



Australian
National
University

Criminology



1st
in Australia

ANU is ranked #1 in Australia
(and in the top-25 in the world) for
8 disciplines across humanities,
arts and social sciences.

*QS World University Rankings by Subject 2023

Courses in the Criminology major focus on crime, deviancy, policing and punishment. Completing this major will equip students with an understanding of the key issues relating to the criminological study of criminality, disorder, deviancy and social control. Particular attention is paid to the socio-cultural and political-economic processes influencing which individuals and social groups acquire a deviant label and how such an identity impacts upon the subject. Drawing on theoretical perspectives from sociology and criminology, courses will explore the interconnections between power, organizational and cultural representations of crime, social inequalities, and exposure to criminal justice interventions. They will also consider the emerging social and political implications associated with these relations.

Career opportunities

In the Criminology major, you will learn about the drivers of crime and how society responds to it.

The breadth of knowledge that you learn can be applied to many different industries and institutions. Graduates may find work in government, intelligence, criminal justice institutions, social work, the non-government sector, research, consultancy, journalism and policy making.

Criminology at ANU

The ANU has world-leading criminologists and prides itself on excellence in research-led teaching. The Criminology team draws upon a range of disciplines to offer the very best in contemporary criminological theory and understanding.

It will appeal to students looking for an engaging and stimulating program of study and wishing to immerse themselves in the exciting field of criminology.

Criminology students learn to:

- Describe the social construction of crime, deviance and social control;
- Describe the dimensions of crime and key trends in Australia;
- Acquire, interpret and communicate a range of data, both quantitative and qualitative, in areas of key criminological significance;
- Critically evaluate criminological theories and explanations of crime causation, deviancy and social control;
- Recognise the socio-political contours and impacts of the criminal justice system on different individuals and groups;
- Engage with policy issues and key debates within the field of criminology; and
- Recognise the social and cultural responses to crime, deviance and social control from an informed scholarly perspective.

Internships & study abroad opportunities

You can apply to do an internship through the Australian National Internships Program (ANIP). This program provides you with opportunities to undertake a research project in a workplace for which you will gain academic credit. Through ANIP you can be placed with the Australian Parliament, the Australian Public Service, or with non-government organisations. See anip.anu.edu.au

Criminology students often complete exchange semesters at partner universities overseas.

Prizes and Scholarships

The Toni Makkai Prize for Excellence in Criminology is awarded annually to the best performing graduate of either the Bachelor of Criminology or Criminology major. See anu.edu.au/students/program-administration/prizes



Adelaide

Bachelor of Criminology (Honours) and Doctoral Candidate in Criminology

After jumping between different degrees and universities, it felt like something 'clicked' when I started studying Criminology in the ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences. I was at home among my cohort and researchers who were driven by a desire to create a safer, and more equitable society.

The research-led coursework in the degree challenged me to consider the complexities of criminal behaviour and justice, and how this informs our response to crime. Classes routinely involved debate and discussion, allowing for a rich exchange of ideas, perspectives, and experiences.

However, what stood out was how my degree allowed me to transform theoretical knowledge into practical experiences and the workforce. Supported by the researchers who taught me, I was able to undertake courses focused developing my own niche as a researcher. Consequently, I've worked in government and research, creating meaningful outcomes for the public and influencing policy.

This year, I continue my study in an ANU PhD program. The guidance and enthusiasm of my peers, teachers, and mentors has translated into a life-long passion for criminology and equipped me to take on challenges head-first.

Further information

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