



Australian  
National  
University

# Environmental Studies



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

Bushfires at Fingal, Tasmania, 2020

Graduates of the Environmental Studies major possess a variety of critical perspectives and skillsets to engage in effective ways with the environmental problems confronting contemporary societies.

If you want to understand the complex, and often conflicting, interrelationships between human societies and environments, and develop different strategies for addressing some of society's most pressing environmental issues, include this major in your Bachelor of Arts degree.

You will have the opportunity to gain an understanding of environmental topics from multiple perspectives, as well as being exposed to different cultural, policy and economic approaches for cultivating and managing the environment.

Courses from a diverse range of disciplines — including sociology, history, anthropology, development studies, environmental policy, geography, human ecology, and sustainability science — are available to give you the broad perspective required to identify environmental opportunities and tackle environmental challenges.

## Career opportunities

Graduates of the Environmental Studies major possess a variety of critical perspectives and skillsets to engage in effective ways with the environmental problems confronting contemporary societies. These attributes are highly valued by employers in government, policy, development and aid organisations, multinational companies, social or environmental science research, the natural resource sector, and many other fields.

## Environmental Studies at ANU

The Australian National University (ANU) is ranked among the world's top universities, and has a strong international reputation in humanities, the arts and social sciences. The University also has the highest possible ERA rating in Environmental Science.<sup>1</sup> Students who include the Environmental Studies major in their Bachelor of Arts degree receive a world-class education from some of the leading scholars in this socially and politically important area.

The Environmental Studies major combines cultural, policy and scientific approaches to the study and governance of the environment. It addresses the needs of local, national and international organisations and stakeholders by linking policy makers and the public to the University's world-leading experts in sustainability, climate change and adaptation, and conservation ecology research and education.

Environmental Studies students learn to:

- Critically assess the intricate and dynamic relationship between social activity and the natural environment
- Understand the nature and structure of socio-ecological systems, and comprehensively define current and future Australian (and global) environmental issues
- Critique ongoing developments in environmental thinking and evolving perspectives on society-environment relationships and sustainability.

## Flexible Double Degree

The Bachelor of Arts can be combined with degrees in Law, Business or 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](http://anu.edu.au/study/study-options/flexible-double)

## Further information

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W [cass.anu.edu.au/study](http://cass.anu.edu.au/study)



## Kathryn

### Environmental Studies Major

Throughout high school I really enjoyed science and geography subjects, and I always had an interest in the environment. I found there was a range of study options at ANU that catered to my interests, and the Environmental Studies major suited me perfectly.

The variety of courses offered in this major meant I could complete courses that focused on physical sciences, as well as others that looked at environmental topics from a social science perspective.

By understanding both the physical side of environmental science, as well as the interaction between people and the environment, I have been able to build a knowledge base that can help me effectively manage a range of environmental problems.

The best part of taking the courses was the combination of classroom teaching with field trips and stakeholder engagement; making the courses really interesting and engaging. I had the opportunity to study environmental issues from policy, resource management and research perspectives, across local and international scales. This range of perspectives has allowed me to build a skill set that is relevant to many employment opportunities after university.

In completing the Environmental Studies major at ANU, I spent much of my time studying through the Fenner School. The range of academics you meet, and the many field trips you go on allow you to really get to know your peers as well as academics from a variety of different disciplines. These close connections between people at the Fenner School gave me the opportunity to meet many good friends and contacts, as well as broaden my perspectives all while benefiting from collaborative learning.