



Australian
National
University

Art History and Curatorial Studies



1st
in Australia

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

Art History and Curatorial Studies bridges the gap between art history as an academic discipline and the practicalities of curating collections and exhibitions.

The degree locates the study of art in a range of historical, social, cultural, and political contexts.

As a student of Art History and Curatorial Studies at The Australian National University (ANU), you will be able to deepen your understanding of art practice through courses drawn from the School of Art & Design and be exposed to the museum environment through tutorials and internships at national cultural institutions.

You can focus on the latest approaches to interpreting the worlds of historical and contemporary art, design, and curatorial studies, and participate in intensive art history courses taught overseas.

ANU offers an outstanding variety of programs that cater to those students interested in studying art history and curatorship. Courses are offered from beginners to honours and postgraduate levels, and various enrolment options provide for different student needs.

Career opportunities

The Bachelor of Art History and Curatorship has a strong career orientation. Many of our graduates have taken up key positions in art galleries, museums and other cultural institutions. Some are in teaching positions relating to their specialisations, while others have entered the commercial world of culture and art.

With a strong emphasis on critical analysis, research, problem solving and communicating with audiences in diverse ways, this degree provides valuable training for future managers in the arts, heritage and collections sectors, and more broadly across the public service and private enterprise.

Students may choose to study Art History and Curatorial Studies within a Bachelor of Arts or within a specialised program such as the Bachelor of Visual Arts or Bachelor of Design.

Students may also combine any of these Bachelor degrees with other degrees on offer at ANU through the Flexible Double or Vertical degrees.

The Art History and Curatorial Studies Major comprises two introductory courses, followed by a broad selection of courses at a second- and third-year level to provide students with an excellent grounding in the discipline.

The Centre for Art History and Art Theory at ANU is a leader in art history and curatorial studies, and for the past thirty years has been forging close connections with national cultural institutions in Canberra.

ANU enjoys close links with the National Gallery of Australia, National Library of Australia, the Australian War Memorial and the National Portrait Gallery. These links ensure that you:

- Have good access to major national collections for the entirety of your degree
- Can combine academic excellence with a strong vocational emphasis
- Remain at the forefront of current research and issues confronting galleries.

Students who study Art History and Curatorial Studies learn to:

- Identify and analyse various cultural concepts in art history, their artforms and art-making techniques
- Differentiate and critique the historical, social, cultural and political contexts of diverse periods, styles, and methods in art history
- Construct comprehensive linkages between the study of art history and the practicalities of curating
- Evaluate practices and techniques associated with public curatorship through lectures and visits to galleries and museums

- Participate in an internship to gain practical experience in the management and interpretation of artefacts and in their display for public exhibitions in galleries and museums.

The ANU School of Art & Design international exchange program provides students with the opportunity to study overseas as part of their degree. The School maintains close connections with art and design partner institutions in Asia, Europe, Great Britain, Canada and the United States of America. A number of travelling awards are available to assist students with the cost of international exchange. See soad.cass.anu.edu.au/students/current/international-exchange

Art History and Curatorial Studies Minor

A minor consists of 24 units (normally 4 courses) from our program, comprising 12 units of first year courses and a further 12 units from the courses we have on offer.

Prizes & scholarships

There are a number of scholarships for both international and domestic students. To find out if you are eligible see anu.edu.au/students/scholarships-fees/scholarships. Awards for academic excellence include the Janet Wilkie Prizes. See anu.edu.au/students/program-administration/prizes


Flexible Double Degree

As part of a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Visual Arts, or Bachelor of Design, an Art History and Curatorial Studies major can be combined with other Art and Social Science degrees as well as with degrees in Law, Business, Science or Engineering and Computer Science as part of the ANU Flexible Double Degree program.


For a full list of degree combinations see anu.edu.au/study/study-options/flexible-double


Further information

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