



# HONORS STUDY ABROAD ITALY

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## 2026 – PROGRAM VIII

JUNE 22-JULY 14, 2026



# TOPICS TO BE COVERED

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- Program description
- GovState Course Info
- Itinerary
- Health & Safety
- Scholarships
- Application Process
- Deadlines
- Q & A





# HONORS SEMINAR IN ROME

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- The Honors Seminar Abroad Program in Rome supports the Honors College mission by providing students with a high-impact, unique, experimental and immersive learning opportunity for our students.
- Housing the experience amongst the diversity, history and culture of Rome, Italy provides opportunity for faculty to create a multitude of intellectually stimulating seminar courses that will help create a one-in-a-lifetime learning experience for our students that will better prepare them to function in a global community.

# HONS 4600

## TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP

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- 3 Credits
- Lecture /discussion and study abroad/travel
- The course includes critical analysis, participation in discussions, written assignments, independent research projects and Power Point presentation of Italian Leader Project.
- Also Offered – PADM 8000 – Advanced Topics in Public Administration

# MODULES AND LECTURES

Weeks	Topic	Description
	Pre-Departure Orientation (GSU)	Orientation before study abroad
Class 1 (GSU) Near Departure Date	Introduction, Overview of the course, (GSU)	Introduction Keys to your success in the course
Week 1 (Rome) Class 2-5	History of Italy Leadership	Field trip in Rome Rome tour
Week 2 (Vatican City) Class 6-9	Leadership in Italy Leadership in Vatican City	Leadership in Florence Italian Leader Project Presentations Vatican tour
Week 3 (Como) Classes 10-15	Community, Local Government Issues, Destination Management	Classes at the University of Insubria Como/Lake Como Tour
End of Summer Term (GSU), online	Research paper, Topical presentation	Research paper, Topical presentation Online consultation about research paper with instructor

# ASSIGNMENTS AND RESEARCH PROJECTS

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- **4 Discussions**
- **Community and Local Government Issues Research Project**

Project with SWOT and Needs analysis on how to improve aspects of life in the Lake District around Como.

- **Italian Leader Project**

Explore the history of Italy. Italy had famous leaders like Roman statesman, lawyer, and scholar Cicero, Lorenzo de' Medici, Pompey, etc. You should choose one Italian leader and prepare PowerPoint presentation.

- **Topical Presentation**
- When you travel in Italy, take photos of monuments, buildings, and locations connected with the past of the country. Prepare a slide show and shortly comment on the pictures and their historical background (not less than 15 slides).





# THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF ROME



The AUR campus is housed within an ancient Barnabite monastery atop the Janiculum, Rome's highest hill



# THE UNIVERSITY OF INSUBRIA COMO



The school is built with a restored  
monastery connected to the Roman-style,  
11<sup>th</sup>-century Basilica di Sant'Abbondio.



# AUR CLASSROOM

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# ITALIAN APARTMENTS

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- Students will be housed in Italian apartments near the university
- Apartments will be all male or female, complete with full kitchens and bathrooms



# WELCOME DINNER IN TRASTEVERE

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# ROME

**Rome (the “Eternal City”)** is known for its stunning architecture, with the Coliseum, Pantheon, and Trevi Fountain as the main attractions. It was the center of the Roman Empire that ruled the European Continent for several ages.

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# VATICAN CITY

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Vatican City, a city-state surrounded by Rome, Italy, is the headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church. It's home to the Pope and a trove of iconic art and architecture. Its Vatican Museums house ancient Roman sculptures such as the famed "Laocoön and His Sons" as well as Renaissance frescoes in the Raphael Rooms and the Sistine Chapel, famous for Michelangelo's ceiling.



# COMO

The jewel of the Lombardy region, nestled in the Alps, Como's noble families of the 12<sup>th</sup> Century gave rise to beautiful museums, palaces, and nature.

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# OTHER MAJOR SITES FLORENCE

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# FREE WEEKENDS

Leadership Theories Lived Out

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# HEALTH & SAFETY

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- Department of State: LEVEL 2 – Exercise Increased Caution to Italy due to terrorism.
- GSU will be closely monitoring the travel advisories and other health and safety risks as we get closer to the travel period.

# INSURANCE

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- **International Health Insurance**

All participants will be enrolled in international health insurance. Ask OIS for more details on the plan.

# PROGRAM FEE

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- \$4,700\*
- Includes:
  - International Flight
  - Housing
  - AUR facilities (garden, classroom, computer lab)
  - Welcome dinner & Farewell Dinner
  - On-site Transportation
  - Field trip to Venice
  - City Tours
  - Health Insurance
- Does not Include
  - GSU Tuition & Fees / Auditing Fee of \$75
  - Meals (~\$40/day)
  - Personal Expenses
- Deadlines
  - Application & \$500 Deposit: No Later than February 13
  - Passport must be in hand or in process by February 13.
  - Scholarships: Available through OIS; Gilman

*\*Please note, due to the uncertainty of the ongoing pandemic, your program may be subject to additional expenses to meet new required government policies and procedures. GSU will make best efforts to communicate new rules and policies as soon as we learn in order to share the impact on your program.*

# PROTECTING YOUR INVESTMENT

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- All payments are refundable until February 17, 2026.
- GSU will make a decision by February 17, 2026 about the Italy program and communicate the current status prior to non-refundable commitments from students.
- Once the program is confirmed to run after February 17, 2026, payments become non-refundable.
- GSU will make the best effort to reimburse students on payments that have not been made at the point of cancellation.

# APPLY FOR YOUR PASSPORT BOOK @ YOUR LOCAL POST OFFICE

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- Passport application
- Passport photos
- Proof of U.S. Citizenship (birth certificate)
- ID
- Fee (\$130) 4-6 weeks (updated Oct. 2025)
- Expedite (\$60 additional) 2-3 weeks
- Must have passport or be in process by Feb. 13



# FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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- Check with financial aid to see if you are eligible for aid during the summer, if you can increase your disbursement or if you would like to take out a loan.
- Gilman Scholarship
  - Fall Deadline – Friday, October 3, 2025 (Not committed to travel, winners awarded Dec. 2025)
  - Spring Deadline – March 12, 2026 (Must be already committed to travel; winners awarded May 2026)
    - Federal Pell Grant Recipients
    - 2,900 scholarships of up to \$5,000 in awards
- Study Abroad Scholarship – Deadline is Determined by OIS
  - Application Form
  - 500-1000 Word Essay + Follow-On Project
  - Resume
  - 2 Letters of Recommendation (Academic or Professional)
  - \$500-1000 (depending on availability)

# FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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- Honors Study Abroad Scholarship
  - Requires Honors College Participation
  - Requires OIS Study Abroad Application
  - Taking HONS 4900 Course for a non-pass-fail grade
  - Up to \$2000 (depending on availability from qualified applicants)

# APPLICATION PROCESS

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- Make appointment with OIS Staff
  - [studyabroad@govst.edu](mailto:studyabroad@govst.edu)
  - Andrew Pitts
    - [apitts2@govst.edu](mailto:apitts2@govst.edu)
    - 708-235-7158
  - Alexis Robinson
    - [arobinson15@govst.edu](mailto:arobinson15@govst.edu)
    - 708-235-2836
- Meet with Financial Aid Advisor
- Fill out application forms & deposit no later than February 13, 2026



# QUESTIONS?

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