

Rome: The Cinematic City

Exploring Rome Through Cinema, Photography and Visual Storytelling

20–24 July 2026

This intensive five-day program invites participants to discover Rome through the intertwined languages of cinema and photography. Inspired by Italian film history and contemporary visual storytelling, students will analyse cinematic masterpieces, explore the city through photographic practice, and create their own visual narratives.

The course combines film analysis, location scouting, photography, and creative production, allowing participants to experience Rome not only as visitors but as filmmakers and image-makers.

Monday, 20 July

Cinema – Reality and its Transfiguration

CAMPUS RUFA – Via Libetta 7

Professor Sergio Basso

09:00–16:00

The first day explores the foundations of Italian cinematic language through two masterpieces that radically transformed the representation of reality.

Morning

- Introduction to Italian Cinema
- Screening excerpts from *Bicycle Thieves* (Vittorio De Sica, 1948)
- Discussion: Neorealism, urban space and human dignity.

Afternoon

- Screening excerpts from *La Dolce Vita* (Federico Fellini, 1960)
- Workshop: From observation to visual concept.
- Students develop a short shooting project inspired by the films.

Tuesday, 21 July

Cinema – Shooting the City

Professor Sergio Basso

09:00–16:00

Students put theory into practice by producing short visual sequences inspired by the cinematic language explored on Day One ...**followed by a guided exploration of the nearby Garbatella district**, one of Rome's most distinctive neighbourhoods and a celebrated location for Italian cinema and television. Its early twentieth-century architecture, intimate courtyards, and authentic atmosphere have made it an enduring setting for both neorealist films and contemporary productions.

Morning

- Location scouting
- Shooting exercises
- Visual storytelling techniques.

Afternoon

- Viewing of the collected footage
- Group critique
- Editing concepts and narrative analysis.

Wednesday, 22 July

Photography – Shooting Rome

CAMPUS RUFA – Via Libetta 7

Professor Alessandro Carpentieri

09:00–16:00

Following a technical introduction to photography, students begin documenting Rome through their own visual perspective.

- Camera fundamentals
- Exposure and light
- Indoor and outdoor shooting
- Composition and visual rhythm
- Practical photographic exercises.

Thursday, 23 July

Photography – Urban Sequences

Professor Alessandro Carpentieri

09:00–12:00 Outdoor

13:00–16:00 Classroom

Outdoor photographic exploration from Piazza Farnese to Tiber Island.

Students work on:

- Street photography
- Sequential storytelling
- Human presence in urban space
- Editing and image selection

The afternoon is dedicated to reviewing, selecting and sequencing the photographs collected during the day.

Friday, 24 July

Rome: Cinema Beyond the Postcard

Professor Giorgia Facis

Guided Study Visit

09:00–16:00

A full-day guided exploration of Rome's lesser-known cinematic locations.

Morning

- Porta Portese
- Testaccio
- The former industrial district
- The Gasometro
- The banks of the Tiber River

These locations reveal the Rome portrayed by Italian Neorealism and contemporary cinema: working-class neighbourhoods, industrial archaeology and authentic urban landscapes.

Afternoon

- Via Veneto
- Villa Borghese

The visit concludes by contrasting two iconic cinematic imaginaries: the everyday realism of the city's peripheral spaces and the glamorous Rome immortalized by Federico Fellini.

Throughout the day students will photograph, sketch and collect visual references that become part of their personal creative journal.

The program concludes with a collective discussion and portfolio review, connecting cinema, photography and urban storytelling into a coherent visual narrative.

Daily Schedule

The academic program consists of **6 hours** of instruction each day, from 09:00 to 16:00, with a one-hour lunch break from 13:00 to 14:00.

Participants are required to bring a packed lunch each day. Lunch will be taken together during the scheduled break, either on campus or, when appropriate, outdoors during field activities.

After the daily program ends at 16:00, participants can comfortably return to Villa Letizia to rest before heading out again in the cooler evening hours to discover Rome at Villa Benedetta, situated in Via della Moletta, next to Metro Garbatella and 10 minutes walking from the CAMPUS.

Saturday, 25 July is intentionally left free for relaxation, socializing, and independent exploration of the city.

The final overnight stay is on Saturday, 25 July, with departure on Sunday, 26 July.

Programme Fee

The participation fee for **Rome: The Cinematic City** is **€1,250.00** per person.

The fee includes:

- the complete academic programme;
- accommodation in a shared twin room at our partner residence in Rome;
- all scheduled educational activities and guided visits included in the programme.

The fee does not include:

- public transportation;
- meals and beverages (participants are required to bring a packed lunch during teaching days and cover all other meals independently);
- personal expenses.

The programme will be confirmed upon reaching a minimum **of 6 participants and will accommodate a maximum of 12 participants**, ensuring an engaging and highly interactive learning experience.

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