



History



History

#1

in Australia

#13 globally

*QS World University Rankings by Subject 2024

Graduates of the Bachelor of Arts with a History major develop an understanding of everything from individual lives to broad cultural transformations and the character of the contemporary world.

Studying History

As a critical engagement with the past, history sharpens judgements, expands perspectives, and feeds curiosity. History finds connections in experience across time and place; it also confronts us with the need to understand the unfamiliar. Most of all, history is concerned with the skills of inquiry and argument and assists us to shape and present a view of the world.

History takes in all aspects of human experience. Courses offered in the School of History explore that experience and encourage you to ask questions which lead to an understanding of past and present societies.

History students learn to:

- Develop critical and analytical skills
- Develop an understanding of multiple periods or cultures of the past.
- Explore the historical significance of ideas, technologies and cultures, national boundaries and the theories and values that underlie historical explanations.

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Career opportunities

Graduates of the History major develop critical and analytical skills and are highly valued by employers in sectors including government, industry, finance, politics and, public relations, journalism, diplomacy, teaching, the services sector and the arts.

History at ANU

The ANU is ranked first in Australia for history and 13th in the world.¹ Areas of interest in the History Major include Australia, the Pacific, the United States, Europe, Asia and the Middle East. Courses in the School of History also cover empire, terrorism, revolution, war, gender, race, technology, politics, culture and the environment.

Some courses focus on themes and philosophies that underlie historical analysis or techniques of historical research. All core courses will train you in historical theory and method.

Flexible Double Degrees

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

Further information

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Daniel

Bachelor of Arts (Hons)/Bachelor of Laws (Hons)
Majors: History and Political Science

Winner of the History category of the 2014 International Undergraduate Awards with his essay ‘Dust and bluster: An historical evaluation of the political discourse on drought in Australia’.

Two key things drove my choice of degrees: a desire to pursue my varied interests, and also the flexibility to take those interests in a variety of directions after I graduate. I began studying towards an Arts degree, dabbling a little in the variety of courses on offer, before finally settling on History and Political Science as my two majors. In my second year, I also picked up law as part of a Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Laws degree. All three areas nicely dovetail and complement each other — both in their content, but also in the skills it gives me to research, analyse and formulate my own views and arguments.

What I could never have foreseen was the sheer enormous variety and number of opportunities to get involved in the life of the university. Whether it’s the many opportunities within a college community, getting involved in volunteering, or helping out on a student society — there is an endless supply of ways to avoid idleness.

My International Undergraduate Awards essay was about political responses to drought through

Australian history and how that changed according to what people thought of the environment. I didn’t expect to win, but I think my essay did well because issues relating to perceptions of the environment are relevant at the moment. I used Trove records from the National Library of Australia for my research, including a tool to map specific words and how many times they were used in the archives, so I used the sources in a unique way.

I went from ANU to studying History at the postgraduate level at the University of Cambridge. Further into the future than that, my crystal ball grows dim. But I would like to work in education or public policy. I don’t feel anxious about not entirely knowing what I’ll end up doing, because I believe that the skills I have obtained, during my time at university, place me in good stead to successfully go wherever my interests take me.