

NWIB Summer School 2023

Interdisciplinary research in Rome, Florence & Athens

Are you a second or third year bachelor student that wants to look beyond the borders of your own field, work with students from other Dutch universities, and develop your academic skills? Fancy doing all this in beautiful Rome, Florence or Athens?

NWIB Summer School 2023: interdisciplinary and with students from different universities

The NWIB, or Dutch Scientific Institutes Abroad in English, are scientific posts of Dutch universities particularly situated around the Mediterranean. The institutes aim to support and realise scientific education and research, and make a substantial contribution to raising the profile of Dutch higher education abroad. In collaboration with Utrecht University the institutes in Rome, Florence and Athens developed an interdisciplinary Summer School for bachelor students, connecting their expertise in (art) history, archaeology and cultural heritage to a wide range of contemporary societal issues. Think of the inherent tension between religious practice and the economic need for tourism, or the complexities surrounding the preservation and ownership of cultural heritage (e.g. the Parthenon Marbles). But we also explore innovative academic themes such as the relationship between art history and medical practice: Can looking at art make you a better doctor or veterinarian? The institutes in Rome, Florence and Athens each have their own profile and expertise, however within this framework there is ample freedom to develop your own ideas. Together with students from different disciplines and universities you create your own interdisciplinary research project embedded in your city of choice. The point of departure might be (art) history or heritage, however we explicitly invite students from across the academic spectrum to combine intellectual forces. That means not just students of the Humanities but also the Social, Technological, Exact and Natural sciences.

So how does it work?

The program kicks off on the **3rd of July** with an introduction week in **Utrecht**. During this week you learn about doing interdisciplinary research and working in interdisciplinary groups, and more specifically, you will team up with your fellow group members and supervisor from Rome, Florence or Athens to start preparing your research question and ensure you come prepared once arrived at your place of destination. The week will consist of **lectures, workshops, group work, excursions, and site visits**. There are plenary sessions for all students, but since every institution has its own expertise and research framework, to which you will apply beforehand, there will also be elements in the program tailor-made to the city you applied for. The 'field work', i.e. the research and writing you do on location will take place between the **17th and 28th of July**. There might be a program on location as well, depending on the institution and type of research. However, in general, it is expected of you and your group to operate autonomously. Having said that, your assigned supervisor is there to steer you in the right direction, challenge you if needed, introduce you to local stakeholders, and suggest relevant literature (which might also be assigned *before* the introduction week commences, to give you a head start). Please keep in mind, the choice you make should not just be based on the preference for a city or country (it is *not* a holiday), but should be motivated by your research interests and ambitions.



Can you tell us more about the institutions and the type of research we can do?

[Koninklijk Nederlands Instituut Rome \(KNIR\) or Royal Netherlands Institute in Rome](#)



The Royal Netherlands Institute in Rome (KNIR) is one of the five Dutch Academic Institutes abroad (NWIB). Since its foundation in 1904, we have been an important place for Dutch and international researchers and students to work and meet.

We see it as our task to inspire and support students and researchers in their studies of Rome, Italy and the influence and significance of Italy and Italian culture in the past and present, in Italy and beyond, through on-site research and training in Rome. We organise courses for students of all levels and programmes and make grants and accommodation in Rome available to students and researchers working on topics revolving around Rome and its vast academic resources.¹

The scientific scope at KNIR is wide and diverse, however for the NWIB Summer School we focus on a selection of themes that are particularly relevant for the city of Rome. In the past students have done research on **the tension between the religious and cultural 'functions' of churches in Rome**, but they have also examined questions on **(preserving) fascist architecture** and the more general problem of how to deal with (tangible) memories of this troubled past and its impact on the collective identity of the city and its inhabitants. However there are also other avenues to be explored. There is a growing tension between an **economic need for tourism** in the city, on the one hand, and the **pressures it puts on the city and its ecological system, culture and wellbeing** in general, on the other. Not to mention the impact the air traffic has on the climate. Finally, the **debate on and return of the Parthenon Marbles** (also by the Vatican) is a case study that potentially connects the 'Rome project' with the 'Athens project'.

