



Roman Holiday
Summer Studies
Programme
July 2024

Spend a month in Rome
Develop your Literature and
Language skills
Credits offered in ENG4U,
EWC4U, ETS4U and LVV4U

For more information contact
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www.romanholiday.ca

Roman Holiday Summer Studies Programme – July 2024

Rationale

Since 2002, the *Roman Holiday Summer Studies* programme has offered students the opportunity to study in Rome, Italy during the month of July. Incorporating innovative classroom instruction and exciting daily activities in and around the Eternal City, these summer courses promise to deliver the experience of a lifetime as well as Grade 12 academic level credits that you can depend on.

Founded by Mr. Santino Bellisario, former teacher at James Cardinal McGuigan Catholic High School, as well as former Head of English at Toronto's prestigious De La Salle College "Oaklands" for nearly thirty years and now headmaster at Canadian College Italy in Lanciano, the *Roman Holiday Summer Studies* programme lets students discover the cultural treasures of the Eternal City, enriching their classroom experiences. The significant contribution of Roman and Italian culture to Western civilization, from classical antiquity to the modern age, from Marcus Aurelius to Umberto Eco, serve as the themes that draw together all the great works studied. Our daily tours of Rome, a storehouse of art and history, allow students to form a better understanding of the "great conversations" that define Western culture such as the role of spiritual faith, the challenges of democracy, and the rule of law.

Teachers with many years of experience in their chosen fields teach and supervise in the *Roman Holiday Summer Studies* programme. They guarantee the highest quality of instruction and the integrity of the credits delivered. As such, the *Roman Holiday Summer Studies* programme grants these credits as a independently-run and privately-owned high school representing the very highest academic standards and ensuring consistency of programming with existing English courses accredited by the Ministry of Education in Ontario. This is what sets our programme apart from other summer credit course programmes. Students earn high school credits and experience the trip of a life time.

Credit Granting Institution

This programme is made available to Grade 11 students through *Roman Holiday Summer Studies* with the participation of several independent, private and public schools. Teachers employed by our programme are Ontario College of Teachers certified. The credits are granted by *Roman Holiday Summer Studies* through the Ontario Ministry of Education.

Participants

Students

Students will be selected for admission to this programme according to several criteria:

- Successful completion of prerequisite courses
- Interview with Programme Coordinator
- Respect for other people and cultures

Interested students will be invited to apply (see the applications forms attached to this email) and two letters of reference. One letter should be from a school teacher or administrator and the other letter

should be from outside the school from a non-family member. All participants will also be expected to complete a Parent/Guardian Informed Consent Form for International Excursions. The limitations of responsibilities with respect to this programme are also indicated in a letter from *Roman Holiday Summer Studies*.

Code of Conduct

Students will be expected to pledge commitment to a Code of Conduct designed to ensure that respect for each participant, his/her property, and well-being is safeguarded. This code will preclude harassment and abusive treatment of teachers, adult supervisors, students and other participants in the programme. We will also prohibit the use of alcohol and drugs.

Above all, the rights and responsibilities of all participants will be clearly defined so that the objectives of this programme may be achieved within a healthy, safe and productive environment.

Adult Supervision

Teachers and supervisors in *Roman Holiday Summer Studies* will use a ratio of 1 adult for every 12 students taking part in the programme. Supervision is continuous throughout the programme meaning that all major tours and excursions into the city will be supervised. However, at times students will be allowed to travel in groups of three and four during the day (usually for lunch) and in the evening around our hotel just before curfew. At those times students may not be in the company of teachers or adult supervisors.

Our teachers also see the experience of travel abroad as opportunities for their own personal and professional development as they work closely with students daily. They see the personal and academic success of their students as one of their primary goals in the programme. Instruction for the preliminary lessons in Toronto will be led by these teachers, who will also accompany their students to Rome, Italy.

