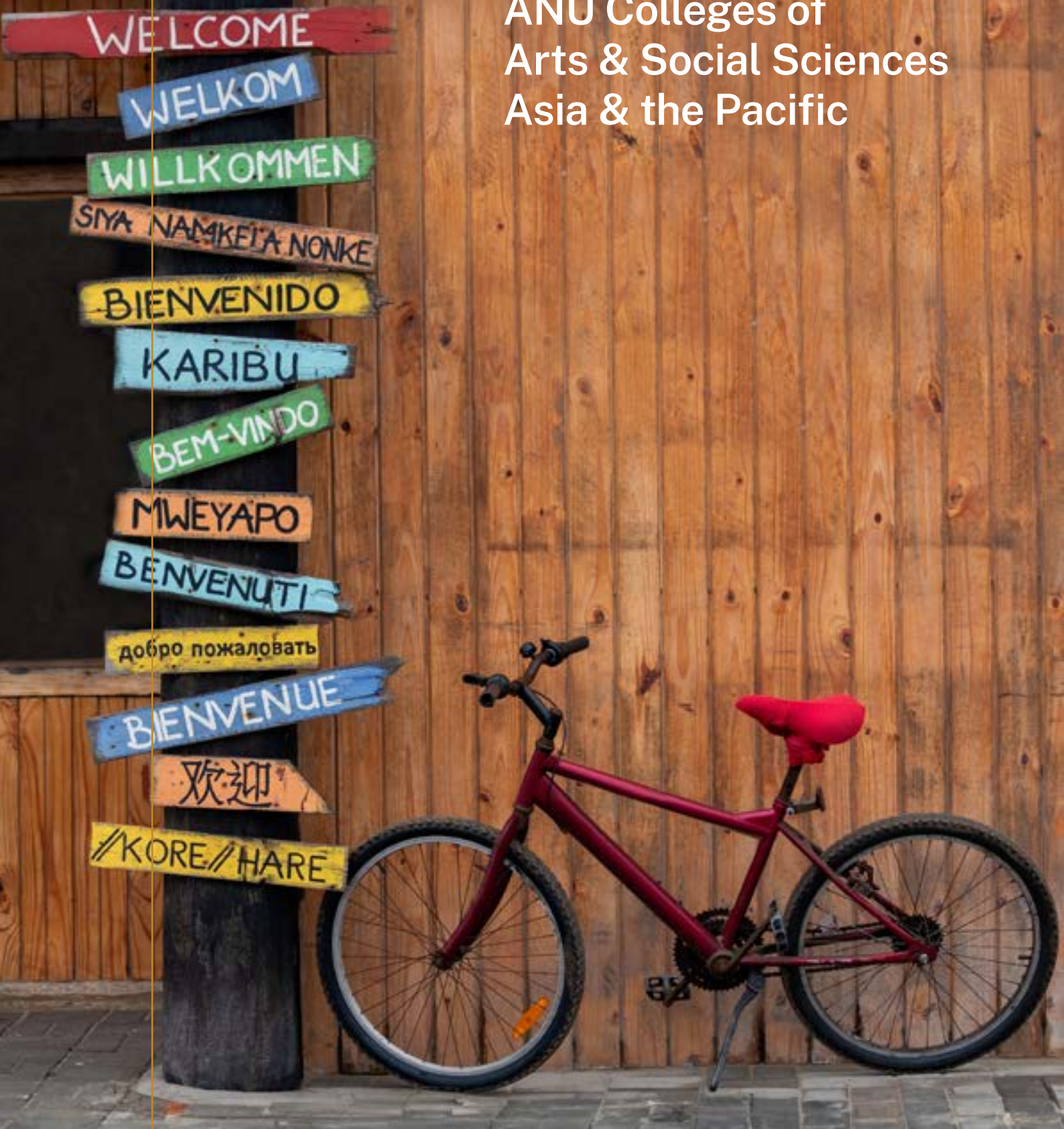




Australian
National
University

Languages Guide 2026

ANU Colleges of
Arts & Social Sciences
Asia & the Pacific



Language learning
begins at ANU.
The final
destination
is up to you.



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Welcome
 Bienvenido
 欢迎
 Hoan nghênh
 སྐྱོད་པོ་དག་ལ་སྐྱོ་མེད་པུ་ལྟོ



Message from the Language Directors

At the Australian National University (ANU), we have been training world leaders in Asia-Pacific, European and Middle Eastern studies in the humanities and social sciences for 70 years. An invaluable component of our success in this pursuit has been through the research and teaching of languages, which facilitate closer engagement with our neighbours and partners the world over.

ANU is committed to unlocking the potential of its students as future change-makers and leaders in the community. Languages play a vital part in this. On the world stage, we cannot rely on others' ability to speak English, but need to engage in their own language.

ANU meets this demand by teaching more languages than any other university in Australia, including many that are not taught elsewhere. Our breadth of offerings covers languages from Europe, Asia and the Pacific, the Middle East and Indigenous Australia, as well as Classical languages.

Languages are a vital component in ANU ethos of building closer relationships with friends and partners nationally and worldwide.

Our courses are aimed at students who seek to develop a high level of competence in the language, and emphasise the importance of critically engaging with culture, history, politics and society of the respective language.

We invest heavily in providing new study options, pathway programs and support services to ensure our students have access to a broad range of high-quality undergraduate and postgraduate opportunities. And we have a range of options both for students who are new to language study, and those who are or embarking on the next stage of their language-learning journey.

Your choice of university is an important decision and your desire and ambition will play an important role in your career.

We look forward to celebrating your future success as a graduate of ANU.

“With languages, you are at home everywhere.” British artist and author Edmund de Waal’s famous words remind us of the unlimited possibilities we create for ourselves by learning another language.

This sentiment resonates with our nature as lifelong learners, curious about the world and its cultural diversity.

Here you will be inspired by your professors and discover the scenic and strategic marvels of Canberra with new friends from around the world.

In this guide you will find a comprehensive overview of the many languages available to you as a student. Some may align with your existing interests and passions, others might beckon you to discover newfound ones that create enriching pathways for travel, research, cultural and career advancement. You can also visit the University Languages Portal Australia (<https://ulpa.edu.au>) as a one-stop shop for all language offerings at ANU and across universities in Australia.

We are here to assist in making your studies at ANU as productive and fulfilling as possible. Congratulations on choosing Australia’s top university to study the language of your choice. Your home is here — and everywhere!



Associate Professor Francesco Ricatti
 Languages Convenor
 School of Literature,
 Languages and Linguistics
 ANU College of Arts &
 Social Sciences



Professor McComas Taylor
 Deputy Director Languages
 ANU College of Asia &
 the Pacific

Eight reasons to study a language at ANU

There are many reasons why students from all over the world choose ANU to study languages. In addition to academic rigour and cross-cultural immersion, there are many unique advantages we offer that you won't find anywhere else.

01 Australia's leading university

ANU is Australia's leading university and consistently recognised as one of the great universities of the world. It is ranked 1st in Australia in 12 disciplines.¹ When you graduate, you will be recognised globally for your world-class qualifications.

02 Award-winning academics

ANU researchers — your teachers — are the best in their fields. With some of the smallest classes among Australia's top universities, you get to work closely with global superstars. ANU has the maximum five-star rating for staff qualifications, with 87 per cent of our staff holding a PhD². Among our languages faculty, this figure is 98 per cent.

