



City of Rome Postgraduate Course

Tuesday 7 April - Friday 29 May 2026

Course information

The BSR City of Rome Postgraduate Course is the most in-depth and rigorous of its kind – a unique opportunity for students to develop research skills in the study of ancient Rome. The course forms one quarter of a year's full time postgraduate work at Masters or early-Doctoral level.

Led by the Course Director, Dr Christopher Siwicki, over eight weeks of full-time study you will examine the city as a whole: topography, infrastructures, development and function of the Imperial capital. You will analyse selected monuments in terms of their structural history, architectural characteristics, place in the development of the urban plan, social, economic or religious function and their subsequent use and influence.

Course coverage and structure

One half of the course is devoted to site visits led by the Course Director and tutors (approximately 100 hours), supplemented by 12 hours of lectures and seminars given by distinguished guest speakers. Site visits will be targeted to meet the research needs of individual students and to complement lectures by guest speakers. Students will be expected to prepare in advance for, and contribute to, the site visits. Students should have some prior knowledge of Roman history and Roman building techniques. The Course Director will supply an appropriate bibliography on request. Some seminars and lectures and texts will be in Italian, a reasonable level of fluency is therefore expected; students with little or no Italian are asked to be aware of this. The other half of the course is for individual study supervised by the Course Director. You will choose a major topic for study (agreed with your home university in consultation with the Course Director) and will be expected to give a seminar on this during the course, and to submit a written paper at the end of the course.

The BSR

The British School at Rome is Britain's leading humanities research institution overseas and an ideal base for postgraduate study of the City of Rome. You will live and work in a research centre with an internationally renowned library, which is home to a resident community of postgraduates and senior scholars in a wide range of academic areas, as well as architecture and visual art. Visit www.bsr.ac.uk for further information.

Assessment

The written paper and seminar will be assessed according to a standard format by the Course Director who will send a report to your home university including a mark based on your paper, seminar and course participation.

Eligibility

You must be on a Master's /Doctoral programme studying a classical/archaeological subject at a UK university at the time of the course. Your university must agree to pay the course tutorial fee to the BSR (25% of the yearly fee) and must also be an institutional member of the BSR for 2025/26 (£250 Institutional Membership fee). This is an intensive, intellectually and physically demanding course and students are responsible for their capacity to meet the course requirements.

Cost and accommodation

There is a course tutorial fee payable by your university and an accommodation fee payable by you. Your accommodation fee is payable by 1st March.

The fee for accommodation is €3000 for a single room and €2700 for a shared room. This covers dinner from arrival on Tuesday 7 April 2026 (Mon, Tue, Thurs, and Fri at 19.30; Weds at 20:00) and breakfast until departure on Friday 29 May 2026. It also covers packed lunches for the days when there are visits scheduled. On 'free study' days students can make use of self-catering kitchen facilities.

In the event of cancellation there will be no charge for cancellation up to 30 days prior to arrival. Cancellations within 30 days of initial arrival date will be charged at 50% of the total cost of the course.

Bursaries

A limited number of bursaries to cover part of the accommodation fee are available in cases of particular financial need. To apply for a bursary please submit

- a statement of your financial circumstances with your application (one page maximum: annual income/expenditure, with the reason for application).
- The referee's letter from your current university should confirm the need and that all appropriate applications have been made with your institution for assistance.

Extra costs

Not included but essential costs: travel insurance, travel to and from the BSR at the start/end of the course, personal incidentals, self-catered meals on days when there aren't visits scheduled ('free study' days).

How to apply

The selection of participants will be made by the Course Director in consultation with the BSR on the basis of merit.

Your application must include:

1. a cover letter outlining your current course and explaining how the City of Rome course will fit into this
2. an academic curriculum vitae (including full contact details: telephone, home and university email, address)
3. a one-page summary of the research topic to be pursued in Rome
4. one letter of reference from your home university
5. one letter of reference from your undergraduate institution (MA or first year PhD students at a 'new' institution only)
6. bursary application if appropriate

The deadline for receipt of applications is 10 November 2025.

Please email applications to the *Research Support Officer* Stefania Peterlini: segretaria@bsrome.it

Applicants will be notified whether they have been accepted for the course by early December 2025.

