



Australian
National
University

Ancient Greek



1st
in Australia

ANU is ranked #1 in Australia (and in the top 30 globally) for 7 disciplines across humanities, arts and social sciences.

*QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026

Ancient Greek is a language of beauty and tragedy, philosophy and history — the gateway to worlds of thought and imagination.

Why study Ancient Greek at ANU?

Greek is a living, breathing language spoken by more than 13 million people worldwide. At The Australian National University (ANU), you will study its ancestor, Ancient Greek, the language of the poets Homer and Sappho, the playwright Aristophanes, the physician Galen, the Byzantine empress-poet Eudocia, and early Christian writers. You will explore the different dialects of Ancient Greek written and spoken across the

Mediterranean, their evolution over time, and their material context. From moving funerary inscriptions to diaries and letters on papyri, Ancient Greek introduces us to the emotions and experiences of the past.

You will begin your Ancient Greek study with the principles of language (grammar, vocabulary, and syntax) while developing your reading skills so that you can engage closely with original Ancient Greek texts. You will explore the literary, historical, and cultural contexts of Greek writers from the Bronze Age to the Byzantine period.

You don't need to have prior knowledge of the language to study Ancient Greek, but if you have already taken courses in the language, please speak to the convenor about the best entry level.

Proficiency in Ancient Greek is highly recommended if you wish to specialise in the study of Greece, Rome, and Byzantium, medieval and early modern history, law, rhetoric, philosophy, and archaeology. Studying Ancient Greek will enrich your understanding of the English language and other European languages.

Career Opportunities

Graduates of the Bachelor of Arts with a major in Ancient Greek 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 conversation, 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 places to study Ancient Greek and Rome in Australasia. Its internationally renowned staff have expertise in topics such as Greek and Roman music, technology, poetry, drama, archaeology, politics, and history, extending from the 12th century BCE to the early Middle Ages. They also engage in research in 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 worlds in our Classics Museum, which features stunning examples of ancient art and objects of daily life from the Bronze Age to the Byzantine period.

Study Program

Students may choose to study Ancient Greek 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 Flexible Double Degrees.

Ancient Greek 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 Latin, Classical Studies, History, Linguistics, and Asian or European languages to complement their Ancient Greek courses.



James

Bachelor of Classical Studies Major in Latin

Learning Greek — the language of winged words — is an experience which has made my time at the ANU so much richer. Bridging both the temporal and the spatial distance back to the Greek past, the satisfaction of reading such an engaging body of literature in the original is something quite special. Seasoned with the spice of a good challenge and made even more tempting by the missing *zing* within even the most entertaining translations, Greek's unique flavour wafts from every word, baked into intricate clauses and meaty morsels of emotion, still fresh after millennia of mastication. When borne by such an appealing vehicle, expertly steered by an enviable team of academics, the ideas of antiquity are brought back to life. And while we will never find ourselves in this enlivened past, we are sure to find ourselves amply provided with some truly divine food for thought.

Scholarships

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: study.anu.edu.au/scholarships

Further information

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 [anu.classics.ancient.history](https://www.facebook.com/anu.classics.ancient.history)

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¹QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026