03 International outlook

Global-mindedness is an essential component when learning another language. In addition to our well-established connections with global institutions, ANU has the highest national proportion of international staff, international students and research papers published with at least one co-author from another country. It's no wonder ANU is first in Australia on the list of most international universities.²

04 Capitalise on location

Our unique location in Canberra creates unparalleled opportunities. Situated in the heart of the nation, you will have access to political, cultural and government departments. Where else in Australia could you attend a public lecture with influencers from the Asia-Pacific region, use your language skills on an embassy internship or visit a diplomatic mission?

05 Graduate goals

Your ANU degree is an investment in your future. Our graduates consistently exceed national average starting salaries and state graduate employment rates. Our strong industry partnerships create practical, real-world experiences in addition to valuable professional networking opportunities. ANU graduates have been consistently rated as Australia's most employable and are among the most sought-after by employers globally.³

06 Unrivalled variety

With nearly 30 languages on offer, ANU offers more languages than any other university in Australia. Indeed, ANU is the only institution in Australia that teaches many less common languages — including Taiwanese, Tetum, Burmese, Thai, Cantonese, Mongolian and Tibetan — at a tertiary level. Wherever your linguistic passion lies, you'll find the best researchers and learning opportunities here at ANU.

07 Community connections

As a student at ANU you will belong to a dynamic language learning community consisting of student language clubs, conversation groups, reading groups and social networks. Our language community includes important centres of influence such as the ANU Centre for European Studies and the Australian Centre on China in the World.

08 Go your own way

When it comes to learning a language, there is no substitute for mobility and immersing yourself in the culture. We provide students with opportunities for study at amazing learning destinations around the world. And, your academic adventure won't break the bank. Various funding opportunities are available, ranging from \$500 to \$7,000.

1. QS World University Rankings by Subject 2025.

2. THE World University Rankings 2025.

3. THE Global Employability University Rankings 2025.

Where will your language take you?

By choosing to study a language, you are choosing to broaden your horizons both personally and professionally. ANU is your passport to the rest of the world.

Global study experiences and rewarding careers beckon in countries most people can only dream of visiting.

The languages taught at ANU are spoken by the vast majority of the world's population. Some are ancient and steeped in rich cultural traditions, while others are evolving across new platforms with new speakers.

Languages are driving the world to become increasingly connected. As a 21st century communicator, your linguistic skills will give you access to meaningful opportunities in new environments. The only question is where will your language take you?



- **Arabic**
- Algeria
- Bahrain
- Chad
- Comoros
- Djibouti
- Egypt
- Eritrea
- Iraq
- Israel
- Jordan
- Kuwait
- Lebanon
- Libya
- Malta
- Mauritania
- Morocco
- Oman

- Palestine
- Qatar
- Saudi Arabia
- Somalia
- Sudan
- Syria
- Tanzania (Zanzibar)
- Tunisia
- United Arab Emirates
- Yemen
- **Australian Indigenous Languages**
- Gamilaraay nation

- **Burmese**
- Myanmar
- **Cantonese**
- Hong Kong, Macau SAR
- **Chinese Mandarin**
- People's Republic of China
- Republic of China (Taiwan)
- Singapore

- **French**
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- France
- Canada
- Madagascar
- Cameroon
- Ivory Coast
- Niger
- Burkina Faso
- Mali
- Senegal
- Chad
- Guinea
- Rwanda
- Belgium
- Burundi
- Benin

- Haiti
- Switzerland
- Togo
- Central African Republic
- Republic of the Congo
- Gabon
- Djibouti
- Equatorial Guinea
- Comoros
- Luxembourg
- Vanuatu
- Seychelles
- Monaco
- **German**
- Germany
- Belgium

- Austria
- Switzerland
- Luxembourg
- Liechtenstein
- **Hindi and Sanskrit**
- India
- **Indonesian**
- Indonesia
- **Italian**
- Italy
- Switzerland
- Vatican City
- San Marino
- **Japanese**
- Japan

- **Korean**
- North Korea
- South Korea
- **Mongolian**
- Mongolia
- **Persian**
- Iran
- Afghanistan
- Tajikistan
- **Russian**
- Russia
- Ukraine
- Belarus
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan

- **Spanish**
- Mexico
- Colombia
- Spain
- Argentina
- Peru
- Venezuela
- Chile
- Ecuador
- Guatemala
- Cuba
- Bolivia
- Dominican Republic
- Honduras
- Paraguay
- El Salvador
- Nicaragua

- Costa Rica
- Puerto Rico
- Panama
- Uruguay
- Equatorial Guinea
- Andorra
- United States
- **Tetum**
- Timor-Leste
- **Tibetan**
- Tibet Autonomous Region (P.R. China)
- Nepal
- **Taiwanese**
- Taiwan

- **Thai**
- Thailand
- **Tok Pisin**
- Papua New Guinea
- **Turkish**
- Turkey
- **Vietnamese**
- Vietnam
- **Historic Languages**
- Literary Chinese
- Latin
- Ancient Greek

Come study with us

At ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences and ANU College of Asia and the Pacific, we take pride in our international reputation for a high standard of education and engagement with our community.

Although the colleges are distinctive in many ways, we also share crucial similarities, broadly covering disciplines that fall into a category known as HASS – humanities, arts and social sciences.

Together we offer a complementary array of undergraduate programs.

About the Colleges

ANU College of Arts & Social Sciences

We set national and international standards in research, education and community engagement across the humanities, creative arts, languages and social sciences.

Our unique location in Canberra creates an enriched teaching and research environment, giving our researchers and students access to the nation's political, cultural and collecting institutions, and government departments.

We teach 12 classical and modern languages of Europe, the Middle East and Indigenous Australia, and we offer a full range of courses exploring the culture, society and history of the regions where those languages are spoken. Our researchers shape debates and public policy through consultations, media outreach and through their research. Our disciplines rank highly against other universities globally, and almost all achieve rankings of above (or well above) world standard in the Excellence in Research for Australia ratings by the Australian Research Council.

ANU College of Asia & the Pacific

We are a trusted leader in education, research, and insights on the world's most dynamic region. With a strong network of Asia-Pacific experts, our College brings together leading scholars who blend disciplinary, regional, and policy expertise to address the challenges and opportunities shaping this rapidly evolving part of the world.

We play a vital role in shaping public policy and strengthening Australia's intellectual and cultural engagement with the societies, economies, and communities of Asia and the Pacific.

Our programs provide a global perspective on the most pressing issues of our time, equipping you with the knowledge and skills to become a leader and changemaker across the region and beyond.

We offer unique programs and are proud to teach 16 Asian and Pacific languages. Some of these, including Burmese, Mongolian, Tetum, Sanskrit, Tibetan, and Tok Pisin, aren't offered by any other university in Australia.



Subject rankings

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



Global ranking

30th in the world**
Recognised as one of the great universities of the world, and consistently ranked among Australia's leading universities.



Staff to student ratio

5 star rating in Australia for academic staff to student ratios***



International outlook

1st in Australia #15 most international university in the world^



Publications

ANU produces 1,700+ publications yearly



30,000+

Combined global alumni



The best minds

6 Nobel Laureates

Among our staff and alumni, ANU counts six Nobel Laureates and two Australians of the Year.