THE CITY OF ROME POSTGRADUATE COURSE

(This is an **example** of the programme of visits. The structure of the course including dates when the visits will actually happen are subject to change in 2026)

WEEK 1

MONDAY 4 April

Students arrive – orientation meetings (course outline, administration etc):

15.00 Building and Library Tour

16.15 Tea

18.00 Introductory talk (Course Director)

18.45 Drinks

19.30 Dinner (as every day except Saturdays)

TUESDAY 5 April : FORUM BOARIUM

LEAVE 8.30am

Forum Boarium: introduction

10.00 Temples of Portunus (S. Maria Secundicerii/Egiziaca) & Hercules Invictus
[PERMIT]

11.00 Area Sacra of S. Omobono - guided tour with Monica Ceci (Roma Capitale)
[PERMIT]

Arch of the Argentarii & ‘Arch of Janus’

S. Maria in Cosmedin, crypt (Great Altar of Hercules?)

Bridges of Aemilius, Cestius and Fabricius

Tiber Island

WEDNESDAY 6 April : FORUM ROMANUM (Day 1)

LEAVE 8.30am

Via Sacra

Antiquarium & Temple of Venus and Rome

Atrium Vestae & Regia

Temple of Castor & Lacus Juturnae

Comitium & Rostra

18.00 Lecture by Rita Volpe (Roma Capitale): “Intorno alle Mura Serviane”

THURSDAY 7 April : SERVIAN WALLS

LEAVE 8.30am

Servian Walls at Termini (Porta Viminalis) / Porta Collina / Via Salandra / Porta Fontinalis & Monument of Bibulus / Forum Boarium / Aventine / S. Sabina / Piazza Albania (Porta Raudusculana?) / Augustan cippus, via Piramide di Cestio

FRIDAY 8 April : CAPITOLINE

LEAVE 10.00

Piazza del Campidoglio

S. Maria in Araceli

Arx and 'Auguraculum'

12.30 Araceli insula **[PERMIT]**

13.50 Capitoline Museums, including Temple of Veiovis, Tabularium & substructures of Temple of Jupiter Capitolinus

WEEK 2

MONDAY 11 April

16.00 Student tutorials

18.00 Seminar by Robert Coates-Stephens (in the Library): "Sources for Roman topography"

TUESDAY 12 April: CAMPUS MARTIUS (Day 1)

LEAVE 8.30am

10.00 Forum Holitorium: temples beneath S. Nicola in Carcere **[PERMIT]**

Temples of Apollo Sosianus and Bellona & fragments in Palazzo Lovatelli

Theatre of Marcellus & Porticus of Octavia

Theatre of Pompey & remains in *Da Pancrazio* restaurant

Republican temples of Largo Argentina

Baths of Agrippa

Pantheon

Piazza Navona (Stadium of Domitian) & Pamphilj obelisk

Museo Nazionale at Palazzo Altemps

WEDNESDAY 13 April

FREE STUDY

18.00 Lecture by Costas Panayotakis (Glasgow/BSR): "The theatre of the Roman Mime: texts and material culture"

THURSDAY 14 April : OSTIA

LEAVE 8.30am

Ostia Antica, visit to the excavations

FRIDAY 15 April (Good Friday) : PALATINE

LEAVE 8.30am

Precinct of Victory & Magna Mater

House of Augustus [**PERMIT**]

Aula Isiaca [**PERMIT**]

Domus Flavia

Domus Tiberiana & Orti Farnesiani

Via Nova

SATURDAY 16 April : MUSEUM VISIT

LEAVE 9.30am

Villa Giulia (Etruscan and Faliscan antiquities)

WEEK 3

MONDAY 18 April (Easter Monday) : FORUM ROMANUM (Day 2)

LEAVE 8.30am

9.30 Mamertine Prison [**PERMIT**]

Curia

Temples of Concord, Vespasian & Saturn

Arch of Septimius Severus

Basilicae Aemilia & Julia

Temple of Divus Julius & Arches of Augustus

Temple of Antoninus and Faustina

Arch of Titus

18.00 Seminar by Robert Coates-Stephens: "Materials in construction and decoration"

TUESDAY 19 April : ESQUILINE (Day 1)

