Our Rome Campus takes ACU to the heart of the Church. Located just moments from the Vatican, the campus provides our staff and students with unique international opportunities.

It brings together scholars from around the world and plays a critical role in driving our Mission as one of the world’s leading Catholic universities. The campus continues to grow as a hub for scholarship, engagement, and learning. It has been the site of new initiatives such as hosting our first recipient of the Francis Xavier Conaci Scholarship, which gives ACU Indigenous students an opportunity to study in Rome. The campus was also the centre of the first Healthcare CEO Symposium – a joint initiative between ACU and Catholic Health Australia focused on breaking the cycle of poverty and disease.

I encourage you to explore our Rome Campus and all it has to offer.

Professor Greg Craven AO, GCSG Vice-Chancellor and President

At ACU we embed international perspectives in courses and encourage a global mindset in both our teaching and learning.

Our Rome Campus offers students the opportunity to study in one of the world’s most magnificent cities, where for ACU students, Rome becomes the classroom. The academic programs on offer at our Rome Campus cross ACU’s four faculties. They involve multiple disciplines and include rich community engagement experiences, access to leading scholars, and an opportunity to experience life in Rome by living in our purpose-built student residence.

Since the campus was established in 2015, more than a thousand students and participants have experienced a study program in Rome, which has been a profound experience for many. I would encourage both potential and current students alike to consider the offshore opportunities available at ACU, and in particular our Rome Campus.

Professor Pauline Nugent Provost
History, architecture and surrounds

Our Rome Campus is located two kilometres from Vatican City and is rich in history. Originally built for the Sisters of Notre Dame de Sion, the building dates to 1962–63, with noted Italian architect Giò Ponti having a hand in its design.

The property provided sanctuary to Jewish families during World War II and ACU continues this legacy by hosting an annual lecture series on Jewish-Christian dialogue as part of the lease agreement with the Sisters of Sion. The property is now designated as a ‘House of Life’, with a memorial plaque established.

The campus is located at Via Garibaldi 28 on Janiculum Hill, just above the ancient Roman neighborhood of Trastevere and was the centre of Rome’s Jewish population in the first and second centuries.

Located at the far western edge of the old city, Trastevere was the only neighbourhood west of the Tiber River that was included in the old city of Rome in the third century by the Emperor Aurelian. It is a 10-minute walk from the campus to Piazza Santa Maria in Trastevere, which is the neighbourhood’s main square.

The campus is surrounded by nearly an acre of ancient gardens, complete with an ancient inscription and exquisite relief, providing a unique opportunity for ACU’s budding archaeologists.
Flagship academic programs

ACU offers a broad range of academic programs including research seminars at our Rome Campus. This includes ACU’s flagship offering – the International Core Curriculum, UNCC300: Justice and Change in the Global World and the highly successful postgraduate sponsored cohort EDCE600: Catholic Education: Mission, Culture & Spirituality developed in conjunction with Catholic Education Melbourne.

A feature of most ACU programs in Rome has been the community engagement activities, which bring to life in practical and tangible ways our students’ classroom learning. ACU partners with the Community of Sant’Egidio in Rome, to provide students with an opportunity to engage with and help some members of society in need, including the homeless, elderly, people with disabilities, school children, and migrants – giving them the opportunity to reflect on ways they can change the world and make an impact.

Research collaboration

The development of ACU as an institution of research excellence continues through engagement with international scholars at the Rome Campus. Seminars held at the campus foster collaborative research relationships in theology, philosophy, and religious studies with scholars from institutions across Europe and North America, as well as Australia. Attendees come from world-leading institutions including Yale, Cambridge, Oxford, Harvard, Durham, Princeton, and King’s College London, as well as some of the world’s leading Catholic institutions such as Boston College, Notre Dame (USA) and KU Leuven.

The enthusiasm shown by participants demonstrates the value these seminars add to the development of high-quality research projects – often in disciplines not traditionally characterised by collaborative research.
As the heart of western Christianity for over two millennia, Rome has served as the focal point for Christians eager to immerse themselves in the rich history and traditions of the Catholic faith.

Therefore, as Australia’s pre-eminent Catholic university, it is only natural that our campus in Rome serves as the focal point for our students and staff to immerse themselves in the Catholic Mission and identity of ACU.

As a university grounded in the Catholic Intellectual Tradition, where faith and reason are in dialogue, ACU strives to provide for the education of the whole person. Our Rome Campus gives our students the opportunity to integrate their learning with the Catholic Mission of ACU, contributing to their maturing outlook on life. In Rome, we strive to help our staff and students integrate learning, work, faith and community engagement.

Our chaplaincy on campus, while serving the spiritual needs of our campus community, also offers information regarding opportunities for attending Catholic liturgies in Rome, visits to the Vatican and other major religious sites, and the locations and times of services of other faiths in Rome. Special arrangements are also made for students to participate in a papal audience.

Likewise, the campus also facilitates collaboration with Catholic universities in Rome, Europe and beyond, by providing a more accessible campus for their students to join with ACU counterparts for stimulating learning opportunities. Since the campus opened, many high-level stakeholder events have been held involving a cross-section of government, industry and Vatican officials.

Identity and Mission

Our Rome Campus provides ACU with the ability to deepen and expand our relationships with stakeholders in Rome and Europe including the Holy See.
Our purpose-built Rome Campus is a comprehensive educational and residential venue for unique study opportunities, research seminars, meetings and stakeholder engagement right at the heart of the Catholic Church.

**Facilities**

The campus offers contemporary, newly renovated residential accommodation options in various configurations including a small number of apartments for visiting academics, accommodating up to 76 people. The living and learning facilities are surrounded by beautiful gardens and inviting al fresco terraces.

The campus is equipped with:
- classrooms in various sizes
- meeting rooms/offices
- an architect studio
- library
- chapel
- commercial kitchen
- dining and reception areas
- student lounge
- extensive external common areas for outdoor activities and social functions.

The campus can accommodate lectures, seminars, meetings, workshops, small receptions and networking functions.

It also provides other facilities and services for visitors including a coin-operated laundry/dryer, photocopying and printing, shared microwave oven and refrigerator, internet and on-call IT support, and 24-hour security.

**Student life**

Living in Rome introduces our students to new attitudes, new ways of living, and new ideas.

They are encouraged to embrace Italian culture and do as the Romans do. To make the most of their time here, be open to different experiences, explore, adjust to local time schedules and habits, and above all try to see difficulties as adventures. Students are encouraged to speak in Italian when interacting with locals and take every opportunity to learn the language.

The Rome Campus also has an active prayer and worship life facilitated by a part-time chaplain (Fr Anthony Ekpo) who leads the campus community in weekly worship, sacraments and prayer.
If you have any questions about our Rome Campus, including facilities, course offerings or making a booking, please contact ACU’s Office of the Provost.

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

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