98%

ANU language academics hold PhDs

*QS World University Rankings by Subject 2025 **QS World University Rankings 2025
***Good Universities Guide Ratings 2025 ^THE World University Rankings 2025

Welcome to Canberra

When Canberra was named Lonely Planet's third best city in the world to visit in 2018, it was a significant acknowledgment of the city's cultural and physical evolution in recent years. Far more than just the 'bush capital', Canberra packs small-city charm with cosmopolitan chic. Just like ANU, Canberra is a city that exceeds expectations in a culture of unlimited possibilities.

ANU is located in Canberra, the national capital of Australia. Situated on the ancient lands of the Ngunnawal and Ngambri people, the traditional custodians of the region, Canberra's name is thought to mean 'meeting place'.

Canberra is home to Australia's top cultural and political institutions, providing the ideal intellectual platform for study. Our deep engagement with governments, local embassies and diplomatic missions, and international institutions provide a unique window into Australia and the world.

Canberra is also a 'meeting place' for the best elements of Australian life: it's a modern city, with cosmopolitan bars, cafés and restaurants. It's a safe place to live, with one of the lowest crime rates of any major Australian city; and it has a pristine natural environment you might expect as Australia's 'bush capital'.

Best of all, Canberra is an excellent city to learn a language. With around one quarter of the population born overseas¹, you're guaranteed to find friends to converse with in your language of study.

Even more reasons to choose Canberra

- It offers a lower cost of living compared to many other major Australian cities¹
- It is consistently ranked as one of the world's most liveable cities by the OECD
- It has a strong knowledge-based economy with plenty of employment opportunities

1. Australian Government's Study Australia website

Best in the country

You will find some of Australia's best museums and galleries in Canberra including the National Gallery of Australia, National Portrait Gallery, the National Museum of Australia and the Australian War Memorial.

Also home to the Australian Institute of Sport, Canberra has excellent facilities for those who love to live an active lifestyle.

The region is etched with bike paths and walking trails and there are plenty of places to swim, kayak and windsurf. Mount Stromlo Park is great for mountain bike riding, horse riding and running activities.

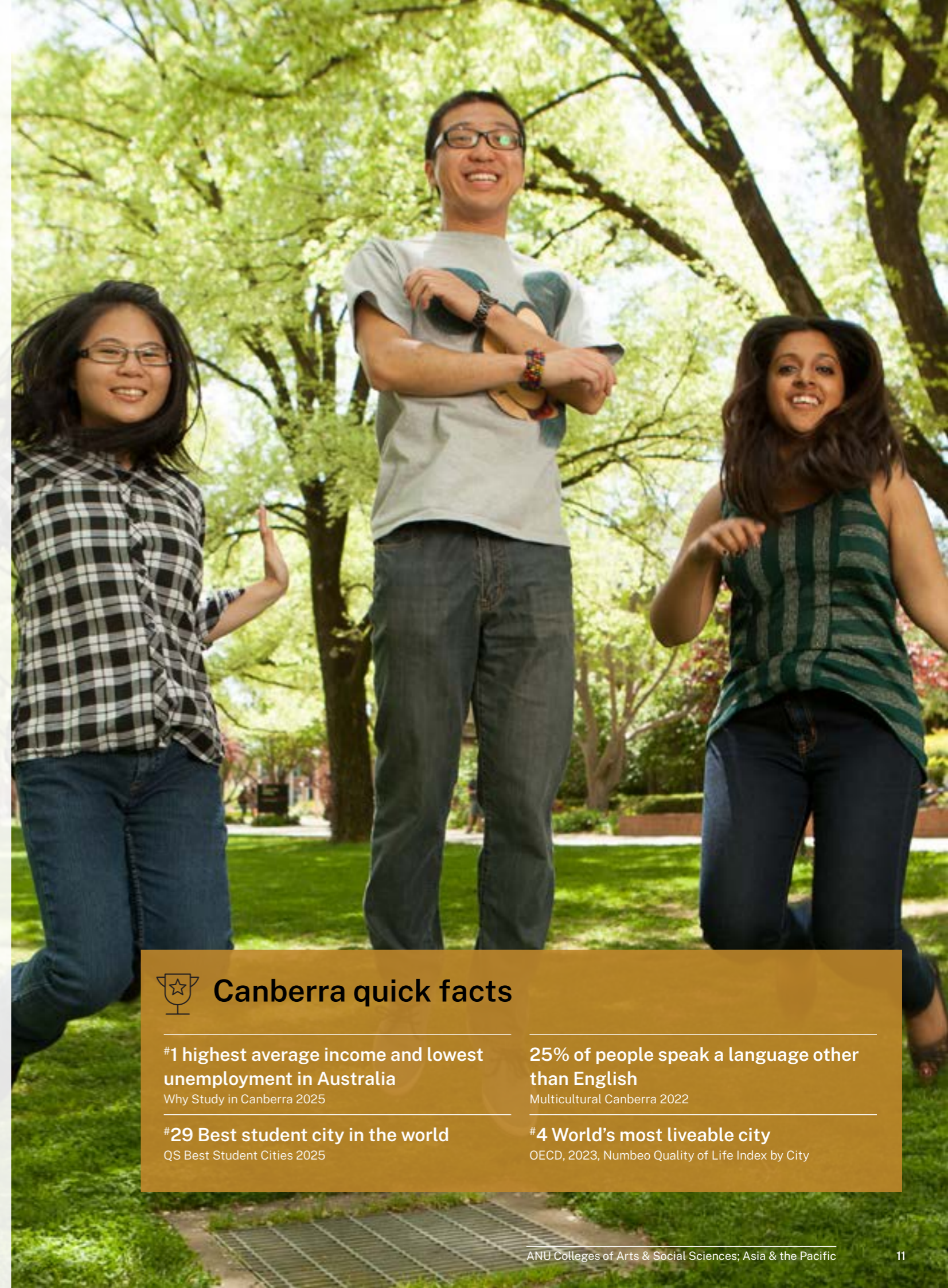


Getting around

A planned and relatively young city, Canberra is easy and economical to get around.

Our suburbs are arranged around several shopping and commercial hubs. There's a safe and reliable public bus and light rail service and a comprehensive network of bicycle paths. Light rail and many buses have bike racks, so cyclists can hop on public transport for longer journeys.

The road system is excellent and traffic jams are rare. For interstate and overseas travel, Canberra Airport is only about a 15-minute drive from the CBD.



Canberra quick facts

#1 highest average income and lowest unemployment in Australia

Why Study in Canberra 2025

25% of people speak a language other than English

Multicultural Canberra 2022

#29 Best student city in the world

QS Best Student Cities 2025

#4 World's most liveable city

OECD, 2023, Numbeo Quality of Life Index by City



Languages



Ancient Greek

Ancient Greek is a language of beauty and tragedy, philosophy and politics, science and religion – the gateway to worlds of thought and imagination. Studying Ancient Greek at ANU allows you to explore the ancient Mediterranean world through its language, from Archaic and Classical Greece through to the Byzantine period.

- ✓ Major (eight courses)
- ✓ Minor (four courses)
- ✓ Advanced minor (four courses)
- ✓ Can be incorporated into Masters programs
- ✓ Learn on campus

Why study Ancient Greek at ANU?

- Read the epics of Homer, the poetry of Sappho, the plays of Aristophanes, and early Christian texts in the original
- Study Greek inscriptions, ostraca, and papyri in the ANU Classics Museum
- Learn from Australia's top classical languages experts
- Study a versatile language that can be combined with Classical Studies, History, Philosophy, Politics, Art History, Archaeology, Latin and more!