LEAVE 8.30am

Servian Walls at piazza Fanti

10.00 S. Martino ai Monti and horrea [**PERMIT**]

Arch of Gallienus (Porta Esquilina)

12.30 Republican tombs of via Statilia [**PERMIT**]

'Trophies of Marius' (Nymphaeum of Alexander Severus)

S. Maria Maggiore

WEDNESDAY 20 April

FREE STUDY

18.00 Lecture by Filippo Coarelli (Perugia): "L'aula del colosso e la cronologia del Foro di Augusto"

THURSDAY 21 April : VIMINAL & MUSEO NAZIONALE ROMANO

LEAVE 8.30am

Baths of Diocletian

Museo delle Terme, Epigraphic Department & Aula X

Palazzo Massimo

FRIDAY 22 April : **IMPERIAL FORA**

LEAVE 8.30am

Templum Pacis

10.10 Fora of Trajan and Caesar [**PERMIT**]

Fora of Augustus and Nerva

11.30 House of the Knights of Rhodes [**PERMIT**]

13.00 Markets of Trajan & Museum of the Fori Imperiali

15.00 Roman houses beneath Palazzo Valentini

SATURDAY 23 April : **CAMPUS MARTIUS (Day 2)**

LEAVE 8.45am

9.30 'Horologium' of Augustus [**PERMIT**]

Montecitorio obelisk

10.30 Mausoleum of Augustus

11.50 Ara Pacis & Museum

WEEK 4

MONDAY 25 April : **CAELIAN**

LEAVE 8.30am

Arch of Dolabella

Neronian nymphaeum

Villa Mattei-Celimontana

Temple of Claudius

10.30 Roman houses beneath SS Giovanni & Paolo

12.00 S. Clemente

S. Giovanni in Laterano and baptistery

TUESDAY 26 April : **CAMPUS MARTIUS (Day 3)**

LEAVE 8.30am

Column of Marcus Aurelius

Aqua Virgo: arch of Claudius & arches in *Rinascente* department store

Temple of Hadrian & Isaeum

Crypta Balbi Museum

12.30 Insula of S. Paolo alla Regola [**PERMIT**]

Claudian pomerium cippus, via del Pellegrino

18.00 Seminar by Emlyn Dodd (BSR assistant director), on the archaeology of the Roman suburbium

WEDNESDAY 27 April

FREE STUDY

18.00 Lecture by Stephen Kay (BSR): “Geophysical prospection of the eastern Caelian: large scale urban research by the Rome Transformed project”

THURSDAY 28 April : AVENTINE & TESTACCIO

LEAVE 8.30am

Circus Maximus & excavated zone

11.00 S. Prisca and mithraeum, with Letizia Rustico (Soprintendenza Archeologica di Roma) [**PERMIT**]

12.30 Monte Testaccio [**PERMIT**]

‘Porticus Aemilia’ (Navalia?)

FRIDAY 29 April : VIA APPIA (Day 1)

LEAVE 8.30am

Porta Capena

10.00 Columbarium of Pomponius Hylas [**PERMIT**]

Porta Appia & Museum of the Aurelian Walls

‘Arch of Drusus’

12.30 Tomb of the Scipios [**PERMIT**]

Baths of Caracalla & mithraeum [**PERMIT**]

SUNDAY 1 May : VIA FLAMINIA

LEAVE 10.00am

Milvian Bridge

Villa of the Auditorium

Villa of Livia at Prima Porta

WEEK 5

MONDAY 2 May : COLOSSEUM

LEAVE 8.15am

9.15 Colosseum & arena [**PERMIT**]

Ludus Magnus

Isaeum Metellinam

TUESDAY 3 May : OPPIAN

LEAVE 8.30am

S. Pietro in Vincoli

10.00 Nymphaeum of via Annibaldi [**PERMIT**]

11.00 Domus Aurea [**PERMIT**]

Baths of Titus & Trajan

Caelian Antiquarium - visit to new museum installation of the Severan marble plan, with Francesca De Caprariis & Francesca Bigi (Roma Capitale) [PERMIT]

WEDNESDAY 4 May

FREE STUDY

18.00 Lecture by Alessandra Tafaro (Warwick/BSR): “The gladiatorial graffiti of the Roman amphitheatre: long-lived memorials of imperial *munera*”

