

# Reditus in Urbem

Direct Method Short Latin Program in Rome



*Living Latin in Rome*

*From 23/11/2026 to 12/12/2026*

## Institutum Italicum Classicorum Studiorum

### *The Italian Institute of Classical Studies*

The Italian Institute of Classical Studies (IISC) is an educational institution which aims to promote the flourishing of intellectual endeavour through advanced studies in Humanities. It was founded in 2015 by Prof. Federico Pirrone, university professor of Latin. The IISC offers **courses** in Classical languages and literature.

The IISC is well-known both in Italy and abroad, mostly because of its **methodology in teaching** Latin and Ancient Greek. Lessons are held entirely in the target language through the direct and active use of Latin and Ancient Greek.



The IISC believes that studies in Humanities and Literature are powerful instruments for understanding both the individual and society. Classical culture is an essential element in developing critical thinking, a taste for beauty and the search for truth and justice. As a result, the aim of the IISC is to safeguard and promote classical studies amongst new generations and to ground classical studies in the development of freer and more aware citizens.

## **IISC Ratio docendi**

### *IISC Methodology*

The Italian Institute of Classical Studies has developed a new methodology which through the **direct use of the language** allows students to acquire the ability to read and completely understand a text in Latin or Ancient Greek in the original language, in a consistent and reliable way.

With the IISC method, grammatical rules are given in a context which allows understanding of their principles and possible applications. Learning of vocabulary takes place in a linguistic context which guarantees understanding and memorization of words.

The choice to actively employ Latin and Ancient Greek in the classroom is a tool for a deeper and sounder acquisition of the language. The goal is to bring literary texts within the grasp of the students.



The active and direct use of Latin and Ancient Greek as an instrument for language acquisition is not, as many might think, a modern invention. The direct method has indeed been used for teaching Latin and Ancient Greek almost continually from Roman times to the modern age.

Now in the 21st century, our IISC professors are combining the teachings of 20th century scholars with the Masters of the Renaissance, from Comenius to Vives, from Corderio to Erasmus. They continue to passionately **develop the IISC method**, providing Classics scholars with the same pedagogical toolkit as their esteemed predecessors.

## Scholarum curriculum

### *The short program*

#### Course description

Students will study Latin grammar and vocabulary through the **active use of** both written and spoken **Latin**. In this way, they will acquire a learning technique for classical languages that contributes to the expansion of methodological diversity in the learning of Classical languages. They will experience living and studying together at the Italian Institute of Classical Studies, near the city centre of Rome. In this **shared-living context**, the practice of learning Latin via the direct method will be an evocative and visceral experience. Students will work on several key aspects of Latin morphology and syntax, starting from a carefully selected text. As a result, they will learn a considerable portion of classical literary vocabulary.

In addition, a series of lectures—held in English—will be offered on significant **themes in Roman culture**. These topics will be addressed through the study of essential authors in the history of classical Latin literature.

Consequently, the trip to Rome offers an extraordinary opportunity to experience direct and immediate contact with the legacy of this great civilisation. Alongside classroom lessons, **excursions** will be organized with an archaeological, historical and artistic focus. These outings will be conducted in English; however, there will also be opportunities to take part in guided walks conducted in Latin, reading excerpts of literature in the original language directly at the sites being visited.



## Selected Area Studies

Students will learn about:

- **The Latin language**, explored through reading, grammatical studies, and context
- **Latin literature**, from narrative and didactic texts to literary language and style
- **The ancient Roman world**, its values, institutions, and details of everyday life
- **Ancient Roman culture and civilization**, social practices, beliefs, and traditions
- **Introduction to ancient texts in their original language**
- **The direct method for Latin**, emphasizing immersion and active engagement
- **Archaeological sites of ancient Rome**, monuments, urban spaces, and artefacts
- **The ancient Roman landscape**, city planning, roads, and infrastructure

In addition, students will be introduced to:

- **Italian cultural heritage**, from antiquity to the present
- **The historical continuity of Rome**, from ancient city to modern capital
- **Italian ways of life**, past and present
- **Italian traditions and seasonal customs**, including festive and local practices
- **Italy's natural landscapes and cultural attractions**, as shaped by history

## Libri Reading

You need to own your own copy of the textbook for this subject:

- Ørberg, Hans H. *Lingua Latina per se illustrata – Pars I: Familia Romana*, any edition

You will be able to either purchase the textbook online or when you arrive in Rome.