Overview

Learning Ancient Greek is a fascinating, rewarding experience. You will begin your Ancient Greek study with the principles of language (grammar, vocabulary, syntax) while developing your reading skills so that you can engage closely with the original Ancient Greek texts. You will explore the different dialects of Ancient Greek written and spoken across the Mediterranean, their evolution over time, and their material context.

The courses will introduce you to the literary, historical, and cultural contexts of Greek authors and their reception and legacy in later centuries. From rousing courtroom speeches and moving funerary inscriptions to diaries and letters on papyrus, Ancient Greek introduces us to the emotions and experiences of the past.

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 and rhetoric; philosophy and politics; and anthropology and archaeology. Studying Ancient Greek will also enrich your understanding of the English language and other European languages. Graduates with knowledge of Ancient Greek have the ability to analyse, critique, and research language, literature, and culture.

Students do not need any prior knowledge to learn this language at ANU, but those who have studied Ancient Greek previously should contact the program convenor to determine the best level of entry.



Katherine
Bachelor of Classical Studies (Honours)

"I've always held a deep fascination with ancient civilisations, especially the Ancient Greeks. I chose to research a slice of Ancient Greek life after learning about an historic speech on Athenian law in my first year at ANU. I cannot recommend my degree enough. The department is very close-knit and extremely supportive. Studying Ancient Greek is an interesting, challenging and rewarding journey."

Languages



Arabic

Arabic is a Semitic language that first emerged in the Iron Age in north-western Arabia and is now the official language of 22 Arabic speaking countries in the Middle East and North Africa; it is used by about 450 million people in the region. Arabic is also considered the sacred language of the Qur'an, the holy book for Muslims, and therefore, it is a language of a special importance to all Muslims around the world. Arabic is also the language of scripture and prayer of some 30 million Christians in the Middle East and Africa.

✓	Major (eight courses)
✓	Minor (four courses)
✓	Advanced minor (four courses)
✓	Can be incorporated into Masters programs
✓	Study abroad opportunity
✓	Learn on campus
✓	Learn online

Why study Arabic at ANU?

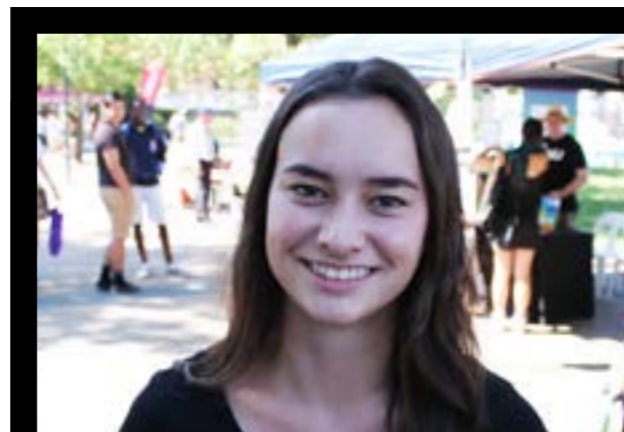
- Learn at the ANU Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies, a world-class research institute
- Arabic is available via cross-institutional delivery for students enrolled at other universities
- Study online with interactive lessons and multimedia activities
- Go global on a study exchange with ANU-partner universities in the Arab World

Overview

Arabic is the language of a rich and cosmopolitan civilisation, which contributed greatly to human knowledge. Its influence is strongly felt on such languages as Persian, Turkish, Urdu, Indonesian and Malay, among others. Arabic is also the living medium of a contemporary dynamic literature and culture. Its rich and magnificent poetry, classical and modern, is especially captivating. Arabic at ANU emphasises the cultural, political and historical importance of the language.

Undergraduate students can study Arabic courses as single electives, as a minor or as a major. Arabic courses can also be included in the Centre's postgraduate coursework, and as an adjunct to research for MPhil and PhD. All courses within the program are designed to develop the four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing in an integrated way.

First year Arabic assumes no previous knowledge of the language. It covers the Arabic script, basic grammar rules and linguistic characteristics. The method of teaching is based on an audio-visual and audio-lingual approach, which is designed to develop the four interrelated skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing through the use of dialogues in realistic situations, class interaction, and oral and written drills. Grammar is explained in its functional aspect using basic structures of Arabic. Later courses cover more detailed presentation of functions of the language; oral syntax and morphology, reading of texts and writing compositions. In third year, students will have the opportunity to develop a number of conversational and written skills including proficiency in written structures of moderate complexity. Throughout the program there are also opportunities to study the ever important and interesting aspects of politics and current events in the Middle East.



Rachel
Bachelor of Arts/Laws (Honours)

"I always wanted to study a language at university. I chose Arabic because I knew it was spoken in a lot of countries, and I thought it would be interesting and different. I've enjoyed the challenge of learning the language, the script and the different sounds, and I've loved learning about Arab and Islamic culture and history. Studying Arabic at the ANU has opened up a whole world of which I previously knew very little. Of course, I'm still learning and am excited to begin my research project."



Australian Indigenous Languages

Australia's more than 300 Indigenous languages are part of our rich heritage. A strong group of Indigenous and non-Indigenous scholars carry out work documenting these languages to assist communities in language maintenance and renewal. By studying an Australian Indigenous language, you're learning about aspects of the nation's unique, diverse linguistic traditions.

✓	Learn on campus
✓	Learn online
✓	Taught as an elective

Why study an Australian Indigenous language at ANU?

- ANU is the nation's leading institution documenting Australia's Indigenous languages
- Enhanced career opportunities for anyone professionally engaged with Indigenous communities
- Study Gamilaraay on campus or online

Overview

Learning an Indigenous language is a highly rewarding experience. Australia has more than 300 Indigenous languages, both traditional and new. They link land, people and all aspects of life. The Australian Indigenous Languages program provides an opportunity for you to explore an Australian Indigenous language.

You will learn about important characteristics of Australian languages, and relationships between language, culture and society in the communities of speakers. You will discover new ways of communicating and thinking.

You can study courses in Australian Indigenous languages as electives, or as part of a major in Linguistics or Indigenous Studies. If you are interested in other Indigenous languages, you may be able to learn them cross-institutionally, through other universities. You can search the range of indigenous languages offered at Australian universities here: <https://ulpa.edu.au>



Bonnie
Bachelor of Philosophy (Honours)

"Learning Gamilaraay was a unique challenge that ignited my passion for linguistics. Through learning Gamilaraay, I have had the chance to meet, become friends and work with Gamilaraay people who have shared their stories and culture with me. I have visited the country where Gamilaraay comes from, and knowing the language has given me a renewed appreciation for the landscape, and the plants and animals that live there. In the future I would like to continue to work with Indigenous Australian languages, and to share what I learn with all Australians."

Languages



Burmese

As a geographic gateway to Southeast Asia and Eastern Asia, growing opportunities are emerging from Myanmar. This means Burmese speakers can take a leading role in this fast-changing country and rising region.

✓	Minor (four courses)
✓	Study abroad opportunity
✓	Learn online
✓	Can be incorporated into Masters programs
✓	Available via Open Universities Australia

Why study Burmese at ANU?

