Archaeology

Archaeology
#1
in Australia
#10 globally
*QS World University Rankings by Subject 2025

Archaeology is the study of the human past through the excavation of sites and the analysis of artefacts and other physical remains.

Archaeology at ANU

Students may choose to study Archaeology within a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Art History and Curatorship. Students may also combine any of these Bachelor degrees with other degrees on offer at ANU through Flexible Double Degrees.

Archaeology may be studied as a major (8 courses), a minor (4 courses) or an elective (single courses).

To complement their archaeology courses, students may also study topics in Australian Indigenous studies, heritage and museum studies, anthropology, bioanthropology, linguistics, history, and classical studies.

The Archaeology major comprises two core introductory classes covering human society past and present and archaeological method and practice, as well as a choice of electives that include a range of regional archaeologies, archaeological science, theory and interpretation, and archaeological fieldwork, including field schools. Students will have opportunities to learn from Indigenous scholars and experts and professional practitioners.

Learning Outcomes

- identify patterns and regional variation in the human past as revealed by the archaeological evidence;

- explain the nature of ancient and historic life and cultural transformations;

- critically evaluate archaeological evidence for the reconstruction of cultural systems and cultural change in specific regions;

- describe the long-term cultural changes in different parts of the world; and

- explain the basics of human physical and cultural evolution.

Flexible Double Degree

Students may choose to study Archaeology within a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Art History and Curatorship. Students may also combine any of these Bachelor degrees with other degrees on offer at ANU through Flexible Double Degrees. For a full list of degree combinations see
anu.edu.au/study/study-options/flexible-double

Honours

Bachelor of Archaeological Practice students can undertake an honours year within the program. There are also many opportunities for postgraduate study including coursework and research at the Masters level.

Prizes & scholarships

There are a number of scholarships for both international and domestic students. To find out if you are eligible see
anu.edu.au/students/scholarships-fees/scholarships

Further information

T   1800 620 032

E   futurestudent@anu.edu.au

W   cass.anu.edu.au/study

🅕   ANU-School-Of-Archaeology-Anthropology

🅣   ArchAnthANU

Elisa Scorsini

Master of Archaeological and Evolutionary Science (Advanced)

Archaeology has always been a passion of mine. I started studying Near Eastern archaeology back in Italy. However, at the end of my bachelor's degree, I did not feel I had gained enough confidence to start my own research and, I was uncertain as to which specialisation I wished to engage with. I desired to attain a stronger scientific background, so that I could apply this to my research in archaeology.

The Master degree at ANU is the only one in the world which offers a broad scientific syllabus; from bioarchaeology and zooarchaeology to palaeoenvironmental studies. It gives students the possibility to explore several scientific specialisations in different areas of research. The quality of the research and the expertise of the lecturers at the School of Archaeology at ANU speaks for itself. Over the past three years my knowledge and skills have been greatly enhanced by this degree and every day I feel enriched, not only in terms of knowledge, but also in terms of people inspiring and supporting me. The degree is also very flexible, allowing students/me to pursue different passions and interests, as well as providing them with connections and opportunities to work in a professional environment.

Archaeology is, at its core, the science of reconstructing and interpreting stories of people who have lived before us. The ANU definitely provides students with all the necessary tools to unravel the past.