



ACU Rome Campus



A mission-led global hub

The Rome Campus is evolving from a primarily study-abroad location into a mission-led, multidisciplinary hub. It brings together:

- global education
- selective, values-led research
- partnerships and dialogue
- a focus on human dignity and flourishing

Rome is not about scale or volume. It is about impact, credibility and purpose.



How the plan works

The Rome plan is phased and deliberate.

Phase	Focus	Key message
Horizon 1 (2026)	Foundations and stability	Get the fundamentals right
Horizon 2 (2027-28)	Pilots and partnerships	Build credibility through evidence
Horizon 3 (2028-29)	Scale and sustainability	Growth follows proof

Each phase only proceeds once leadership alignment, readiness and risk checks are confirmed. This ensures expectations are managed and growth does not outpace delivery.



Why Rome matters

Rome gives ACU a distinctive global platform aligned to our Catholic mission. It enables ACU to:

- deliver high-quality global learning experiences
- support mission-aligned research and HDR mobility
- strengthen international reputation and partnerships
- grow in a disciplined, sustainable way

This is a long-term institutional investment, not a short-term expansion.



What guides decisions

The Rome Campus will:

- grow in stages
- prioritise quality over speed
- avoid signalling activity that is not ready
- protect ACU's reputation and delivery confidence

Not everything happens at once – and that is intentional.

What we are focusing on **Horizon 1**

In 2026, the focus is on foundations and credibility. We are:

- strengthening governance, accountability and operating arrangements
- stabilising the academic calendar and student experience
- establishing the Virtual Centre for Human Flourishing (foundational stage)
- piloting selected research and HDR mobility activity
- improving campus facilities and systems where they affect student experience
- laying foundations for philanthropy and external funding

What we are **not doing (yet)**

In Horizon 1, we are not:

- expanding at scale or launching major new programs
- issuing broad calls for participation
- making commitments beyond Horizon 1 without confirmed readiness

What this means for **staff**

Faculties: engage selectively in approved pilots – no expectation of immediate expansion.

Professional staff: support sequencing, readiness and delivery.

Rome staff: focus on operational excellence and student support.

What success looks like **in 2026**

BY THE END OF 2026:

staff understand the phased approach



faculties feel confident and supported



no unintended expectations have been created



Rome is positioned as credible, stable and mission-led