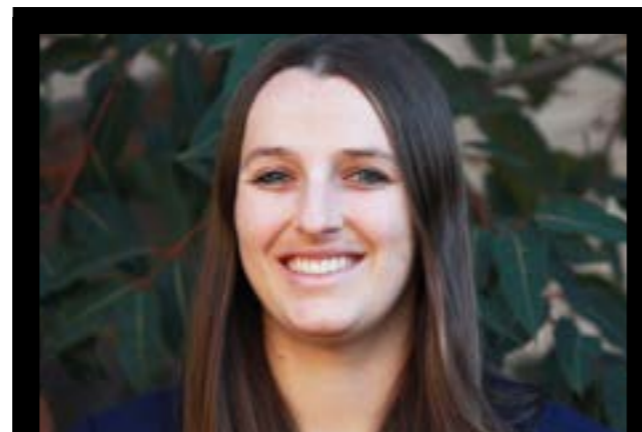
- ANU is the only university in Australia to offer Burmese as a minor
- Access deep country and language expertise at the ANU Myanmar Research Centre
- Learn to speak like a local by participating in a study exchange at Yangon University
- There is growing demand for Burmese speakers in government and business roles as the political situation in Myanmar continues to evolve

Overview

Burmese is the official language of Myanmar, which has a population of 54 million, about 70% of whom are native speakers of the language. The two-year course at ANU, consisting of four language proficiency levels, is designed to equip you with a solid foundational knowledge of Burmese reading skills as well as daily conversational ability while including awareness of Myanmar's culture, society and history. To achieve these goals, we focus on understanding spoken Burmese.

The basic knowledge of literary Burmese, as used in authentic materials, will be introduced to help students further their research on Myanmar. Our teaching also emphasises the development of listening comprehension skills through many audio-lingual materials, focusing on the joy of listening.

Subjects are open to both undergraduate and postgraduate students and it is possible to take a single subject as an elective, depending on your language proficiency. The program is offered exclusively via online modules and is also available through Open Universities Australia.



Justine
PhD candidate (Anthropology)

"I spent about six months in 2012 working on the Thailand-Myanmar border, mostly with refugees from the Karen ethnic group. As a result, I became really interested in learning the Burmese language. If you want to understand people, especially from an anthropological perspective, language is an essential component. The ANU Myanmar Research Centre is a dynamic hub for lectures, workshops and other activities. The concentration of knowledge at ANU around Myanmar and, more broadly, the Asia-Pacific region, made it the best place for me to pursue my PhD."



Literary Chinese

Literary Chinese, or Classical Chinese, is a written language that matured long before China first became an empire in the Qin dynasty (221-206 BCE). China's governing and elite cultures continued to use this language for nearly three millennia. A command of Literary Chinese is indispensable for studying any aspect of Chinese literature, thought, history, politics, or society before the 20th century, and even beyond.

✓	Minor (four courses)
✓	Study abroad opportunity
✓	Learn on campus
✓	Learn online
✓	Available via Open Universities Australia
✓	Can be incorporated into Masters programs

Why study Literary Chinese at ANU?

- Engage with the most extensive program of Literary Chinese instruction in Australia, including advanced-level courses unique in the Anglophone world
- Access ancient documents from the first millennium BCE to the present, including millennia-old bamboo slips
- Take advantage of such resources as the Classical and Literary Chinese Reading Group – a fun, collaborative forum for text-reading and discussion

Overview

The influence of Literary Chinese endures in the present, as the great legacies of Chinese culture have been largely preserved in this medium. Idioms, syntax, style, and allusions of Literary Chinese continue to pervade the modern language and social discourse. Without a grounding in Literary Chinese, it is impossible to gain a full understanding of newspaper articles, literary works, and scholarly prose written in contemporary Taiwan, Hong Kong, or the People's Republic of China. Literary Chinese has also shaped the linguistic and cultural traditions of Korea, Japan, and Vietnam.

The ANU Literary Chinese language program is unique for the analytical depth and its breadth of coverage.

Beginner and intermediate courses introduce the main grammatical structures of texts from the pre-Qin era (before 221 BCE); they then apply those lessons to texts from later periods. From there, the program boasts a range of advanced courses on particular subjects, including anecdotal literature and historical narrative, Buddhist philosophy and excavated texts. These advanced-level courses enable students to engage extensively with specific registers of language and so raise them to a proficiency rarely matched elsewhere.

Students are also equipped with the reference tools and contextual information needed for translation, critical analysis, and full historical understanding. An emphasis on close reading of texts and arguments allows even those familiar with this textual tradition to reach new levels of understanding. Courses in Literary Chinese can be studied individually as electives – by students enrolled in Modern Chinese language courses or by interested students from other disciplines – or as part of a Literary Chinese minor. Some knowledge of written Modern Chinese or a related dialect, or a background in Japanese or Korean, is recommended before enrolling in Literary Chinese.



Alex
Bachelor of Arts/Economics

"Studying Literary Chinese, the language of most Chinese literature up to the 20th century, is undoubtedly the best decision I have made at ANU. It is not only exciting in itself, but also challenges and encourages me to expand my knowledge of Mandarin. Through studying Literary Chinese, I have greatly improved my ability in Mandarin and gained a rare key to accessing and understanding thousands of years of Chinese history, culture and thought."



Languages



Chinese (Mandarin)

China is reshaping the world in the Asian Century. As Australia's largest trade partner and the second-largest economy in the world, China's 'rejuvenation' is creating dynamic opportunities for those proficient in Mandarin. Our intensive program puts students on the fast track to fluency, making it the best university for mastering the world's most-spoken language.

✓	Major (eight courses)
✓	Minor (four courses)
✓	Advanced minor (four courses)
✓	Can be incorporated into Masters programs
✓	Study abroad opportunity
✓	Learn on campus

Why study Chinese (Mandarin) at ANU?

- ANU is recognised as having the highest standard nationally for teaching Mandarin*
- Accelerated learning through separate spoken and written courses
- Immersive in-country study opportunities at 15 partner Chinese universities
- World-class expertise at The Australian Centre on China in the World

* 2017 ANU China Studies Review

Overview

Modern Chinese (Mandarin) is the official language of China, the country with the longest written history and also the largest population in the world. The Modern Chinese language program is designed for students from beginner to advanced level. Our aim is for students to become confident enough to handle translating and interpreting tasks. We have a very experienced team of professional language teachers, many of whom are active in research about China or in Chinese language education.

Students enrolled in our program will receive a systematic and well-tailored, step-by-step training by the end of which they will be able to read Chinese newspapers, understand Chinese TV programs or interviews, write essays in Chinese and communicate freely with one fifth of the world's population.

The Modern Chinese language program offers courses mostly on campus. You have the flexibility of choosing between a major (48 units), a minor (24 units) or a Chinese Language Diploma. Many of our students choose a combined degree of a major or minor in Modern Chinese Language, and most of them have gained a highly competitive edge in the current job market. The Modern Chinese language program is closely linked with the Chinese Studies Program at ANU. Together, they provide maximum opportunities for you to explore your own interests in not only the Chinese language but also a deep understanding of Chinese culture, history, society and thought.



Catherine
Bachelor of International Relations/Languages (2017)

"I started Chinese from scratch at ANU and completed the fantastic, intensive first-year program. At the end of just two semesters of study, I was able to go and live in China for two months over the summer break. The classes definitely challenge you, but it's completely worth it. I'm now an intermediate to advanced speaker in a language I only picked up two years ago. The teachers are incredible, guiding and supporting me where I need it to ensure I reach my potential."



