

Theological Study Year Rome



Centro Melantone
Protestant Centre for ecumenical studies in Rome

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A unique opportunity for Protestant students of Theology



As a scholarship holder at the Centro Melantone, you will spend approximately ten months (two semesters, from September until June) in Rome. During that time, you will be

afforded the unique opportunity to study Protestant theology at the Waldensian Faculty of Theology (Facoltà Valdese di Teologia), as well as Roman Catholic theology at the various Pontifical Universities. Rome is the ideal location for pursuing studies in fields such as Church History, Christian Archaeology, and Ecumenical Studies.

As a Protestant student at the Pontifical Universities in Rome, you will have the opportunity to engage in ecumenical dialogue. As a member of a Protestant student group from different countries and various denominations, you will be living and studying in the heart of the Roman Catholic world and have a truly unique ecumenical experience.

Thus, for all those who are advanced students of Protestant theology and are interested in Rome and its (church) history and who wish to encounter Christians from different denominations and backgrounds, Rome might be exactly the right place.³⁹

PROGRAMM

Study in Rome – a unique opportunity.

- to study at the Protestant Waldensian Faculty of Theology and at various Pontifical Universities in the heart of Rome.
- to gain experience in the field of ecumenism and to reflect upon them in an international group of Protestant theology students.
- to discover a city in which (church) history is actually present and touchable. Your studies in Rome will be accompanied by a programme organized by the Centro Melantone which will enable you to reflect and deepen your experiences:
- There will be two ecumenical study trips, one at the beginning and one towards the end of the academic year.
- Two weekend seminars in Rome will focus on specific subjects related to Rome and/or Ecumenism.
- Monthly encounters will take place with Roman Catholic seminarians to discuss ecumenical questions.
- In the Evangelical Lutheran congregation of Rome, scholarship holders can get involved in congregational life and thus gain valuable experience regarding Lutheran reality in Italy.
- The Centro Melantone will organize encounters with interesting communities as well as individual persons from the Roman Catholic world.
- The Theological Study Year in Rome will begin with an Italian language course in September, since courses at the Catholic universities are taught in Italian (even if some universities offer single courses in English, German, Spanish or French, too). In any case, living and studying in Rome make the knowledge of Italian necessary, a profitable stay in Rome will clearly depend on your ability to communicate.

Other activities of the Centro Melantone include the organization of research stays and course offers for (PhD) students, pastors and teachers, as well as academic conferences.

Structural and financial support.

In addition to these opportunities, the Centro Melantone will provide you with structural and financial support:

- Central to the scholarship is a full inscription at the Waldensian Faculty of Theology of which the tuition fee is paid by the Centro Melantone.
- A financial subvention will assist with the enrolment fees for the optional courses at the various Pontifical Universities.
- The ecumenical study trips are financed in large part by the Centro Melantone.
- The internal seminars will be financed by the Centro Melantone.
- A subvention is provided for the rental of accommodation in Rome. The Lutheran Church maintains a student house (at Via Aurelia Antica 391) where most scholarship holders reside for the duration of their stay. For some

students, there is also the possibility of living in the Waldensian convict (Convitto valdese) in the company of Waldensian students.

- A subvention will be provided for the Italian language course in September, limiting the cost to €450 per student.

APPLICATION

Two application deadlines (for the following academic year starting in September):

- **September 15th (previous year)** (without language certificate)
- **January 15th** (by that date a language certificate in Italian has to be sent)

In order to apply, you have to be an advanced student of Protestant theology with a special interest in ecumenism.

You will need to send:

- A cover letter stating the motivation of your application
- Your CV
- A list of courses (incl. grades) previously taken at your home university
- A letter of recommendation written by a university professor
- A declaration of your church affiliation
- A copy of at least one (graded) Italian language certificate: With your application you have to demonstrate language skills that correspond at least to level A1 according to the European Framework of Reference for Languages. In order to be able to participate actively in seminar discussions, A2 or a more advanced level is expected by the start of the academic year.

After the application deadline you will receive an invitation to an individual interview with representatives of the Centro Melantone via online conference.

Please send your application via e-mail to:

- segreteria@melantone.org
- direttore@melantone.org

Within one week, you will receive a notice of arrival via email. If not, please contact the administration office (segreteria@melantone.org) immediately.

Please note: The Centro Melantone cannot provide full grants for tuition fees, for accommodation in Rome, and for airplane flights to the city. Once the rental of your accommodation has been paid for, living in Rome does not have to be expensive. Even so, it would be helpful if you could procure additional funding from your church or from other organizations – as indeed our students have managed to secure in the past. Please contact us for further information.

The Centro Melantone offers a special scholarship for **students from Eastern Europe** which will be divided among those who do not have any additional funding.