School application by February 23, 2024, regardless of any scholarships or other awards being sought.

Passport

If you do not already have a valid passport, we advise that you apply for one immediately. The passport agency is experiencing delays so please leave adequate time to process your application. Note your passport must be valid for at least three months beyond the date on which you leave the European Union.

Program Costs

The program fee of \$5,000 includes tuition, accommodation, five lunches and three dinners per week and the cost of trips to sites in and around Rome.

All participants are eligible for an American Academy in Rome scholarship (a minimum of \$1,500). While we work to provide scholarship support for all participants, high school teachers will receive priority.

The program fee does not include airfare, personal expenses (and additional, unplanned expenditures), some lunches/dinners, any travel not directly related to the program of the Summer School, nor expenses such as laundry, tips, amusements, or shopping.

Program fee must be paid in full to the Academy's office in New York by May 1, 2024.

Accommodation in Rome

Participants in the Classical Summer School will stay in lodging near the American Academy. The program cannot accommodate guests other than participants. Accommodation is only available between the program dates of June 16 (arrival) and July 19 (departure). It is not possible to pay for additional days. Please plan to arrive by midday on June 16 for orientation. Departure should take place no earlier than Friday, July 19.

Applications

The Classical Summer School has an online application process. The deadline for all application materials is February 23, 2024. For questions about the Classical Summer School, please email info@aarome.org.