Interviews

Each applicant and his/her parents will be invited to an interview with the Programme Coordinator to assess his/her suitability for the programme. These will take place usually at the school that these students attend within their respective schools. This will also give the applicant and parents the opportunity to determine if the programme serves their needs and interests. School letters of reference should come from Principals, Guidance heads, or heads of English. Those from outside the school may come from parish priests, employers or other adults in positions of responsibility. Each applicant will be asked to bring letters of reference to this meeting as well as their most recent report card. Interviews will take place in the fall of 2023. All deposits will be refundable if the applicant does not enroll in the programme.

Information Meetings

The programme will require that students and/or their parents attend at least two information meetings during the regular school year. These usually take place in the second week of October and

the first week of April. The meetings will include a review of programme requirements and behavioral expectations. They will also cover a host of topics related to the programme such as safety, travel information and tips, academic assignments.

Travel Arrangements

Health and Safety

Careful attention to sound health and safety practices forms an important part of the preparation for this programme. This will involve healthy eating, exercise and leisure habits, understanding effective illness prevention practices and checking for appropriate immunizations when travelling abroad. It also requires that students adhere to the rules and regulations of the programme. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary actions including contacting parents. Any behaviours that threaten the safety and security of students and/or their peers also can result in expulsion from the programme.

Immunization

The following are ordinarily administered through one's family doctor in the course of traditional Ontario health care coverage. All participants are asked to ensure their protection with inoculations against the following diseases:

- COVID 19 (mandatory three vaccination doses)
- Measles-Mumps-Rubella
- Tetanus-Diphtheria-Polio
- Hepatitis A (not covered by OHIP)

Transportation

Local transportation including a public transit month-long pass and charter buses will be organized and provided by local professionals in Rome, Italy. Students can anticipate exploring much of the city and their local neighbourhood on foot. Also, we will arrange to fly on a recognized national carrier such as Air Canada or Air Transit Airlines for our international air travel.

Accommodation

In Rome, Italy, we will stay at a three-star hotel within the city limits of Rome. Teachers and adult supervisors will always reside near students, usually on the same floor, and always in the same hotel. We will also ensure appropriate separation of male and female students while at the hotel. Failure to respect trip rules and guidelines could result in suspension or expulsion from the programme. All classes and meals will take place in facilities at the hotel, which is also conveniently located within minutes of major tourist sites in the city and public transportation. The hotel also has a swimming pool supervised by a life-guard. Use of the pool requires that students sign a waiver notice or demonstrate swimming ability before departure day.

Finances

Barring any unanticipated fuel tax levied by the airline, **the cost of the trip is \$6,850**. This includes air and land transportation, all breakfasts and dinners at the hotel. In addition, it includes all entry fees to museums, churches, and other historical landmarks. As well, the cost of the trip includes a day trip to Florence, Italy, some of the local towns in and around Rome and an end-of-trip dinner back in Toronto. It also includes most of the expenses associated with the study component such as activity booklets and reading anthologies. The only expenses NOT INCLUDED are the purchase of core texts and novels, personal expenses, spending money, health and flight insurance, passport renewal, visa, and special inoculations.

- a) A **deposit cheque of \$1500.00** made payable to *Roman Holiday Summer Studies* or an electronic money transfer to santino.bellisario@romanholiday.ca must accompany this application.
- b) The **final payment is expected by Monday, April 1, 2024**.

Refund Policy

For withdrawal before January 31, 2024 a full refund minus \$150 for administrative costs will be required. Additional cancellation charges will apply based on the date we receive notice of cancellation.

- 45 days and prior: \$1000.00
- 45 to 21 days before departure: 50% of total price
- Less than 21 days before departure: no refund

Website

More information about the programme is also available on the *Roman Holiday* web site. Once students receive approval for enrollment in the programme they can complete a series of supplemental travel forms which they can download from the web site. These should be printed, completed and submitted to their teachers once students receive initial approval into the programme. Students can also download additional course materials such as audio files and videos as well as travel information in professional document format (pdf) from the web site. These also include text versions of course novels and other texts, supplemental readings, assessment and evaluation forms.

Enrollment

Registration in the programme begins by submitting printed or electronic copies of the application forms that accompany this document. Print, complete and submit these forms along with a cheque or electronic money transfer for the initial deposit of \$1500 addressed to “Roman Holiday Summer Studies.”

Contact Information

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