



Australian
National
University

Latin



Ranked

#1

ANU is ranked #1 in Australia and in the top 20 globally for 9 disciplines across humanities, arts and social sciences.

*QS World University Rankings by Subject 2024

Latin is more than just a language – it is a journey through the human experience.

Why study Latin at ANU?

If you want to understand a culture, you need to understand its language. Latin was spoken by Romans drinking in the tavern, watching games in the arena, and debating politics in the senate house. It is the language of graffiti scrawled on walls in Pompeii, ribald love poetry, heroic epics, blistering courtroom speeches, and the fables of former slaves. In the centuries after the demise of the Roman Empire, Latin retained a central place as the language of European history, law, oratory, and science. At ANU, you will laugh, cry, cheer, and debate your way through Latin!

You will begin your Latin study with an introduction to the principles of language before moving on to examine a wide variety of genres and authors from the Roman Republic to Late Antiquity. These will include the poets Virgil and Ovid, the orator Cicero, the philosopher Seneca, the Christian martyr Perpetua, and the pilgrim Egeria. You will conduct close textual analysis of these authors' works and learn about the wider cultural and historical context of their writings. You will also explore the many different genres and contexts in which Latin was used, from letters and poetry to graffiti and inscriptions.

No previous knowledge of Latin is required: you can start with Introductory Latin and proceed all the way to Advanced. If you have studied Latin to Year 12, you should enroll in Advanced Latin.

Proficiency in Latin is highly recommended if you wish to specialise in the study of Greece and Rome, medieval and early modern history, English literature, law, rhetoric, politics and international relations, philosophy, and archaeology. Studying Latin will enrich your understanding of the English language and other European languages which evolved from Latin, such as French, Italian, and Spanish.

Career Opportunities

Graduates of the Bachelor of Arts with a major in Latin have the ability to analyse, critique, and research language, literature, and culture. Potential graduate pathways include careers in research and teaching (at all levels), archives and information management, materials conservation, languages and translation, journalism and media, law, government, and cultural heritage.

Classical Studies at ANU

ANU is ranked among the world's top universities, and has a strong international reputation in humanities, arts and social sciences.¹ The Centre for Classical Studies is one of the leading institutions for the study of Ancient Greece and Rome in Australasia. Its award-winning, world-renowned staff have expertise in topics such as Greek and Roman science, religion, technology, music, poetry, drama, politics, environment, gender, material culture, and slavery extending from the 12th century BCE to the early Middle Ages. They also engage in research in museums and collection practices and the cultural legacy of Greece and Rome in the modern age.

You will benefit from a warm and supportive teaching environment, excellent library resources, including the Classics Centre's own collection of texts and dictionaries, and a vibrant student culture. Students receive hands-on training in the material culture of the Greek and Roman world in our Classics Museum, which features ancient art and objects illustrating daily life. The Centre for Classical Studies regularly hosts a distinguished array of international scholars through our Seminar Series and Visiting Fellowships scheme, connecting students with leading historians, literary scholars, and archaeologists from across the world.

Study program

Students may choose to study Latin within a Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Languages, or Diploma of Languages. Students may also combine any of these Bachelor degrees with other degrees on offer at ANU through the flexible double and vertical degrees.

Latin may be studied as a major (8 courses), a minor (4 courses), an advanced minor (4 courses), or an elective (single courses). Students can study Ancient Greek, Classical Studies, History, English, Linguistics, Philosophy, Politics and International Relations, and Asian or European languages to complement their Latin courses.



Cecilia

Diploma of Languages (Latin and Ancient Greek)

"I enjoy the Latin program at ANU and the way it fosters an appreciation for the language and its place in the Roman world, and how it has carried throughout history to today. As part of our studies, we are very lucky to have the ANU Classics Museum collection available to students across a range of disciplines who can engage with material culture from the Greco-Roman world, including objects with Latin inscriptions."

Scholarships and prizes

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