

2026–2027 Predoctoral Research Residencies, La Capraia, Naples

Center for the Art and Architectural History of Port Cities "La Capraia," Naples
Application deadline: Jan 31, 2026

Sarah K. Kozlowski

Call for Applications: 2026-2027 Research Residencies, Center for the Art and Architectural History of Port Cities "La Capraia," Naples.

Founded in 2018, the Center for the Art and Architectural History of Port Cities "La Capraia" (Centro per la Storia dell'Arte e dell'Architettura delle Città Portuali "La Capraia") is a collaboration between the Museo e Real Bosco di Capodimonte, the Edith O'Donnell Institute of Art History at the University of Texas at Dallas, Franklin University Switzerland, and the Amici di Capodimonte.

Housed in "La Capraia," a rustic eighteenth-century agricultural building at the heart of the Bosco di Capodimonte, the Center engages the Museo di Capodimonte and the city of Naples as a laboratory for new research in the cultural histories of port cities and the mobilities of artworks, people, technologies, and ideas. Global in scope, research at La Capraia is grounded in direct study of objects, sites, collections, and archives in Naples and southern Italy. Through site-based seminars and conferences, collaborative projects with partner institutions, and research residencies for graduate students, La Capraia fosters research on Naples and southern Italy as a site of cultural encounter, exchange, and transformation, and cultivates a network of scholars working at the intersection of the global and the local.

The Advisory Committee of the Center for the Art and Architectural History of Port Cities "La Capraia" invites applications for 2026-2027 Research Residencies for PhD students carrying out research for their dissertations. Projects, which may be interdisciplinary, may focus on art and architectural history, archaeology, histories of collecting, technical art history, cultural heritage, the digital humanities, music history, or related fields, from antiquity to the present. Projects should address the cultural histories of Naples and southern Italy as a center of exchange, encounter, and transformation, and, importantly, make meaningful use of local research materials including artworks, sites, archives, and libraries. We welcome applications for projects that engage with histories of the collections and grounds of Capodimonte, and/or artworks and monuments held there. Projects in the earlier phases of research are preferred.

This coming academic year, Research Residencies will run from September 8, 2026 through June 7, 2027. Research Residents are granted free lodging at La Capraia (private bedroom/study/bath and communal study/living/kitchen spaces) and a modest stipend of 7,000 EUR, administered by the Amici di Capodimonte, to help defray the cost of living. During their time in Naples, Research Residents are expected to work on their projects full time and in residence, and to participate in

scholarly programs that La Capraia organizes over the course of the year. La Capraia advises Research Residents on access to collections, sites, archives, and libraries as needed for their projects; at Capodimonte, we arrange access to collections and research resources insofar as possible during the museum's current renovation. In the spring semester, Research Residents are expected to present their research in an informal seminar, gallery talk, or site visit. In the summer following the residency period, Research Residents are invited to contribute a short essay to the Center's annual research report.

Residents are responsible for obtaining appropriate visas (the Center provides official letters of support) and for providing proof of health insurance. Residents must arrange their own travel to and from Naples.

We welcome applications from doctoral students of any nationality, preferably in the earlier stages of research for the dissertation. Applicants are invited to submit a letter of interest, a CV, and a research proposal of c. 1,500 words. The research proposal should frame the central questions, methods, and scholarly contributions of project, situate the project within existing scholarship, and provide a plan of work for the academic year, indicating the resources that will be used while on site in and around Naples. Materials should be sent in a single PDF file (with last name as the title of the file) to Center Coordinator, Dott.ssa Francesca Santamaria (francesca.santamaria@utdallas.edu). In addition, applicants must invite three recommenders to send confidential letters of support directly to the same email address. All materials, including letters of recommendation, are due by January 31, 2026. Finalists will be invited to interviews held via Zoom with representatives from the O'Donnell Institute and Capodimonte.

Learn more about the Center for the Art and Architectural History of Port Cities "La Capraia" at:

<https://arthistory.utdallas.edu/port-cities/>

Download an overview of La Capraia at: <https://tinyurl.com/La-Capraia-overview>

Read past editions of our annual research report at:

<https://arthistory.utdallas.edu/port-cities/publications/>

Learn about past Research Residents at: <https://arthistory.utdallas.edu/port-cities/residencies/>

View past and upcoming scholarly programs at:

<https://arthistory.utdallas.edu/port-cities/programs/>

Download a PDF of this Call here: <https://utdallas.box.com/v/LaCapraiaCall2026-2027>

Centro per la Storia dell'Arte e dell'Architettura delle Città Portuali "La Capraia"

a collaboration between

Museo e Real Bosco di Capodimonte

The Edith O'Donnell Institute of Art History

Franklin University Switzerland

and Amici di Capodimonte

Museo e Real Bosco di Capodimonte / La Capraia

Via Miano 2 Napoli 80131

+39 3494706237

lacapraia@gmail.com | <https://arthistory.utdallas.edu/port-cities/>

Reference:

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(accessed May 26, 2026), <<https://arthist.net/archive/50917>>.