Cantonese

Cantonese is a vibrant and widely spoken language with deep historical and cultural significance. Originating from parts of Guangdong and Guangxi Provinces in China, as well as Hong Kong and Macau, Cantonese has flourished across Southeast Asia and Chinese communities worldwide, including North America and Australia. It carries the voices of early Chinese immigrants, including the first Chinese Australians, and embodies a rich cultural heritage that blends traditional Chinese values with the unique Cantonese outlook on life.

✓	Learn on campus
✓	Counts towards Chinese major, minor and specialisation

Why study Cantonese at ANU?

- ANU is home to Australia's only university-based Cantonese language program.
- You will develop practical communication skills in spoken Cantonese.
- You will gain a deeper understanding of the connections and differences between Cantonese and Mandarin.

Overview

Cantonese is a major variety of Chinese, spoken by more than 83 million people worldwide. It is the dominant language in Guangdong and parts of Guangxi of mainland China and serves as the de facto official language of Hong Kong and Macau. In Australia, Cantonese is the fourth most spoken language after English, with over 295,000 speakers.

At ANU, our Cantonese program is designed to help you develop strong speaking and listening skills, allowing you to communicate confidently in everyday situations. We also equip students with the knowledge to distinguish between Cantonese and Mandarin and the ability to informally interpret between the two, a valuable skill in diverse professional and social settings.

Start your journey with Cantonese at ANU and explore a language that connects people, cultures, and histories across the world!



Kevin
Bachelor of Arts/Education

"As a student at the University of Canberra, I chose to study Cantonese at ANU via the cross-institutional study mode. I really enjoy the learning environment at ANU, especially as someone who is studying teaching and interested in different ways of learning. As a native Mandarin speaker, I wanted to learn more about China from a different perspective. Learning Cantonese has given me a unique insight and, as someone who has my own small business, it has also allowed me to meaningfully communicate with customers."

Languages



French

French is spoken by approximately 300 million native speakers on five continents, and is studied by 50 million learners. It is an official language of 32 states and governments, most of which form what is called in French La Francophonie, the community of French-speaking nations.

✓	Major (eight courses)
✓	Minor (four courses)
✓	Advanced minor (four courses)
✓	Study abroad opportunity
✓	Learn on campus
✓	Can be incorporated into Masters programs

Why study French at ANU?

- Learn from passionate and leading academics at the cutting-edge of research
- Global learning opportunities through field schools (including Global Paris and Global Vietnam) and exchange programs
- Study at one of the dozen partner universities in France, Belgium, Switzerland, Canada, New Caledonia or French Polynesia

Overview

Studying French at ANU is a rich and rewarding experience. The French Language and Culture major aims at developing students' ability to understand, pronounce and speak standard French and to read and write French as it appears in newspapers, magazines, media, cinema and literature. All courses emphasise the importance of critically engaging with Francophone culture, history, politics and society, and draw on a variety of material from written, audio-visual and electronic sources.

Students gain fluency in French while expanding their knowledge of France, in both European and global contexts (e.g. Africa, Asia, North America and the Pacific), and of French and francophone culture (e.g. literature, film and philosophy).

Students' entry level depends on their prior knowledge of French, and the exact sequence of courses leading to the major depends in turn on the point of entry.

French is a rewarding major for undergraduate students enrolled in an Arts, International Relations, International Security Studies, Art History and Curatorial Studies, History, Linguistics, the PhD, or Languages degree. Potential graduate pathways include careers in teaching and research, international relations and development, translation, law, diplomacy, tourism, journalism, and cultural heritage.



Isabella
Bachelor of Political Science/International Relations (minor in French Language and Culture)

"I loved studying French at ANU because I made a lot of progress in such a short period of time. I'd never studied French before taking my first class at ANU, so I was amazed at how much I learnt in two short years of study! Now, I'm on exchange at McGill University in Québec, Canada, and I wouldn't be here today using French in my day-to-day life without ANU brilliant teaching. Picking up French has easily been the best decision I've made during my studies!"



German

German is one of the world's major languages and is the most widely spoken language in the European Union. As the largest economy in Europe, Germany is also one of Australia's most important trading partners. Closely related to and classified alongside English and Dutch, it is spoken by over 100 million native speakers worldwide and is a widely learned language around the world.

✓	Major (eight courses)
✓	Minor (four courses)
✓	Advanced minor (four courses)
✓	Study abroad opportunity
✓	Learn on campus
✓	Can be incorporated into Masters programs

Why study German at ANU?

- Courses offered from beginners' to advanced levels
- Students will gain a critical understanding of German Studies through a broad cultural studies lens by looking at language, linguistics, literature, society and film
- Study abroad at ANU-partner universities in Germany and Austria

Overview

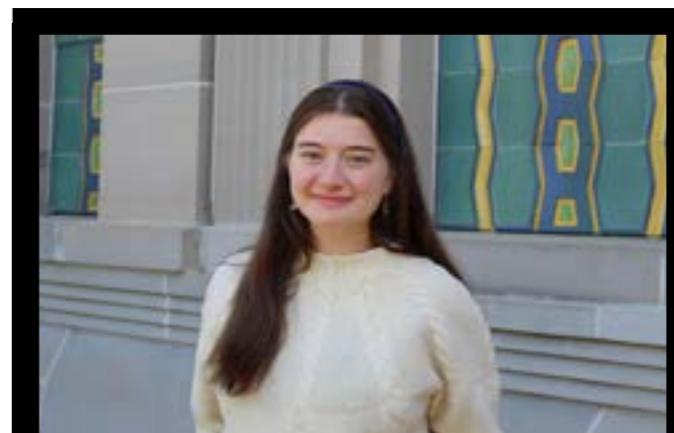
German Language and Culture courses at ANU are aimed at students who seek to develop a high level of competence in German language as well as a critical understanding of German-speaking cultures. At upper levels you can choose to take topics courses related to Black Germany, Gender, Literature and/or Performance Studies, Contemporary German Society, Germans and Indigenous Peoples and German Film. Courses are offered from beginners' to advanced levels.

With a rich literary and philosophical heritage, German is a language of culture, science, technology, business and international relations. This role has increased

since Germany's reunification, with Germany playing a leading role in European politics. Its capital Berlin, famously declared "poor, but sexy" by the city's mayor, boasts dynamic art and youth culture scenes: "Berlin ist cool!"

Students are encouraged during their degree to take advantage of various exchange programs at ANU partner universities in Germany and Austria (Berlin, Bielefeld, Bonn, Freiburg, Munich, and Vienna) and study abroad. You will receive credit for courses studied abroad and scholarships are also available.

The exact sequence of courses depends on your language proficiency when beginning German at ANU. If you have previous knowledge of German you will be asked to sit a placement test to determine the appropriate entry level.



Jemima
Bachelor of Art History and Curatorship/Business Administration (minor in German language and culture)

"I loved studying German at ANU and it was one of the reasons I chose ANU in the first place! I wanted to continue my studies in the language from high school and ANU was one of the only places that would afford me that flexibility. I found the complexity of the language compared to English challenging but I loved the conversations in class it sparked about gender and history. I also loved the opportunity to branch out into another culture, and use some of the crossovers in other courses. The language skills I learnt became invaluable when navigating around Germany recently on holiday."

Languages



Hindi

Learning Hindi, the fourth most-spoken language in the world, offers links into diverse networks, cultural enrichment and unprecedented career prospects. Its grammar and vocabulary are related to English and other Indo-European languages, while its phonetic script can be learnt by most students in a matter of weeks.