# Ordo studiorum

## *Course outline*

### Week 1

#### CHAPTER 1-5:

##### 1. Latin as a Structured Language

- How the Latin language works
- Relationships between form and meaning
- Linguistic structure and interpretation
- Key differences between Latin and modern languages

##### 2. The Latin Sentence and Its Elements

- Core components of the sentence
- The function of words within a statement
- Flexibility and variation in word order
- Descriptive, conversational, and interrogative statements

##### 3. Nouns, Modifiers, and Modes of Referral

- How Latin refers to people, objects, and qualities
- Expressing relations and belonging
- Quantity and number in Latin expression
- Reference and cohesion within discourse

##### 4. Verbs and Action

- The verb as the nucleus of the sentence
- Expressing actions, states, and commands
- The relationship between subject, verb, and context
- Introduction to the system of verbs

##### 5. Space, Time, and Relations

- Expressing position and movement
- Spatial and logical relationships
- Connecting events and causes
- The role of particles and connective elements

## 6. Discourse Structures

- Linking sentences and ideas
- Reference and continuity in texts
- Introductory complex sentence structures
- Stylistic effects of linguistic choices

## 7. Guided Reading and Linguistic Awareness

- Guided analysis of short texts and narrative situations
- Observing grammatical structures in context
- Reflecting on how Latin grammar functions

**Literature:** Theatre (Plautus)

## Week 2

### CHAPTER 6-8:

#### 8. Movement, Place, and Spatial Relationships

- Expressing location, movement, and direction
- Describing spatial relations in narrative contexts
- Language choices related to travel and physical space
- Nuances in expressing “where,” “from where,” and “to where”

#### 9. Comparison, Emphasis, and Expression

- Ways of expressing comparison and degree
- Emphatic and expressive language in Latin
- Interrogative and exclamatory forms in context
- Rhetorical strategies within simple statements

#### 10. Reference, Connection, and Cohesion

- Developing reference across sentences
- Different ways of linking clauses and ideas
- Managing plurality and collective reference
- Cohesive devices within short texts

### **11. Voice and Perspective**

- Expressing actions from different perspectives
- Shifts in focus between agent and action
- The relationship between form and viewpoint
- Observing alternative ways of structuring statements

### **12. Pronouns and Demonstrative Reference**

- Strategies for pointing out and identifying elements
- Reference to nearby and distant entities in discourse
- Continuity and contrast through demonstrative forms
- Ellipsis and implicit reference

### **13. Commands, Interaction, and Dialogue**

- Language used for orders, requests, and interaction
- Expressing obligation and immediacy
- Forms of address and engagement
- Dialogue as a linguistic and narrative tool

### **14. Relations Between Actions and Participants**

- Expressing involvement, interest, and relation
- Indicating beneficiaries and affected participants
- Interactions between actions and their context
- Observing recurring relational patterns in Latin

### **15. Quantity, Value, and Evaluation**

- Expressing quantity and degree
- Indicating value and assessment
- Comparative expressions in practical contexts
- Language choices related to exchange and evaluation

### **16. Guided Reading and Structural Awareness**

- Guided reading of short narrative and descriptive texts
- Observing recurring linguistic patterns
- Reflecting on structure through contextual use
- Strengthening readiness for advanced academic study

**Literature:** Epic (Virgil) and Rhetoric (Cicero)

### Week 3

#### CHAPTER 9-12:

##### 17. Movement, Space, and Physical Contexts

- Expressing movement within defined spaces
- Spatial orientation and relative position
- Language used to describe physical environments
- Observing patterns in spatial description

##### 18. Forms, Variation, and Linguistic Structure

- Variation in word forms and internal structure
- Observing regularity and change within the language
- Relationships between form, sound, and meaning
- Developing awareness of morphological patterns

##### 19. Time, Sequence, and Circumstance

- Expressing simultaneity and temporal framing
- Situating actions within broader contexts
- Relations between time, cause, and circumstance
- Narrative progression and temporal perspective

##### 20. Emphasis, Comparison, and Evaluation

- Strategies for emphasis and intensification
- Comparing entities, actions, and qualities
- Evaluative language in descriptive contexts
- Subtle shifts in meaning through comparison

##### 21. Actions, Possibility, and Necessity

- Expressing ability, possibility, and obligation
- Describing intention and volition
- Language choices related to necessity and constraint
- Observing modal meanings in context

## **22. Reported Thought and Indirect Expression**

- Ways of reporting speech, thought, and perception
- Shifts between direct and indirect expression
- Managing perspective and reference
- Structural features of indirect discourse

## **23. The Body, Space, and Description**

- Language used to describe the human body
- Spatial relations applied to physical description
- Limits, extension, and areas of reference
- Observing descriptive strategies in narrative

## **24. Authority, Control, and Interaction**

- Language of command and obedience
- Expressing possession and responsibility
- Relations between individuals and groups
- Interaction through directive and responsive language

## **25. Measure, Division, and Organization**

- Expressing distance, quantity, and extent
- Organizing space and groups conceptually
- Language of division and distribution
- Patterns of order and structure in Latin expression

## **26. Guided Reading and Analytical Awareness**

- Guided reading of narrative and descriptive texts
- Identifying recurring structural features
- Reflecting on linguistic choices in context
- Consolidating readiness for advanced academic study

**Literature:** Poetry (Ovid) and Philosophy (Seneca)

## Ratio discendi

### *Academic policies*

#### Attendance / Participation requirements

This subject has a minimum requirement of 80% attendance.