THURSDAY 5 May : VIA LATINA

LEAVE 8.30am

9.30 Via Latina: Barberini Tomb & Tombs of the Valerii and Pancratii, Basilica di S. Stefano, with Santino Alessandro Cugno (Parco Archeologico dell’Appia Antica) [PERMIT]

11.30 Monte del Grano mausoleum [PERMIT]

Park of the Aqueducts

FRIDAY 6 May : TRASTEVERE

LEAVE 8.30am

S. Cecilia: Roman houses & Cavallini frescoes

11.00 Excubitorium of the Vigiles, with Simonetta Serra (Roma Capitale) [PERMIT]

S. Maria in Trastevere

Castel S. Angelo (Mausoleum of Hadrian)

SATURDAY 7 May : ESQUILINE (Day 2)

LEAVE 8.30am

9.20 Compital altar, via di S. Martino ai Monti [PERMIT]

10.00 Museo del Ninfeo, piazza Vittorio (*Horti Lamiani*)

S. Croce in Gerusalemme & Sessorium Palace

Porta Maggiore & Tomb of Eurysaces

‘Temple of Minerva Medica’

WEEK 6

MONDAY 9 May : VATICAN MUSEUMS

LEAVE 9.00am

Room of the Aldobrandini Wedding, Odyssey Frescoes of via Graziosa [PERMIT]

Braccio Nuovo, Pio-Cristiano, Gregorio Profano, Chiaramonti & Pio-Clementino

TUESDAY 10 May : VIA APPIA (Day 2)

LEAVE 8.30am

Villa of the Quintilii

Via Appia, 6th - 3rd miles

Tomb of Caecilia Metella
Circus & Mausoleum of Maxentius

WEDNESDAY 11 May
FREE STUDY

10.00 Epigraphy seminar by Alessandra Tafaro and Dustin McKenzie (BSR)

THURSDAY 12 May : PORTUS

LEAVE 9.00 (minibus)

10.00 Museo delle Navi & Claudian basin, Fiumicino

11.00 Isola Sacra [**PERMIT**]

12.00 Portus [**PERMIT**]

FRIDAY 13 May
FREE STUDY

WEEK 7

MONDAY 16 May

STUDENT PRESENTATIONS, Day 1

TUESDAY 17 May

STUDENT PRESENTATIONS, Day 2

WEDNESDAY 18 May
FREE STUDY

18.00 Lecture by Olof Brandt (Pontificio Istituto di Archeologia Cristiana): “*Opus listatum* and other monsters. The things Vitruvius never said or even thought of”

THURSDAY 19 May : FORUM ROMANUM & PALATINE (Day 3)

LEAVE 8.30am

Arch of Constantine

Curia Veteres & Meta Sudans

Tetrarchic Forum: Basilica of Maxentius, Temple of Romulus, Forum piazza, Porticus Di Consentes

S. Maria Antiqua, Oratory of the XL Martyrs & Domitianic ramp to Palatine

Vigna Barberini

Domus Severiana

FRIDAY 20 May : QUIRINAL

LEAVE 8.30am

9.30 Mithraeum of Palazzo Barberini [**PERMIT**]

Praetorian Camp

12.00 *Città dell'acqua* (Neronian insula, Trevi Fountain)

Piazza del Quirinale, Dioscuri colossi

WEEK 8

MONDAY 23 May

FREE STUDY

18.00 seminar by Abigail Brundin (Director, BSR), on Vittoria Colonna and 16th-century Rome

TUESDAY 24 May : TIVOLI

LEAVE (coach/minibus) 8.45am

Hadrian's Villa

Tivoli

WEDNESDAY 25 May

FREE STUDY

18.00 Lecture by Nigel Spivey (Cambridge): “‘It depends upon your point of view’: narrative and empathy in the reliefs of Trajan's Column”

THURSDAY 26 May : VIA OSTIENSIS

LEAVE 8.30am

9.30 Pyramid of Cestius: funerary chamber [**PERMIT**]

Montemartini Museum

S. Paolo fuori le Mura

FRIDAY 27 May : VIA NONENTANA - SALARIA

LEAVE 13.45

14.45 Catacombs of Priscilla

Mausoleum of Constantina (S. Costanza) & S. Agnese fuori le Mura

MONDAY 30 May : Course ends