✓	Major (eight courses)
✓	Minor (four courses)
✓	Can be incorporated into Masters programs
✓	Study abroad opportunity
✓	Learn on campus
✓	Learn online
✓	Available via Open Universities Australia

Why study Hindi at ANU?

- ANU is the only Australian university to offer a Hindi major
- Access to world-class research at the ANU South Asia Research Institute
- Hindi is offered from first-year introductory through to fourth-year advanced levels
- In-country study options are available for higher year-level courses

Overview

Less than 10 per cent of the 1.8 billion people who live in South Asia (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh) speak English. A large majority of South Asians speak Hindi or one of its sister languages such as Urdu. Learning Hindi gives you direct access to the current lives and historical experiences of one quarter of humanity and to hundreds of years of cultural, religious, and artistic traditions. Speaking Hindi will also give you an understanding of Urdu. Both of these languages are amongst the fastest growing languages in Australia and Indian communities worldwide.

The Indian diaspora globally has a diverse history that is often tied together by languages like Hindi. Learning Hindi through ANU would be the perfect complement to students studying global health, international relations, political science, development studies, economics, linguistics, law, trade and the arts.

The ANU Hindi program is designed to be student-centred, flexible, and supportive. Hindi is an accessible language for English speakers. You will learn to read and write in the Devanagari script, which will give you access to written Hindi. It is also the script used for other languages in South Asia such as Nepali, Marathi, and Sanskrit. In the first year, we start by equipping students with the skills to talk about their own lives in Hindi. This progresses to intermediate levels of Hindi where students learn how to talk about and analyse the experiences of people in the Hindi-speaking world. Advanced students can dive into specialised areas of interest.



Jacqui
Bachelor of Arts/Development Studies

“I went to India on my gap year and really enjoyed the culture. I started learning Hindi while I was there and knew it as something I wanted to continue. Being able to speak the language, even just a little bit, allows you to understand India’s culture on a deeper, more meaningful level. If you approach Hindi with enthusiasm and belief in yourself that you can do it, it becomes easier. The small class sizes mean you get a lot of attention, which enriches the learning experience.”



Indonesian

Indonesian is one of the easiest Asian languages to learn, but with more than 200 million speakers around the world, you’ll always find someone to connect to with the skills you gain. In business, culture, science, security or politics, studying Indonesian at ANU is a whole new world.

✓	Major (eight courses)
✓	Minor (four courses)
✓	Can be incorporated into Masters programs
✓	Study abroad opportunity
✓	Learn on campus

Why study Indonesian at ANU?

- Australia’s longest-running, most comprehensive Indonesian program
- Cultural activities held in partnership with the Indonesian Embassy
- The ANU is home to leading Indonesia-focused research and graduate training
- Study abroad at Indonesia’s top universities
- 8 courses in Indonesian make up the language major, including advanced offerings for students with prior learning

Overview

Indonesian is one of the easiest Asian languages to learn, but with more than 200 million speakers around the world, Indonesian language skills will help you connect ’ll always find someone to connect to with the skills you gain. In business, culture, science, security or politics, studying Indonesian at ANU is a whole new world.

Indonesian is the official language of Indonesia, the world’s biggest archipelago and one of the world’s most populous democratic nations. It is the second-most biodiverse country in the world; has over 700 living languages, each with a distinctive culture. Globally, Indonesian is spoken by over 200 million speakers, one of the top 10 most spoken languages in the world. As well as being a crossroad for global trade over many centuries, Indonesia it has inspired

some of the great intellectual theories of nature and society. Growing trade, regional security and digital innovation are among key areas of cooperation between Australia and Indonesia. As bilateral ties enter a new era, Indonesian language skills can unlock new opportunities in one of the world’s fastest growing economies.

Studying Indonesian at ANU is a unique learning experience. In-class learning and in-country programs facilitate linguistic and cultural fluency. Our language instruction, taught by highly experienced teachers, stresses the development of communication skills to enable students to Indonesian in a range of situations in everyday life. Not only will students be able to converse on topics of relevance and interest to Indonesian speakers, but they will also be able to read and write the language as it appears in the media and in literature. Advanced graduates will gain high-level Indonesian language skills in analysis and communication, enhancing their qualifications and opportunities for employment in a wide range of fields, such as NGOs and development, media, education, government, business and commerce.



Kate
Bachelor of Medical Science / Arts
Major in Indonesian Studies, Minor in Asian Studies

“I decided to study Indonesian at ANU because I want to work as a health practitioner in Indonesia. Developing a comprehensive understanding of the culture and language is crucial to achieving my goals as a doctor. One of my favourite memories was being selected to participate in a public health program in Indonesia through ACICIS, facilitated by ANU. My first trip to Indonesia was amazing, and the language skills I gained made it easier to communicate and understand the health issues, especially the cultural nuances around health and medicine. I love how Indonesian allows me to engage in complex conversations and explore different perspectives on a wide range of topics. The small class sizes and close-knit cohort at ANU have made learning Indonesian even more rewarding, and I’m grateful for the support from my lecturers and peers. I couldn’t recommend studying Indonesian at ANU enough!”

Languages



Italian

The study of Italian, complements studies in international relations, international business, sociology, political science, history, development studies, anthropology, contemporary Europe, music, literature and art.

✓	Major (eight courses)
✓	Minor (four courses)
✓	Advanced minor (four courses)
✓	Study abroad opportunity
✓	Learn on campus
✓	Can be incorporated into Masters programs

Why study Italian at ANU?

- Flexibility with other degrees including philosophy, languages and classical studies majors
- Learn from Australia's top scholars of Italian Studies
- Go beyond the language and learn about Italian cinema, literature, politics, history, dialects, linguistics and culture
- Broaden your horizons and study on exchange at ANU-partner universities in Bologna, Siena and Milano

Overview

Learning Italian will give you access to one of the richest European cultural traditions, spanning the Renaissance to the present day. Italy holds 60% of the UNESCO World Art Heritage sites, is the country of innovative technological and fashion design and architecture, and is home to Dante, Michelangelo, Artemisia Gentileschi, Calvino, Eco, Verdi, Fellini, Wertmuller and Rita Levi-Montalcini.

Italian is one of the official languages of the European Union. It is also one of the most widely spoken languages other than English in Australia, with over 220,000 speakers according to the 2021 Census: there are currently more than 300,000 students of Italian at all levels in Australia.

In studying Italian at ANU, along with acquiring the ability to communicate in a variety of contexts in Italian, you will learn about cultural, social and historical aspects of Italy. By using your Italian skills to access first hand material in Italian, you will gain deeper insights than can be obtained through translation. The staff of the ANU Italian Studies Program are well known for their expertise in teaching Italian language and culture.

Students may choose to study Italian within a Bachelor of Arts or within a specialised program such as the Bachelor of Languages, Bachelor of International Relations or Bachelor of International Security Studies. Students may also combine any of these Bachelor degrees with other degrees on offer at ANU through the Flexible Double Degree.

Italian may be studied as a major (eight courses), a minor (four courses), an advanced minor (four advanced courses), a specialisation (four courses done upon completion of a major in Italian) or as an elective (single courses).



Dan
Bachelor of International Relations/Laws

"Studying Italian at ANU allowed me to spend a semester living and studying in Milan. I had the chance to reconnect with my heritage, and meet like-minded students from all over the world."



Japanese

The depth of ties between Australia and Japan means that knowledge of the language will be a valuable asset for many years to come. Studying Japanese as a major can have many linguistic and cultural benefits that reach well beyond the classroom.

