



Archaeology Field School
Tuscania

July 2026

Students excavating Etruscan monumental burials in the necropolis (city of the dead) of Sasso Pinzuto.



Archaeology Field School

Istituto Lorenzo de' Medici and CAMNES run a four-week Archaeology Field School in Tuscany, located in the Region of Lazio (Central Italy).

The LdM-CAMNES Archaeology Field School

The LdM-CAMNES Archaeology Field School is an incredible journey in an inspiring environment, where students play an active role in the excavation of Etruscan necropolises, the cities of the dead. Under the direction of a team of professional archaeologists, students acquire archaeological methods, while gaining a firsthand look at archaeological fieldwork and a new understanding of the ancient Etruscan culture.

During this intensive program, participants learn about the ancient Etruscan Civilization and work side by side with Italian university students, taking part in a real excavation, where they dig and uncover 2500-year-old Etruscan artifacts and structures. Through field trips and by examining the abundance of materials found in this region, students learn about the life of the ancient Etruscans from archaeological evidence and literary sources.

Course code: ANC 282-283 T; Cross-listed: ANT 282-283 T/HIS 282-283 T

Credits: 6

Contact hours: 148

The Etruscan Archaeological Sites in Tuscany

The archaeological area of Tuscany is composed by several Etruscan necropolises distributed all around the modern town. It is believed that the different necropolises belonged to the same Etruscan city, located in the archaeological area of Colle di San Pietro (San Pietro hill).

LdM started to investigate two newly discovered "*Cities of the dead*", in 2005, with the support of CAMNES since 2011 belonging to the Hellenistic period (4th-1st cent. BCE). The project then proceeded in 2020 to explore a new necropolis, Sasso Pinzuto, starting from 2021 in partnership with the University of Naples Federico II. The Necropolis of Sasso Pinzuto covers a very large area where hundreds of tombs have been discovered in the past. The archaeological project, hence the Field School, focuses on a series of hypogeum tombs belonging to the 6th century BCE, directly excavated in the tufa rock. The Etruscans buried their dead in these underground chambers and deposited their belongings when celebrating funerary rituals. Many tombs had been violated over the years; however, a few have been left partially intact revealing a good number of ancient artifacts still in position. The first large tomb that was excavated held several ceramic vessels with decorated Greek mythological scenes, which LdM students and CAMNES are currently restoring in the 'Archaeology Workshop' course in Florence.



Tuscania - Further Details

Participants stay in Tuscania, a historical hill-top town in Lazio (only 40 minutes from Rome), renowned for its medieval charm and situated in the heart of ancient Etruria. This area was inhabited by the Etruscans and covered the region that now comprises Tuscany and parts of Lazio and Umbria. The Etruscan civilization flourished during the 7th and 6th centuries BCE and declined in the 3rd century BCE, when the Roman conquest caused it to fade.

During their stay, participants have the opportunity to visit together with their instructors the most important sites of the Etruscan civilization and the nearby area. Weekends are the perfect chance to explore the countryside and discover the castles, towns and the amazing aspects of this region, including the warm Mediterranean seaside about 30 minutes away or the Bolsena Lake just 18 minutes away.

General Information

Arrival: Thursday, July 2, 2026

Departure: Wednesday, July 29, 2026

Location: Sasso Pinzuto, Tuscania (VT), LdM Tuscania, Italy

Summer Application Deadlines

Summer II (July): April 15, 2026*

*Independent students (those not enrolling through a partner institution) can contact info@ldminstitute.com for more information regarding the Summer Programs deadlines.

Outline of Schedule

In the first part of the course, participants take classes that introduce them to the civilization of the ancient Etruscans as well as to basic archaeological theory and practice. Students also visit a number of local Etruscan sites and have field trips to some world famous Etruscan sites, such as Tarquinia, Cerveteri, Tuscania and the Archaeology Museum of Villa Giulia in Rome. During the final three weeks of the course students participate in the excavation of important Etruscan burial sites, it is therefore requested full cooperation and hard fieldwork labour. Participants must bear in mind that working days go from Mondays to Fridays.

Left: Dromos (entrance) of an underground Etruscan tomb

Center: One of the Etruscan bronze mirrors discovered during the excavations

Right: Archaeologist studying pottery from the tombs



Prerequisites and Requirements

- An up-to-date tetanus inoculation.
- International medical/travel insurance.
- It is of paramount importance that every participant communicates to the enrollment offices any allergies, food intolerances or any kind of medical issues upon enrollment.
- No prerequisites and no experience of archaeology or knowledge of Italian are needed. The principal qualifications include a strong academic record, a desire to learn more about archaeology and the Etruscan civilization, and an enthusiasm to dig.
- Participants must bear in mind that the archaeological field school of Tuscania is a full-time workshop within a professional archaeological research project that includes a five day per week involvement including lessons, archaeological field activities and visits. Participants have Saturdays and Sundays off.
- The schedule includes a lot of fieldwork and walking during field trips. While at the archaeological site, fieldwork requires digging, stooping, bending and exposure to sun, wind and/or rain. This field school is not recommended to participants with allergies to sun and/or dust.

Equipment and Materials

Participants are responsible for proper usage and storage of their assigned tools and materials. Each participant is required to personally provide the following equipment, necessary to work on the archaeological dig:

- Simple and comfortable clothing for working in hot weather
- Long trousers
- Safety shoes (i.e., with metal reinforcement)
- Good-quality 100% cotton hat
- Sunscreen
- Bug spray
- Water bottle
- Working gloves
- A notebook to be used for the Activity Journal.