Missed assessments must be completed before the Final Exam

#### Assessment overview\*

Assessment for this subject comprises of:

Description	Timing	Percentage
Short tests in class <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 400 words (equivalent)</li> </ul>	During the teaching period	10%
Daily grammar exercises <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1200 words (equivalent)</li> </ul>	From Day 2 to Day 15	30%
Mid Exam (50 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1200 words (equivalent)</li> </ul>	Held in the middle of the teaching period	30%
A final exam (1 hour) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1200 words (equivalent)</li> </ul>	End of the teaching period	30%

**\*Note:** The assessments will be adjusted to reflect whether you are completing this at Level 1, Level 2, or Level 3.

#### Assessment details

For a detailed list of the focus of each test, please refer to the document titled “Reditus in Urbem 2026 Weekly Schedule,” which will be available upon your arrival.

## **Ratio vivendi**

### *Student's expectations*

**Students are expected to comply with the conditions outlined in the Short Program they have signed. Please refer to the text below.**

I acknowledge that I will be representing the University of Melbourne during the program (overseas). As a University of Melbourne representative, I will conduct myself in a manner that will not breach the laws and respect cultural and societal norms of the host country.

I will conduct myself in accordance with University of Melbourne Student Conduct Policy and the Rules and Regulations of the host institution I attend.

I agree that the University of Melbourne may terminate my participation in the Program if I fail to maintain what the University of Melbourne considers to be an acceptable standard of public and private conduct.

## Magistri magistraeque *Professors*

The Short Program *Reditus in Urbem* has been co-designed by Alessandro Agus, Gaetana Pellegrini and Federico Pirrone.

### Alessandro Agus



Alessandro Agus teaches *Latin language* at the University of the Holy Cross in Rome. Previously, he has been a teacher of *History and Philosophy* in high schools.

He completed the *School of Higher Studies in Latin* at the Italian Institute of Classical Studies. He graduated with Honors in *Philosophy and History of Philosophy* (La Sapienza University).

His main interests are in Roman and Medieval philosophy, and he has conducted research in Latin composition (poetry).

### Gaetana Pellegrini



Gaetana Pellegrini teaches Latin and Ancient Greek at the University of Melbourne. With extensive experience in classical language instruction, she is focused on developing innovative pedagogical materials for teaching Classical Languages. She has accepted multiple invitations to present on the teaching of Latin and Ancient Greek both in Australia and abroad.

After completing her university studies with Honors in Italy she has continued her research in Australia, where she has explored the intersections between antiquity, myth, theatre, psychology, and music. A strong advocate for classical studies and cultural exchange, she is deeply committed to examining the ongoing impact of classical culture on contemporary society.

## Federico Pirrone



Founder of the Italian Institute for Classical Studies, Federico Pirrone is professor of *Teaching of Classical Languages and Latin Composition* and of *Medieval and Renaissance Literature* at the *Pontificium Institutum Altioris Latinitatis* of the Pontifical Salesian University in Rome. He also teaches *Latin Language and Literature* at the Holy Cross University in Rome.

He earned his PhD with Honors in the Teaching of Latin with the thesis “*Historical and Theoretical Principles in the application of the inductive-contextual methodology to the teaching of Latin Language*” (Universidad de Navarra). He graduated with Honors in *Philology, Literature and History of the Ancient World* (La Sapienza University).

For IISC Editions, he has published *Grammatica Latina: guida allo studio di Familia Romana*, the first grammar specifically written for studying Latin using the inductive-contextual methodology. He is the author of many essays and papers on the history of the teaching of Classical languages.

His main interests are in the history of the teaching of Latin and Anglo-Saxon Medieval historiography.

## Convictus *Students' life*

### Campus life

One of the most fascinating aspects of this opportunity in Rome is combining academic activities with everyday life at the college. The school building stands amongst spacious gardens and lawns in a tranquil residential neighbourhood in Rome. Within the same building, students will have access to both the canteen and the classrooms.



Community life fosters exchange and dialogue during study, allowing students to communicate new ideas and perspectives. Moreover, sharing academic life on the same campus encourages friendship and mutual respect. We are confident that community living will make for a wonderful experience.

## Accommodation

Accommodation is provided at the Guesthouse *Mater Mundi*, in Via Lorenzo Rocci 64, Rome.

Students can access:

1. single or twin bedroom with private bathroom;
2. study rooms;
3. all-inclusive daily meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner);
4. laundry service (not included in the fees).



