



Australian
National
University

Anthropology



Anthropology

#1

in Australia

#9 globally

QS World University Rankings by Subject 2025

Anthropology is the study of cultural difference and similarity in a cosmopolitan world. Using the methodology of long-term ethnographic enquiry, it is uniquely placed to interpret the diversity of contemporary social phenomena and relationships. By studying people's everyday lives and practices, anthropologists try to understand how societies and communities are organised and what makes humans tick.

Anthropology at The Australian National University (ANU) offers a wide range of courses promoting critical thinking about cultural transformation and social difference, including: studies of the cultural basis of health and medicine, gender and sexuality, terror and violence, development, globalization and migration, science and technology, climate-just multispecies futures, and indigenous relations in the contemporary world.

Anthropology at ANU is found in the College of Arts and Social Sciences and the College of Asia and the Pacific. The discipline at ANU is ranked 1st in Australia and 9th in the world.¹ First-year Anthropology courses introduce you to different perspectives on what it means to be human, with teaching from academics in archaeology and

biological anthropology as well as cultural anthropology. Anthropology at the ANU is the only department in Australia to offer such a multi-field introduction to the discipline.

You will learn how to encounter the world as an anthropologist by thinking about contemporary events and issues through the disciplinary lens, and by trying your hand at some practical research techniques. Later year courses enable you to apply anthropological analysis to diverse cultural settings and develop a truly global perspective on human actions. On completion of an Anthropology major you will have the knowledge and skills to:

- demonstrate understanding of the major dimensions of analysis of societies and cultures (e.g., gender, ethnicity, identity, violence, emotion, state, nation, globalisation);
- demonstrate understanding of both directed and unintended processes of change (e.g., migration, community development, conflict, authoritarianism and social fragmentation);
- demonstrate understanding of the interrelation between theory and experience in the analysis of cultural phenomena (e.g. ethnographic theory and practice, learning to work with case studies); and
- demonstrate understanding of the intersection of bio-social and material dimensions of social life.

Career opportunities

Graduates with a major in Anthropology have highly developed skills in qualitative and human research, cross-cultural comparison, and social analysis. These transferable skills are highly sought after in a huge variety of employment fields. ANU anthropology graduates have found employment in media, public service, social service, economic, education and health fields, as well as a host of other specialist fields, like multicultural services and Indigenous affairs, government policy analysis, community development, management consulting, and design.

Flexible Double Degree

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 study.anu.edu.au/study-options/flexible-degree-options-anu





Kiran

Bachelor of Arts (Honours in Anthropology) Majors in Anthropology and Spanish

I decided to study at ANU in large part because of their anthropology program. I met a few anthropologists from here during my gap year, and I found their way of seeing the world incredibly fresh and exciting. I really enjoyed the first anthropology course I took, and the discipline turned out to have everything I love most about the humanities. It encouraged me to take a critical eye to the social structures built around us and consider how they play out in people's lives. In this way, studying anthropology helped me work out what I stand for. I also got a new perspective on the more mundane rituals of life. My lecturers encouraged us to interrogate these parts of life, asking questions like why things are the way they are, and who benefits from these ways of doing things. This gave me an intense curiosity about the world, and equipped me with the tools to better understand it. Finally, anthropology helped me appreciate the incredible diversity of the human experience. This is what I love most about anthropology, and what sets it apart from other disciplines. I am so glad that I discovered anthropology at ANU. It has given me a great passion for learning, and fundamentally changed how I see the world.

Further information

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