Participants must bear in mind that all above-mentioned equipment and materials are MANDATORY and must be brought from home. If participants are found devoid of any of these items, the director of the project may deny excavation access.

Further details will be given during the first class.

Participants will be provided with necessary work and study materials, covered by the tuition.

How to Apply

Prospective applicants must contact info@ldminstitute.com for further details about the program and how to apply. A maximum of 12 participants are accepted, with preference given to early applicants.

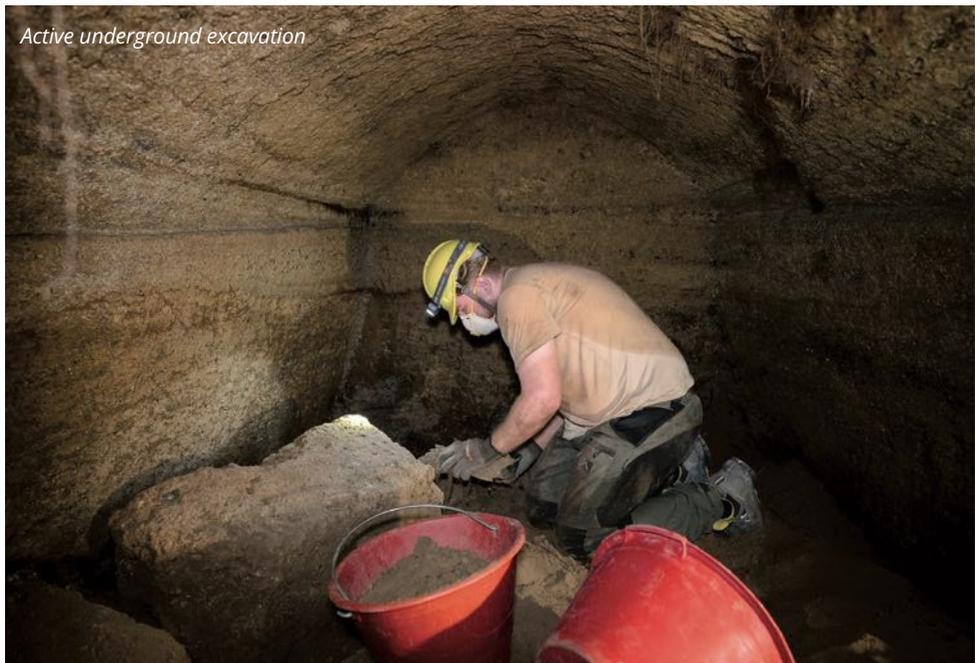
The Tuition Fee includes

- The entire course for a minimum of 148 contact hours and 6 credits (no additional registration fees required).
- Transfer from Rome International Airport 'Leonardo da Vinci' to Tuscania and back.
- Accommodation in a double room in a shared apartment.
- Weekday lunch at the excavation.
- Travel connected with course related activities.
- Scheduled museum entries.
- Social and cultural events organized by the institute.

The Tuition Fee does NOT include

- Meals other than scheduled (i.e. dinner, weekend meals, etc).
- Beverages (to be paid on-site).
- Required personal materials (to be brought from home).

Further details and suggestions about expenses will be given during enrollment and first classes.



Field School Readings

Students are required to purchase the following handbook (e-book edition price EUR 8,73):

- Kline, Eric H. Digging deeper. How archaeology works. Princeton University Press 2020. https://www.amazon.it/Digging-Deeper-Archaeology-Works-English-ebook/dp/B088BBTXNG/ref=tmm_kin_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=1655997128&sr=8-1

Other mandatory readings have been collected in a Course Reader available as a PDF for free. It contains selected chapters from the following sources (short additional readings may be given).

- Pieraccini, Lisa. "Etruscan Wall Painting"; pp. 247-260. In Bell, Sinclair, and Alexandra Carpino (eds.). *A Companion to the Etruscans*. Chichester, West Sussex: Wiley Blackwell, 2016.
- Colonna, Giovanni. "Archeologia dell'età romantica in Etruria: i Campanari di Toscanella e la tomba dei Vipinana." *Studi Etruschi*, vol. 46, 1978; pp. 81-117. This reading is in Italian. The teacher will provide students with an English summary.
- Steingraber, Stephan "Architecture of the Tombs"; pp. 97-111. In De Grummond N. T, and Lisa Pieraccini (eds.). *Caere*. Austin 2016.
- Haynes 1: "Etruscan Tomb Paintings"; pp. 88-91, 221-239, 308-315. In Haynes, Sybille. *Etruscan Civilization: A Cultural History*. J. Paul Getty Museum, 2014.
- Haynes 2: "Tuscania: tombs and sarcophagi"; pp. 346-349. In Haynes, Sybille. *Etruscan Civilization: A Cultural History*. J. Paul Getty Museum, 2014.
- Maggiani, Adriano. "The historical framework"; pp. 537-560. In Naso, Alessandro (ed.). *Etruscology*, Boston 2017.
- Naso, Alessandro. "Death and Burials"; pp. 317-339. In Naso, Alessandro (ed.). *Etruscology*, Boston 2017.
- Zifferero, Andrea. "Southern Etruria"; pp. 1251-1274 (only Veii-Caere-Tarquinius). In Naso, Alessandro (ed.). *Etruscology*, Boston 2017.

Contact Details

Further details of the on-going and other archaeological projects of CAMNES and LdM are available at www.camnes.org and www.ldminstitute.com



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