The Guesthouse also has an outside garden and is served by public transport. In the area there are also many bars, restaurants and other services.

Those who wish to be accommodated in a single bedroom (rather than in a double room) may send a request and pay an additional charge of € 18 per day (€ 380 for the whole month).



Students can arrive on Sunday morning November 22 and bedrooms will be available from 4.00 pm.

The short program ends on Saturday December 12 with a farewell dinner!

Check-out is scheduled for Sunday December 13.

Please note that if you wish to arrive earlier and/or leave later, you need to contact the Guesthouse *Mater Mundi* at [info@casamatermundi.it](mailto:info@casamatermundi.it)

## Transportation

Upon request, a public transport pass for city services valid for the entire period and with unlimited travel will be offered at a cost of € 50. Please contact the Institute at [eventi@iisc-edu.com](mailto:eventi@iisc-edu.com) one week before your arrival.

## **Impensa**

### *Course fees*

#### **Total amount**

€ 3.950

#### **Deposit**

Applications open on 1st July 2026.

A refundable deposit of € 250 must be paid in order to submit the application.

#### **Final payment (and Refund Policy)**

The final balance must be paid by 15 November.

- Students who complete payment by 30 September may request a 100% refund by 31 October.
- Students who complete payment between 1 October and 15 October may request a 75% refund by 31 October.
- Students who complete payment between 16 October and 31 October may request a 50% refund by 31 October.

#### **Single room**

Extra for single room = 21 (nights) x € 18 = € 380 for the whole month

#### **Scholarships**

Scholarships are offered by the Italian Institute of Classical Studies.

## Res agendaae *Timetable*

**Breakfast:** From 8:00 to 9:00

**Lunch:** 13:00

**Dinner:** 19:30

**Note:** The short program runs from 9:00 am to 13:00 and from 15:00 to 19:30 (Monday to Friday). Where no specific activity is indicated in the timetable below, students are expected to devote the time to individual and/or group study.

### First week

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	<i>Induction</i>	Latin literature (10:00 – 11:00)	Latin language (9:00 – 13:00)	Latin literature (10:00 – 12:00)	<i>Individual study</i>	Field Trip 1 (10:30 – 13:00)	Optional field trip <i>A</i>
Afternoon	Latin language (15:00 – 17:00)	Latin language (15:00 – 17:00)	<i>Individual study</i>	Latin language (15:00 – 17:00)	Latin language (15:00 – 17:00)	<i>Free time</i>	

### Second week

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	Latin literature (11:30 – 12:30)	Latin literature (10:00 – 11:00)	Latin language (9:00 – 13:00)	Latin literature (10:00 – 11:00) Assessment Test (11:30 – 13:00)	<i>Individual study</i>	Field Trip 2 (10:30 – 13:00)	Optional field trip <i>B</i>
Afternoon	Latin language (15:00 – 17:00)	Latin language (15:00 – 17:00)	<i>Individual study</i>	Latin language (15:00 – 17:00)	Latin language (15:00 – 17:00)	<i>Free time</i>	

### Third week

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	Latin literature (11:30 – 12:30)	Field Trip 3 (10:30 – 13:00)	Latin language (9:00 – 13:00)	Latin literature (10:00 – 11:00) Latin language (11:00 – 12:00)	<i>Free time</i>	Field Trip 4 (10:30 – 13:00)	<i>Departure</i>
Afternoon	Latin language (15:00 – 18:00)	<i>Free time</i>	<i>Individual study</i>	Final exam (15:00 – 17:00)	Optional field trip <i>C</i> (14:00 – 16:00)	<i>Farewell dinner</i>	

**Field trips\*:**

1. Roman Forum
2. Vatican Museum and Sistine Chapel
3. Ara Pacis and Pantheon
4. Piazza Venezia, Fontana di Trevi, Piazza di Spagna, Pincio

**Optional field trips (*not included in the fee*)\*:**

- A. Pompei
- B. Terminillo mountain (in case of lack of snow, an alternative trip will be organized)
- C. Colosseum (conducted in Latin, with reading of classical texts on site)

\* The field trip program is carefully planned to provide a rich and engaging experience. However, minor adjustments may occasionally be necessary due to weather conditions or site access requirements. Should any changes arise, the overall number of excursions will remain unchanged, and an alternative activity of comparable educational value and interest will be provided.

## **Ad alia interroganda**

*For more information*

### **UniMelb contacts**

<https://forms.your.unimelb.edu.au/4747069?SID=a3xOY00000004jZ>

Program Coordinator: Gaetana Pellegrini

[gaetana.pellegrini@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:gaetana.pellegrini@unimelb.edu.au)

### **IISC contacts**

Website:

[www.iisc-edu.com/en/course/reditus/](http://www.iisc-edu.com/en/course/reditus/)

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