



Human Rights



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

Graduates with a major in Human Rights gain a robust understanding of the political, legal, historical and philosophical origins and contemporary realities of the human rights field.

About human rights

If you are passionate about human rights, advocacy and social development, a Bachelor of Arts with a major in Human Rights at The Australian National University (ANU) offers you a chance to make a real difference. Through both a theoretical and practical approach to learning, you will gain an understanding of key issues relating to the study of human rights as a discipline, such as:

- The political, philosophical and historical development of ideas concerning human rights

- The emergence and role of human rights in international relations
- The interplay between human rights theory, law and practice
- Key contemporary theoretical debates on human rights
- The relationship between human rights and concepts such as social justice and equity
- The application of human rights theory in practice; and
- Contemporary case studies and issues.

Human Rights at ANU

ANU is ranked 10th in the world and first in Australia for political science and international relations.* By studying this interdisciplinary major you will gain a robust understanding of the political, legal, historical and philosophical origins and contemporary realities of the human rights field.



SILENCE IS COMPLICIITY

Upon successful completion you will have the knowledge and skills to:

- Identify, discuss and analyse the key moments, issues and debates in the emergence of the contested concept of human rights
- Identify and appraise the differing applications of human rights in theory, law and practice
- Explain and assess the major contemporary theoretical debates within the human rights discourse; and
- Recognise and assess the intersection between theories of human rights and the application of human rights standards in practice.

Pathways and focus areas

You can either select a pathway that will enable you to gain a focused understanding of a particular area of human rights, or select a range of courses from different pathways to enable you broader expertise in various human rights issues.

Suggested pathways and focus areas include:

- Human Rights and Political Philosophy
- Human Rights in International Relations
- Human Rights, Peace and Conflict
- Indigenous Human Rights
- The Historical Emergence of Human Rights
- Gender and Human Rights
- Human Rights and Development
- Contemporary Issues in Human Rights
- Migration and Refugees
- Cultural Perspective
- Constructions of Human Rights

Flexible Double Degrees

The Bachelor of Arts with a major in Human Rights 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



Maddison

Majors: Human rights

I've always been passionate about human rights. Fighting for progress in areas of equality, anti-discrimination and fairness had driven my academic and co-curricular pursuits throughout high school. I thought that studying International relations would be the best way to pursue this passion in university, but after reading the ANU program guide, saw that it offered a Human Rights major.

As a major, it's different to a lot of other arts majors because you're able to study in various schools. I can do political science courses, gender studies courses, history courses, sociology or Asian studies all focused on human rights. It's a great way to get a broad understanding of the different theories behind the same topic.

Further information

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