¹ <https://www.knir.it/en/about-the-knir/>. Retrieved: 4-1-2023

These are possible and very relevant directions you and your research group can take, however other innovative ideas based on your interest, expertise and academic background are welcome!

For students who are interested in:

- Heritage & Religion
- Sustainability & Tourism
- Contested Heritage

Supervisor: drs. Raphael Hunsucker

[Het Nederlands Interuniversitair Kunsthistorisch Instituut in Florence \(NIKI\) or the Dutch University Institute for Art History](#)



The Dutch University Institute for Art History (NIKI) promotes and facilitates research and education for students, researchers and lecturers of the participating Dutch universities and other universities. In cooperation with international university and museum partners, the NIKI develops interdisciplinary activities. We have built up internationally recognised and unique expertise in three areas of interest in the early modern period: Italian art, the artistic relations between the Netherlands and Italy and the history of drawing and printmaking. The NIKI is the only knowledge hub in the world that systematically maps out the artistic relations between the Netherlands and Italy.

The NIKI is by no means reserved for art historians only, it is the ideal place for education, research and symposiums for students, lecturers and researchers from related disciplines and branches of science.²

² <https://www.niki-florence.org/the-niki/?lang=en> (Retrieved 4-1-2023)



This year's Summer School is devoted to "**Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519) and the birth of modern anatomical illustration**". The course is a combination of lectures and discussions of the readings in class. Students are required to write a research paper and to give a presentation about their research. The library of the NIKI offers students the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of **the relationship between art and science during the Renaissance**.

For students who are interested in:

- Art History
- Medical History
- Medical Humanities

Supervisor: Prof. dr. Michael Kwakkelstein

[Nederlands Instituut Athene \(NIA\) or The Netherlands Institute Athens](#)



The Netherlands Institute at Athens (NIA) is one of the nineteen foreign academic institutes operating in Athens. Under the aegis of the Institute, scholars and students from the Netherlands conduct archaeological research in Greece. Apart from research activities, events are organized on migration, visual anthropology, museology, urban studies, etc. The NIA functions as an interuniversity, academic institute, that coordinates, stimulates and facilitates educational and research programs in cooperation with universities and research centres in the Netherlands and Greece. It also has a broad and high quality academic network in both countries.³

Research at this institute, as with the other NWIB's, is increasingly multi- and interdisciplinary, due to the scientific evolution of the field of archaeology, but also because of the fascinating research possibilities Athens and its surroundings have to offer. One of the focal points for the Summer School at NIA in 2023 is '**Cultural Management, Heritage Tourism and Cities**'⁴. Participants will get the opportunity to explore the specificities of heritage management, heritage tourism and heritage-led urban development in Athens.

³ <https://nia.gr/en/>. Retrieved: 4-1-2023

⁴ <https://nia.gr/en/cultural-management-heritage-tourism-and-cities/>. Retrieved 4-1-2023

They will also be introduced to contemporary challenges of the city of Athens. Special attention will be given to sustainable tourism planning and the effects of tourism and leisure activities on heritage and the historic city centre. Understanding this interrelationship is crucial for heritage policy, tourism development and sustainable development. NIA also has the expertise in **Ancient Technologies, Materials and Crafts**. This strand of research will be explored (1) through their significance in the past and today, (2) as heritage assets but also as inspiration, as an element of any cultural landscape, may that be a city, village or museum, and (3) through its connections with professionals that work in these fields today.

For students who are interested in:

- Ancient Technology and Crafts
- Heritage and Social Cohesion
- Contested Heritage
- Urban Heritage-led Development
- Heritage and Activism
- Touristification, heritage and the role of city marketing ⁵

Supervisor: dr. Nicholas Karachalis

When will the Summer School take place?

Introduction week in Utrecht
3-7 July (09:00- 17:00)

Athens
17-28 July
(max. 8 students)

Florence
17-28 July
(max. 8 students)

Rome
17-28 July
(max. 6 students)

Paper deadline
4 August

Who is eligible to apply?

- 2nd and 3rd year bachelor students at one of the following universities: Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, Radboud Universiteit, Vrije Universiteit van Amsterdam, Universiteit van Amsterdam, Universiteit Leiden, Universiteit Utrecht, University College Utrecht of University College Roosevelt
- You are highly motivated and willing to invest the time necessary to successfully complete the programme
- You like working together with other students (with diverse disciplinary backgrounds)

⁵ Karachalis, N (2021). *Syllabus NWIB 2021-2022*.

