



Australian
National
University

International Communication



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

In the contemporary globalised world, where the tempo and intensity of international contacts are continually strengthening, effective international communication has become crucial. This interdisciplinary program is intended to help students understand cross-cultural and cross-linguistic issues involved in international communication while providing a working knowledge of another language.

International communication is inseparable from intercultural communication. Although we are in the era of 'global English', a common language can conceal deep differences in cultural assumptions

and understandings. This program will introduce students to issues involved in interaction between speakers from different language backgrounds and equip them with conceptual tools to explore those issues.

Career Opportunities

The study of International Communication provides insight into the relationship between language, society, and culture, creating a complementary skillset for anyone interested in international relations, politics, business, science, technology, engineering, psychology, and sociology.

International Communication at ANU

The Australian National University (ANU) is ranked among the world's top universities, and has a strong international reputation in humanities, arts and social sciences.¹

International Communication at ANU has a strong language component, which draws on the widest selection of languages of any Australian university, including Ancient Greek, Arabic, Australian Indigenous languages, Burmese, Cantonese, Chinese (Mandarin), French, German, Hindi, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Latin, Literary Chinese, Mongolian, Persian, Portuguese, Russian, Sanskrit, Spanish, Taiwanese, Tetum, Thai, Tok Pisin, Turkish, and Vietnamese.

Study Program

Students may choose to study International Communication within a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Languages. Students may also combine any of these Bachelor degrees with other Arts 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

International Communication may be studied as a major (8 courses) or a minor (4 courses). Half of the units in either program are language courses from the University's unrivalled choice of languages.

Students who study International Communication will learn to:

- understand the nature of the complex and multifaceted relations between communication, culture, language and identity;
- understand the limits of translatability of key concepts across languages, and the implications of these limits for international communication;
- explain the sources of miscommunication between speakers of different linguistic and cultural backgrounds who communicate using English as a lingua franca;
- understand potential sources of miscommunication within multilingual and multi-cultural societies such as Australia; and communicate effectively in another language in many contexts and understand the issues that can arise in international communication due to linguistic differences.

Scholarships and Prizes

There are a number of scholarships available to current ANU students to help with the cost of your studies.



Kristy Vincent

Bachelor of Arts

Majors in International Communication

I chose to study International Communication because the major provides areas of study in both language learning and linguistics. These two fields are complementary to each other, with language courses providing practical speaking skills and cultural knowledge, and linguistic courses providing insight into how language systems work, and an appreciation of the ways in which language and culture interact and inform each other. This appreciation, along with the research skills and knowledge gained through studying the major, is a valuable resource for students preparing to work or study internationally or here in Australia.

I really like that there are a broad range of courses available within the major, and that I was able to choose courses specific to my interests. I would recommend the International Communication major to anyone wanting to explore an interest in languages or linguistics, or who would like to build further knowledge in these areas.

Donors and benefactors, external organisations and the Australian Government fund many of the scholarships we offer. Visit the ANU scholarships page to find out more: anu.edu.au/students/scholarships

Further information

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