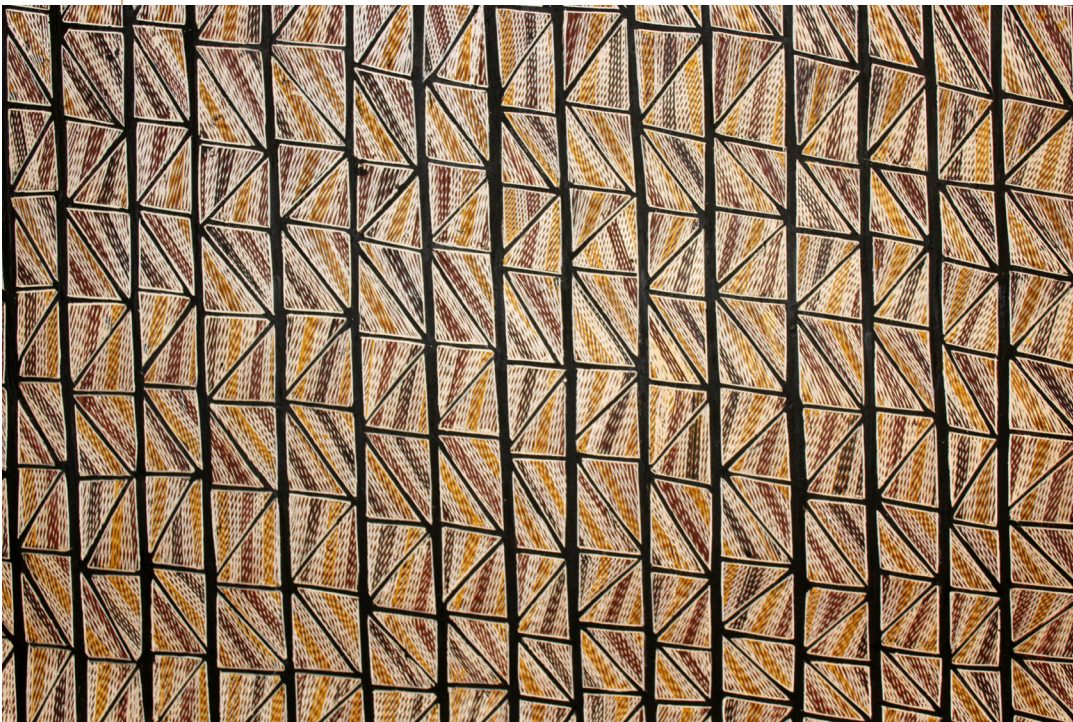




Australian
National
University

Australian Indigenous Studies



Ranked

#1

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

*QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026

Develop insight into the diverse knowledges and perspectives of this continent's First Peoples. Learn about our shared histories. Reflect on the unique experiences of First Nations and other Indigenous peoples. Explore the profundity of this ancient continent and the cultures of its peoples and their continuities. Begin to grasp what it means that we are the 'oldest continuous cultures' on the planet.

About Australian Indigenous Studies

Indigenous Studies centres the knowledges and diverse perspectives of First Peoples. Indigenous Studies students are introduced to First Peoples'

rich philosophies and unique ways of being that have sustained this fragile place for millennia. Our courses explore important contemporary themes, social systems, colonialism and their impact locally, nationally and globally.

Career opportunities

The United Nations estimates that there are over 370 million Indigenous people living in over 70 countries worldwide. A knowledge of Indigenous cultures, histories, languages, politics, development aspirations and representation is increasingly vital for careers both domestically and internationally: in the private sector (banking, law, industry, business), public sector (state, territory, Commonwealth and local governments), Indigenous sector (native title bodies, land councils, community organisations) and in non-government, not-for-profit and charitable organisations.

Image: Detail from Guach (2006) by Terry Ngamandara Wilson.

Researchers can take advantage of the many postgraduate programs offered by ANU in related fields across a wide number of disciplines.

Australian Indigenous Studies at ANU

ANU has a deep commitment to teaching and research in Australian Indigenous Studies and the inclusion and support of Australian Indigenous Studies scholars. ANU is ranked among the world's top universities, and has a strong international reputation in humanities, arts and social sciences. The University has a long history of engagement with First Peoples and is committed to reconciling Australia and redressing the impacts of colonialism.

ANU is home to the Centre for Indigenous Policy Research (CIPR), the Australian Centre for Indigenous History, and the Tjabal Indigenous Higher Education Centre. Our First Nations Portfolio is dedicated to bringing communities and the University together, holding conversations about contemporary issues.

Australian Indigenous Studies courses are taught by academics from many schools and other Indigenous knowledge holders from diverse communities. The major grounds and then facilitates respectful and critical engagement with First Peoples' knowledges and creates the opportunity for positive lifelong learning and relationship-building, and constructive engagement with national challenges in this space. Course content is diverse and fascinating, including:

- Country, kinship and continuities
- Resilience, rights and resurgence
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge systems
- Indigenous Cultural and Natural Resource Management
- Indigenous prosperity and economies
- Indigenous socio-cultural, ceremonial, artistic and linguistic practices, past and present
- Critical Indigenous Studies
- Deep and pre-colonial histories
- Impacts of European colonisation
- Histories of relationships and encounters between First Peoples and settler-colonisers
- Politics, law, and policy
- Identity, representation, equity, and authority.

ANU offers the opportunity to undertake Indigenous studies as an undergraduate major or minor. We not only teach on Kambri campus. We also teach at our stunning coastal campus on Yuin Country and take our students on field schools, and create opportunities to learn with senior and respected knowledge holders.

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.



Sarah

Bachelor of Arts

Australian Indigenous Studies was the most enjoyable and interesting part of my Arts degree at ANU. I began Indigenous Studies in my second year with a mix of anthropology, archaeology and history courses. The subjects cover Indigenous culture and society, both historical and contemporary. The most attractive aspect is the experience and knowledge you gain across a number of disciplines, from music and art to history and linguistics. This variety exposes you to a number of different perspectives on Indigenous studies, allowing you to come away with a more rounded understanding of Indigenous people, their culture and history. I also enjoyed the opportunity to learn from an Indigenous lecturer and from researchers who are leaders in their fields.

Australian Indigenous Studies has ignited my desire to continue further study in Indigenous affairs and opened up opportunities to volunteer with organisations that work with Indigenous Australians. It has made me appreciate the culture and history of Indigenous people and has inspired me to work in this field once I graduate — whether it is working with Indigenous people face-to-face with an NGO, or working on policy through a government department.

I recommend this major or minor to anyone who wants diversity in their degree, is interested in working with Indigenous Australians or with preserving their culture, or simply wants to learn more about the longest-surviving culture in the world.

For a full list of degree combinations see anu.edu.au/study/study-options/flexible-double

Further information

T 1800 620 032
E future.student@anu.edu.au
W cass.anu.edu.au/study

