Australian National University

Philosophy

Graduates of the Bachelor of Arts with a Philosophy major develop advanced critical thinking skills, a familiarity with presenting and evaluating arguments across a wide range of topics, and an understanding of some of the deepest and most general questions facing humanity today.
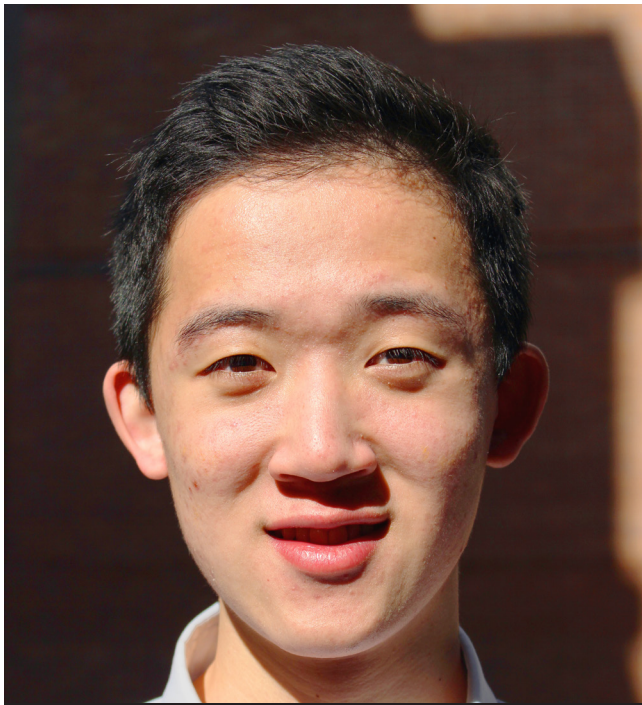
About studying Philosophy

Philosophy addresses a range of fundamental questions about the world around us and about the human condition. For example, What is the nature of space and time? What is knowledge? How do brains give rise to minds? How does language shape thought? What is the role of science and technology in our lives? Why should we be good people, and what should we do to make a just society?

Career opportunities

Studying philosophy is intrinsically fascinating and engaging, but it is the skills that philosophy graduates develop in criticism, evaluating argument, critical thinking, and presenting cases for and against positions that make philosophy graduates particularly prized by employers.

In Australia, philosophy graduates secure jobs that compare very well to graduates in other subjects, including vocational subjects. Philosophy majors are regularly among the highest scoring groups in postgraduate aptitude tests in the USA such as the LSAT (Law School Admissions Test).

ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences

Daniel

Having not been exposed to philosophy before beginning my undergraduate degree, I was somewhat intimidated by the area of study. But the support and willingness provided by world-class academics at ANU helped me to truly engage and understand the topics discussed as well as the pertinent, overarching application that the subject possesses.

Studying philosophy implicitly taught me new critical thinking skills that have assisted in my other studies. It has provided new and invigorating perspectives on the day to day issues of the ever-changing world. While at ANU, I've had the opportunity to express myself in a passionate and highly energetic academic environment, unique to any other personal education experience.

Among the employment opportunities for philosophy graduates are government and public administration, journalism and media, computing, law, education, and a wide range of jobs requiring research skills, critical thinking abilities, and creative problem solving.

Philosophy at ANU

ANU Philosophy enjoys a strong international reputation. The School of Philosophy has strengths in a variety of areas including philosophy of mind, epistemology, philosophy of science (particularly philosophy of biology), moral theory, and political philosophy. Courses offered by the School of Philosophy represent contemporary Anglo-American philosophy, contemporary European philosophy, and Asian Philosophy.

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Philosophy students learn to:

- Critically evaluate arguments for and against controversial positions, and they gain the ability to carefully formulate and defend their own arguments for views they endorse

- Carefully engage with both classic and contemporary philosophy texts, honing interpretive skills and skills in critically evaluating arguments

- Engage with a wide range of important and fundamental issues across a range of the most interesting and most fundamental questions that we face.

Flexible Double Degrees

A Philosophy major as part of a 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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