



Australian
National
University

Ancient History



Ranked

#1

ANU is ranked #1 in Australia and in the top 20 globally for 8 disciplines across humanities, arts and social sciences.

*QS World University Rankings by Subject 2023

Ancient History at The Australian National University (ANU) is the study of the society, culture, politics, religion, and literature of Ancient Greece and Rome and their reception and legacy in the modern world.

Why study Ancient History at ANU?

What is the best form of government: republic, democracy, or monarchy? Is waging war ever just? What are the rights and duties of a good citizen? How do we cope with grief and loss? What values should we teach our children? How do we model religious tolerance? The Ancient Greeks and Romans struggled with these and other fundamental questions about the human experience

in their histories, plays, poems, speeches, and letters. Ancient History at ANU places students at the heart of these conversations.

Our students join Thucydides and Aristophanes as they explore the devastating war between Athens and Sparta through Pericles' soaring funeral oration and a wickedly hilarious female sex-strike. They uncover the world of Roman children, simultaneously joyful and precarious, through archaeology and inscriptions, and discover the language of love and longing in the poetry of Sappho and Catullus. They explore how Christians such as Augustine and Melania the Younger tried to make sense of their world as the Roman Empire collapsed around them. And they learn how Romans crafted and manipulated political rhetoric to justify colonialism and imperialism, a legacy which still haunts our contemporary world.

Career Opportunities

Graduates of the Bachelor of Arts with a major in Ancient History have the ability to analyse, critique, and research history, culture, and society. Potential graduate pathways including careers in research and teaching (at all levels), archives and information management, materials conversation, languages and translation, journalism, law, government, and cultural heritage.

Classical Studies at ANU

ANU is ranked among the world's top universities, and has a strong international reputation in humanities, arts and social sciences.¹ The Centre for Classical Studies is one of the leading places to study Ancient Greece and Rome in Australasia. The Centre's internationally renowned staff have expertise in topics such as Greek and Roman music, technology, poetry, drama, archaeology, politics and history, extending from the 12th century BC to the early Middle Ages. They also engage in research in the cultural legacy of Greece and Rome in the contemporary world.

You will benefit from a warm and supportive teaching environment, excellent library resources, including the Classics Centre's own collection of texts and dictionaries, and a vibrant student culture. Students receive hands-on training in the material culture of the Greek and Roman worlds in our Classics Museum, which features stunning examples of ancient art and objects of daily life from the Bronze Age to the Byzantine Period.

Study Program

Students may choose to study a major in Ancient History within the Bachelor of Arts. Students may also combine the Bachelor of Arts degree with other degrees on offer at ANU through Flexible Double Degrees.

Ancient History may be studied as a major (8 courses) or a minor (4 courses). Many of our students combine Ancient History with majors in Ancient Greek, Latin, Archaeology or History. No prior knowledge of Greek or Latin is necessary to study these languages.

Ancient History courses on offer include:

- The Myths of Ancient Greece and Rome
- The World of Classical Greece
- Remembering and Forgetting in the Roman Empire
- Rome: After Empire (Europe AD 400-800)
- Introductory, Intermediate, and Advanced courses in Ancient Greek and Latin



Katherine

Majors in Ancient History and Classics

I decided to go to ANU Open Day on a whim. At the time I was unsure of what I wanted to study, but by the end my first four UAC preferences were four different ANU degrees. Part of my reason for going was that I wanted to go to a university outside of Sydney and to move to another city.

I've been interested in history since the age of four – it was obvious that I was destined to study Classics. When I was in year twelve my favourite subject was ancient history as I've always held a deep fascination with ancient civilizations, especially the Greek and Roman Empires.


Classical Studies was a degree that focused solely on what I was interested in. In my degree I have done ancient history, Ancient Greek, Latin, as well as studying a variety of other subjects such as English, gender studies and archaeology. As part of my degree I'll be embarking on a trip to Turkey, which will go towards my Ancient History major. I am very excited about this trip!

Scholarships and Prizes

There are a number of scholarships available to current ANU students to help with the cost of your studies. Donors and benefactors, external organisations and the Australian Government fund many of the scholarships we offer. Visit the ANU scholarships page to find out more: anu.edu.au/students/scholarships

Further information

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