



Australian
National
University

Sociology



Bachelor of Arts graduates with a major in Sociology gain an understanding of the social forces influencing how and why people think and act in particular ways. They possess the conceptual and methodological tools to analyse social norms and institutions and to make sense of social change.

About studying Sociology

At a time in which citizens, governments and corporations alike are calling for solutions to urgent social problems, training in Sociology equips graduates with the skills to pose the right problems and to address them effectively.

Sociology is not content to treat the changing fortunes of individuals as merely personal or accidental, but provides tools to connect them to

wider social forces, institutions, diverse forms of power and processes of social change. Sociology focuses on the factors and issues that have a direct bearing on peoples' quality of life and sense of identity. The research sociologists generate is critically informed and methodologically diverse. It helps citizens and policymakers challenge common-sense ideas about the causes of social problems, such as inequality, criminality, social malaise and conflict, illness, climate change and so on. Sociologists study all aspects of social life. These include the effects of transformations in science and technology, education, work and leisure arrangements, family life, media and popular culture, including human and non-human activities on social media. Sociologists study health and medicine, urbanisation, global economies and migration, religiosity and spirituality, social movements and environmental change.

Career opportunities

A sociology degree provides students with a cognitive and transferable skill set and empowers them to participate effectively in wider intellectual and policy debates about key social issues. It is therefore a recognised and valued qualification.

Sociology graduates develop career trajectories in many fields including policymaking, journalism and diplomacy, project management, migrant and ethnic affairs, market research, services for the aged, community development, welfare policy and administration, women's issues, human resources, youth and family services, crime and justice services, workforce research and health services.

Graduates may find employment in federal, state and local government departments and research agencies, in community service organisations and NGOs, and in the commercial sector.

Sociology at the ANU

ANU is ranked number one in Australia and 19th in the world for sociology.¹ Sociology at ANU is available as a major or minor within the Bachelor of Arts. Sociology students benefit from the discipline's international profile, from being taught by world-leading scholars, and from exposure to cutting edge research findings and practices. Key issues covered in the sociology curriculum include technology and the media, surveillance and criminality, risk and everyday life, posthuman bodies, dangerous consumption, populism, health and illness, classical and contemporary social theory, social policy and more.

Students in sociology learn to:

- understand how ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, age, religion and nationality shape social experience
- use sociological concepts to understand social inequalities and conflicts and produce blueprints for change
- assess critically the merits of competing theoretical perspectives and methodological approaches used in social sciences and humanities scholarship
- develop advanced skills in critical and creative thinking, information sourcing, research design and administration, idea development and dissemination.

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



Gabriela Falzon

Bachelor of Arts , Sociology Honours

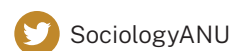
Studying sociology has given me the means to analyse and interpret society through radical and revolutionary frameworks. I have especially enjoyed learning about how different thinkers have criticised the structures and hierarchies that underlie capitalist and patriarchal society.

By studying the social construction and perpetuation of ideas that we often see as 'natural' I have been able to develop a different lens through which I can understand the world. One of the crucial lessons that sociology and gender studies teaches us is that theory is not simply for interpreting phenomena on an abstract level; it can be used to practically change and transform our society in a radically political way.

This has been a helpful field to combine with my interest in progressive political action in the union movement and the continuing fight for a world that does not exclude or punish marginalised groups. By understanding how and why inequality exists we can also understand how to prevent its existence. I look forward to continuing my studies in sociology and gender theory and further learning about how we can create a better society.

Further information

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¹QS World University Rankings by Subject 2024