

2025 Classical Summer School Program Guidelines

This five-week program is designed to provide qualified graduate students, and middle school, high school, and college/university teachers with a well-founded understanding of the growth and development of the city of Rome through a careful study of material remains and literary sources.

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 enslaved persons, merchants, or immigrants. Continuously inhabited since its foundation, the city has been frequently rebuilt, with layer rising upon layer. This program aims to provide participants with a deep understanding of ancient Rome as an urban setting (from the Etruscan/early Roman period through late antiquity), as well as the contiguous development of its colonies and neighbors in the Italian peninsula. Through close attention to both textual sources--from literary authors to epigraphic documents--and evidence for ancient topography, art, and architecture, the program recovers and reconstructs the diverse experiences of multiple groups that gave rise to the city of Rome.

Due to the complications of the Jubilee Year in 2025, applicants should be aware that the Classical Summer School this year will spend its first two weeks outside of Rome and three weeks inside Rome. The first week will focus on the region of Etruria, primarily on the Etruscan and Faliscan cities and cemeteries, as well as early Roman colonies. The program then moves to Naples in the second week, focusing on Magna Graecia (Paestum) and the development of towns and villas around the bay and its hinterland prior to the eruption of Vesuvius in 79 CE. Finally, the program moves to the center--Rome itself--in its last three weeks and focuses on topographically oriented study of the city and its rise, complemented by a few day trips to key sites in the region of Latium.

Director

Dr. Evan Jewell, Assistant Professor of History, Rutgers University-Camden

2025 Program Dates

Monday, June 16--Saturday, July 19, 2025

Application Deadline

Friday December 20, 2024, 11:59 PM EST. Letters of recommendation must be submitted by this deadline to receive full consideration.

Notification of acceptance: mid-January 2025

Notification of AAR scholarships: end of January 2025

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 in parallel with other contiguous regions in the Italian peninsula, namely Etruria and the bay of Naples. Due to the exigencies of the Jubilee celebrations in Rome, the program in 2025 is arranged in three parts and three places. First, Week 1 explores Etruscan and Faliscan cities and cemeteries north of Rome (such as Veii, Cerveteri, Tarquinia, Vulci, Orvieto, Falerii Novi) as well as some early Roman and Latin colonies (such as Cosa, Sutri), and considers their engagement with Rome. Second, Week 2 moves to the Bay of Naples and similarly studies the urban centers there and their cultural, political, and economic (dis)connections with Rome, from the Greek (and then Roman) colony of Paestum to the cities destroyed by Vesuvius.

Then Weeks 3–5 focus on Rome itself: an introduction to the material culture and urban topography of the city. Along with examining the better-known monuments, such as the Pantheon, Palatine Hill, Forum Romanum, and Imperial Fora, we will explore the hidden parts of the ancient city, behind locked gates and below its modern streets. Further visits to important sites in Rome's hinterland (such as Nemi, Palestrina, Ostia, and Tivoli) will complement the daily field trips within the city which train their focus on its different topographical zones.

From this series of visits to sites and museums during the five-week program, participants will develop an intimate knowledge of Rome and its ancient monuments, as well as Rome's neighbors. A key aim throughout the program is the development of participants' skills in analyzing and interpreting archaeological sites, urban space, architecture, and artifacts. Classroom and on-site lectures and seminars will relate the material of the course to its historical and social contexts, while pedagogical workshops will consider how teachers can bring this material into their classrooms. 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 will develop presentation skills by teaching a monument or aspect of ancient Roman topography, literature, history, art/architecture or pedagogy of interest to them or relevant to their own research.

While in Rome, 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 ancient Italy, and to the Archaeological Study Collection.

2025 Classical Summer School

The 5-week session will begin on Monday, June 16, 2025 and conclude with a final dinner on the night of Friday, July 18, 2025. Participants must plan to arrive in Rome by midday on Monday, June 16 for an afternoon orientation and depart Rome no earlier than the morning of Saturday, July 19, 2025.

Participants are expected to be present for the duration of the Classical Summer School and should not

be absent from the program for any reason other than emergencies or illness. The course runs Tuesday to Saturday, with Sundays-Mondays and one long weekend available for participants' personal travel and free time.

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 teachers and graduate students. **All applications for admission must be received by 11:59 pm EST December 20, 2024.**

Important

Please be aware that the Classical Summer School is conducted largely on site in Rome and elsewhere in Italy. Participation in the program requires physical exertion due to long, fairly 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 hot in Rome, with temperatures often in the 90s and occasionally reaching over 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

Scholarships for 2025

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 where 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.

Applicants are solely responsible for finding and applying for financial aid. Every applicant must submit a full Classical Summer School application by December 20, 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 plan to leave the European Union.

Program Costs

The program fee of \$5,000 includes tuition, accommodation, lunches (on excursion days) and some dinners, and the cost of trips to sites included in the program (including transportation to sites).

Participants without sources of funding are eligible for an American Academy in Rome scholarship (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 Classical Summer School, nor expenses such as laundry, tips, amusements, or shopping.

Successful applicants will be asked to pay a non-refundable deposit of \$200 to hold their place. Program fee must be paid in full by May 1, 2025. Payment instructions will be provided upon confirmation of program participation.

Accommodation

During the first two weeks of the program, participants will be housed in hotels outside of Rome, in single rooms or double rooms (two beds in a shared room). For the last three weeks of the program, participants will be housed in single rooms in apartments in the Prati area of Rome (the other rooms will have other participants in our program). All the apartments in Rome will have a kitchen for shared use. The program fee does not include airfare, personal expenses (or additional, unplanned expenditures), some lunches/dinners, any travel not directly related to the program of the Classical Summer School, nor expenses such as laundry, tips, amusements, or shopping. 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 Monday, June 16 for orientation. Departure should take place no earlier, and no later, than Saturday, July 19.

The program will provide some lunches for excursions and site visits, and likewise some dinners. While in Rome, participants will have access to a shared kitchen if they wish to cook their own meals when meals are not included. Please note: while we endeavor to accommodate the dietary restrictions of participants, it may not be possible to accommodate all requirements given the constraints of local restaurants.

Applications

The Classical Summer School has an online application process. The deadline for all application materials is December 20, 2024. For questions about the Classical Summer School, please email Dr. Evan Jewell, cssdirector@aarome.org.