

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SCHOOL IN OSTIA

The Constantinian Episcopal Church of Ostia: Structure - Development - Context

7 September – 9 October 2026

A cooperation between the [UNIVERSITY OF BONN](#) (Prof. Dr. Sabine Feist), the [UNIVERSITY OF COLOGNE](#) (Prof. Dr. Michael Heinzelmann), the [ROME DEPARTMENT OF THE DAI](#) (Prof. Dr. Norbert Zimmermann), and the [SAPIENZA UNIVERSITY OF ROME](#) (Prof. Dr. Emanuela Borgia)



Join us for the fourth excavation campaign of the Episcopal Church Complex in Ostia, taking place in autumn 2026. This church complex is of exceptional significance, as it represents one of the earliest episcopal churches, built under Constantine in the 4th century and preserves the only archaeologically attested episcopal palace. The site is also remarkable for its earlier history: the church was constructed on top of an older Hadrianic insula, whose razed walls were reused for the church's foundations. It also borders the original Republican city wall of Ostia. The excavation therefore aims not only to investigate the Episcopal Church Complex itself, but also to shed light on the character of the area prior to its construction.

The project is a collaboration between German and Italian institutions (see above), bringing together an international excavation team. It is designed as a teaching excavation, offering hands-on training in archaeological fieldwork, methods and documentation through active participation in the excavation of an archaeologically significant site. Participation can also be credited as an internship.

WHO CAN APPLY?

We welcome applications from BA, MA and PhD students in Classical Archaeology and Late Antique / Christian Archaeology.

Excavation experience is desirable but not required.

WHAT WE OFFER

- Guided tours in Ostia and Rome
- Participation in an international excavation project with institutional partners in Germany and Italy
- Acquiring or developing skills in stratigraphic excavation, surveying and SfM
- Practical training in photographic and drawing documentation
- Building competencies in registering and processing of finds (incl. pottery)
- Food and beverages during work breaks
- 6 ECTS credits for participation

REQUIREMENTS

- Availability to participate in the entire excavation campaign (**7 September – 9 October 2026**)
- Enrollment in an archaeology or history program
- Willingness to work under demanding conditions (hot temperatures, strong sunlight and intensive physical labor)
- Travel, accommodation and meals outside working hours must be covered by the participants themselves

APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply, please submit the following documents (max. 10 MB in total):

- Motivation letter (1 page)
- CV outlining academic background and relevant experience (max. 2 pages)
- Transcript of records / Overview of your current grades

Please send your application by **May 15, 2026** to: application@ostia-basilica.eu



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