

BSR

BRITISH SCHOOL
AT ROME

Undergraduate Ancient Rome Summer School 2026
Course Director Dr Christopher Siwicki
Wednesday 2 September –Saturday 12 September 2026

Course information

This intensive ten-day programme of visits to the sites, monuments and museums of ancient Rome and its vicinity is accompanied by experts in the field and integrated with a series of evening lectures. It provides a stimulating introduction to the topography of the city, its architecture and art, the latest discoveries and new developments in archaeological approaches.

Although no specialised knowledge is assumed, the course is ideal for undergraduates in Classics, Ancient History, Classical Archaeology and related subjects. Students who will have finished their degree by September 2026 are not eligible. If it is over-subscribed, precedence will normally be given to students about to enter their final year of undergraduate study.

Please note that the arrival date is Wednesday 2 September and the departure date is Saturday 12 September 2026

See www.bsr.ac.uk for more information about the course and the BSR.

Cost and accommodation

The cost of the course is €1400 for a single room or €1275 for a shared room be paid by international bank transfer and covers:

- Accommodation at the BSR
- Dinner from arrival on Wednesday 2 September 2026 and breakfast until departure on Saturday 12 September 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
- Local transport, excursions and entrance fees

Rooms will be assigned on a first come first served basis.

This fee does not include the cost of travel to Rome, for which participants must make their own arrangements, in addition to providing their own travel insurance. A refund less a €100 administration fee will be given to students who notify us of withdrawal 30 days before the beginning of the course. No refund will be made for withdrawals after this date.

We strongly recommend that students explore the possibility of having cancellation cover as part of their travel insurance policy.

How to apply

Applications should be emailed to Stefania Peterlini: segretaria@bsrome.it

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 detailing your interest in Rome, explaining why you wish to participate in the Summer School and what you hope to gain from it
2. an academic curriculum vitae with your contact details (telephone and email) and details of University courses/modules undertaken with results
3. one letter of academic reference (Referees should email references directly to segretaria@bsrome.it by the closing date)
4. an essay on any subject relating to the Classical world. It must be an original work, not exceeding 4000 words, and including footnotes or endnotes and a full bibliography.

The Gladstone Memorial Trust offers a prize worth £300 towards the cost of a place on the Summer School to the student who writes the best essay. Essays will be judged by members of the Faculty of Archaeology, History and Letters of the British School at Rome.

The deadline for receipt of applications is 10 May 2026

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

Bursaries

Bursaries are available in cases of particular financial need. Applicants should submit a statement of their financial circumstances together with their course application (one page of A4 maximum, detailing annual income and expenditure and the reason for applying). The referee's letter should confirm the need and that all appropriate applications for assistance have been made to the home university.

The British School at Rome gratefully acknowledges the support of the Cambridge Classics Faculty, the Craven Committee of the Faculty of Classics, Oxford University, the Gladstone Memorial Trust and the Society for Promotion of Roman Studies.

Sample course itinerary

Day 1

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

Day 2: THE TIBER

Leave 8.30

Forum Boarium: Temples of Hercules & Portunus / Area Sacra of S. Omobono / 'Arch of Janus' / Arch of the Argentarii / S. Maria in Cosmedin & crypt (Ara Maxima of Hercules?) / 'Porticus Aemilia' / Monte Testaccio / Tiber

18.30 Lecture: "The Fora")

Day 3: FORUM ROMANUM

Leave 8.30

Forum Romanum: Comitium, Rostra, Atrium Vestae, Regia, Temples of Concord, Vespasian, Saturn, Castor, Divus Julius, Basilicas Aemilia and Julia / Capitoline Museums & Tabularium

18.30 Lecture: "Principes"

Day 4: PRINCEPS, DOMVS AND RES PVBLICA

Leave 8.30

Forum of Augustus / Palatine: Domus Flavia, Antiquarium / Houses of Livia and Augustus / Museum of the Imperial Fora & Markets of Trajan / Columns of Trajan and Marcus Aurelius / Ara Pacis / Mausoleum of Augustus

18.30 Lecture: "The Triumph"

Day 5: THE TRIUMPH OF THE REPUBLIC

Leave 8.30

Pantheon / Area Sacra of Largo Argentina / Theatre of Pompey / Porticus of Octavia / Three Temples of Forum Holitorium / Temples of Apollo Sosianus & Bellona / Theatre of Marcellus / Circus Maximus & new excavations / Meta Sudans / Arch of Constantine

/ Forum Romanum, Via Sacra: Arches of Titus, Augustus and Septimius Severus / Mamertine Prison

18.30 Lecture: “Materials in Construction and Decoration”

Day 6: FREE DAY

18.30 Lecture: “Death, Burial and Afterlife”

Day 7: CITIES OF THE DEAD AND LIVING

Leave 8.20

Via Appia Antica: Tomb of Caecilia Metella, Circus of Maxentius and Mausoleum of Romulus / Aurelian Walls & Porta Appia / Tomb of the Scipios / Porta Maggiore & Tomb of Eurysaces / Nymphaeum of Alexander Severus (overview) / Arch of Gallienus (Porta Esquilina) / Clivus Suburanus

18.30 Lecture: “Panis et Circenses”

Day 8: PANIS ET CIRCENSES

Leave 7.30

Colosseum / Baths of Caracalla

FREE AFTERNOON (you may wish to visit a museum or catacomb)

18.30 Lecture: “Horti Romani”

Day 9: HORTI ROMANI

Leave 8.30

Domus Aurea / Auditorium of Maecenas / Servian Walls at Termini / Montemartini Museum, Via Ostiense

18.30 Lecture: “Introduction to Roman Ostia”

Day 10: FEEDING ROME: OSTIA

Coach leaves 8.40

Ostia Antica

Isola Sacra necropolis

18.30 Lecture: “Rome in Late Antiquity”

Day 11: TRANSFORMATION

Leave 8.30

Forum Romanum: Temple of Venus and Rome, Basilica of Maxentius, ‘Temple of Romulus’ and SS. Cosma & Damiano / S. Clemente / Arch of Dolabella / Temple of

Claudius / domus under SS. Giovanni & Paolo / Crypta Balbi Museum / S. Maria in Trastevere

Day 12: HINTERLAND

Coach leaves 8.40

Villa of Hadrian

Tivoli

No lecture

Day 13: COURSE ENDS