- You are present at every segment of the Summer School, from beginning to end.

Admission

The **first selection round** is dealt with by the coordinator at your own university. If approved the coordinator forwards your application to Utrecht University for a **second round of selection**. Utrecht University then invites the most eligible candidates for matching interviews. The **final selection** takes place on the basis of these interviews.

Please apply by sending the following documents in **a single PDF file** to the contact person at your university (see end of this file for their names):

- Motivation letter (max. 350 words)
- Resumé (max. 2 pages)
- An official transcript of your grades
- Indicate at which NWIB institute you want to conduct your research (we cannot guarantee you will be placed at your preferred institute)

Assessment & Credits

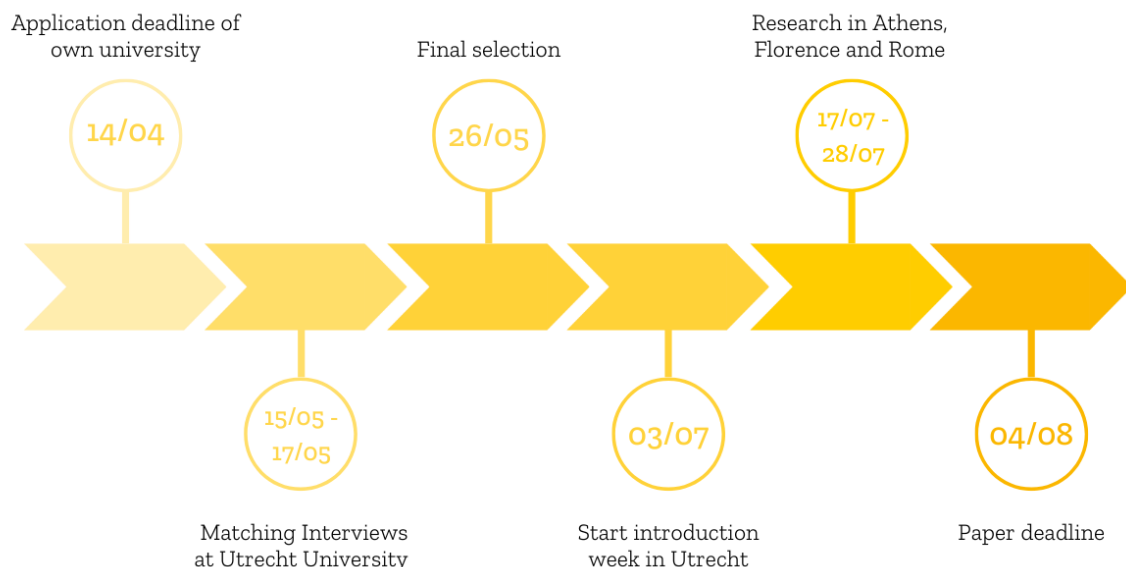
The type of examination is a **group or individual research paper (depending on the institute)** in which you process your findings from the introduction week (**100% attendance is mandatory**) and research on location. At the end of your stay in Rome, Florence or Athens you present your findings at the institution, and process this final round of feedback in a research paper. The combination of full attendance, active participation in all segments, research paper and presentation will be graded with a **Pass/Fail**. The assessment criteria for the research paper will be communicated during the introduction week.

The Summer School requires an investment of about **168 hours (6 ECTS)**.

Please make sure this applies to your university as well, and check if you can use these credits for attaining your bachelor's degree, or whether these are solely recognised as extracurricular (Honours) credits.

Deadlines

The application deadline at your own university is **April 14**. The matching interviews are held in Utrecht on the **15th, 16th and 17th of May**. The final selection will be made **before May 26**.



Costs

The Summer School is financed by the NWIB Institutes and Utrecht University, **participation is free of charge**. The institutes **also provide accommodation** (shared apartments or dorm rooms) during your stay in Rome, Florence or Athens. **All travelling costs and costs of living (food and drinks) are at your own expense.**

Organisation NWIB Summer School

UU Honours College

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Contactpersons per University:

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