✓	Major (eight courses)
✓	Minor (four courses)
✓	Advanced minor (four courses)
✓	Can be incorporated into Masters programs
✓	Study abroad opportunity
✓	Learn on campus

Why study Japanese at ANU?

- ANU has partnerships with 18 Japanese universities, with study programs ranging from one month to one year
- The ANU Japan Institute is Australia's largest network of scholars with professional expertise on Japan
- Access more than 130,000 volumes in Japanese, the largest collection in the Southern Hemisphere, at the Menzies Library
- Join the famous ANU Za Kabuki troupe, the longest-running ensemble of its kind outside of Japan

Overview

The Japanese language program offers a comprehensive list of courses from foundational to advanced, including many thematic and specialised courses. Japanese is an orthographically-intense language. In order to assist the well-balanced acquisition of the four language skills, spoken-and written-focused courses are separately offered to beginners in the first year.

There are plenty of advanced courses after completing the first eight courses that make up a Japanese language major. The four advanced courses, all of which are thematic courses, focus on current affairs, literature, culture, society and other topics. The program also offers research-oriented and specialised courses (e.g. translation and Japanese language teaching) to students with a high proficiency of the language.

Students will have various opportunities at different stages of their learning to spend time studying at one of the partner universities in Japan. We have 18 active partners, all of which are top-ranked universities in Japan. Study options in Japan include in-country language courses during the summer break, exchange/semester in Asia programs, and our flagship Year in Asia (Japan) program. Competitive scholarships are available for in-country studies to qualified students. Self-sourced learning abroad opportunities are also available.



Amy
Bachelor of Languages

"Asia-Pacific Day at ANU was a life-changing event for me. During a panel discussion, I remember hearing an ANU College of Asia & the Pacific student talking about his experience studying in Akita, Japan. During my final year of my degree, I had the opportunity to study in the same city and it was an incredibly rewarding experience. In the Japanese program, our learning is more accelerated. Compared to other languages where you might need to study for three years to fulfil a major, here you can do it in two years and take fascinating non-language courses exploring manga, film, gender, law, society and many other areas that give you a well-rounded understanding of Japanese culture."

Languages



Korean

The benefits of learning Korean go well beyond being able to sing along with your favourite K-pop idol. Australia and South Korea are natural economic, political and strategic partners with common interests. The Korean Peninsula is also a hot spot for international relations and security studies. Wherever your interest lies, there are many benefits to adding Korean to your degree.

✓	Major (eight courses)
✓	Minor (four courses)
✓	Advanced minor (four courses)
✓	Can be incorporated into Masters programs
✓	Study abroad opportunity
✓	Learn on campus

Why study Korean at ANU?

- Access the world's top research and expertise through the ANU Korea Institute
- Immerse yourself in the language on exchange at one of the seven ANU-partner universities in Seoul
- Acquire expertise on Korean language, history, gender studies, literature, film and music
- Pursue your passion for music and dance with students in the ANU Korean Pop Culture Club

Overview

Korean ("Hangeul" in ROK and "Joseonmal" in DPRK) is the official language spoken in the Korean peninsula along with eight regional dialects. More than 80 million people speak Korean worldwide. Korean is renowned for its indigenous and easy phonetic script, Hangeul.

In an era of rapidly growing connections between Korea and Australia, the study of Korean gives students opportunities to explore a new culture and prepare for their future as global citizens.

Korea is currently Australia's fourth largest trading partner, a key ally, and acknowledged as one of the world's most innovative nations.

The ANU Korean language program is designed to balance learning to communicate in spoken and written Korean with developing the ability to access the rich cultural resources available through Korean literature, film, and society. Gaining an understating of the language will give you an in-depth historical and sociocultural understanding of issues facing Korea and its responses to the world. It equips students for a global job market and provides them with intercultural communication skills that help them build strong relationships with people from different cultural backgrounds.

Students at ANU can pursue their Korean language studies through one of our study-abroad options. Our flagship Year in Asia program, semester abroad and short course programs give students the opportunity to study Korean at some of the most prestigious universities in Seoul.



Tracy
Bachelor of Law/International Security Studies

"I've always had a passion for Korean because I love K-pop and Korean culture. Indeed, many students are attracted to the Korean program because of these 'soft power' influences. However, the current international security climate makes it a prime time to learn Korean. I hope to work in the region and use my language skills, either in diplomacy or interpreting. Our lecturers are more focused on grammar structure, reading and writing. In the tutorials, we use that knowledge to practice with our peers through speaking. I didn't expect such a positive impact to come from learning Korean. Being able to understand films, TV shows and music is really exciting!"



Latin

If you want to understand a culture, you need to understand its language. Latin was spoken by Romans drinking in the tavern, watching games in the arena, and debating politics in the senate house. It is the language of graffiti scrawled on walls in Pompeii, ribald love poetry, heroic epics, and the fables of former slaves. After the end of the Roman Empire, Latin retained a central place as the language of European history, law, oratory, and science.

✓	Major (eight courses)
✓	Minor (four courses)
✓	Advanced minor (four courses)
✓	Can be incorporated into Masters programs
✓	Learn on campus

Why study Latin at ANU?

- Read the speeches of Cicero, the poems of Vergil, the travels of Egeria, and the histories of Tacitus in the original Latin
- Study Roman coins and inscriptions in the ANU Classics Museum
- Learn from Australia's top classical languages experts
- Study a versatile language that can be combined with Classical Studies, History, Philosophy, Politics, Art History, Archaeology, Ancient Greek and more!

Overview

Learning Latin is fun, exciting, and rewarding. Beginners will commence their Latin study with an introduction to the principles of language before moving on to detailed examination of a wide variety of genres and authors from the Roman Republic to Late Antiquity. You will engage in close textual analysis and

explore the history and culture of the world in which Roman authors wrote.

You will explore the many different contexts in which Latin was used, such as graffiti and funerary inscriptions, their accompanying styles and registers, and the manifestations of regional and chronological variation. Learning Latin enables you to access the voices and experiences of Romans, from enslaved workers and Christian pilgrims to the emperor himself.

Proficiency in Latin is highly recommended if you wish to specialise in the study of Greece and Rome; medieval and early modern history; law and rhetoric; philosophy and politics; art history; or archaeology. Studying Latin will enrich your understanding of the English language and other European languages which evolved from Latin, such as French, Italian, and Spanish. Graduates with knowledge of Latin have the ability to analyse, critique, and research language, literature, and culture.

No previous knowledge is required to study Latin at ANU. You can commence with Introductory Latin and proceed all the way to Advanced level. If you have studied Latin at school or another institution, you are able to commence at the Intermediate or Advanced Level. Please contact the program convenor to discuss the best entry route.



Cecilia
Diploma of Languages (Latin and Ancient Greek)

"I enjoy the Latin program at ANU and the way it fosters an appreciation for the language and its place in the Roman world, and how it has carried throughout history to today. As part of our studies, we are very lucky to have the ANU Classics Museum collection available to students across a range of disciplines who can engage with material culture from the Greco-Roman world, including objects with Latin inscriptions."

Languages



Mongolian

Located in the heart of Central Asia, Mongolia is an increasingly important bilateral partner to Australia. Steeped in historical memory and cultural tradition, today Mongolia is making its mark as one of Asia's fastest-growing economies. Studying Mongolian offers huge potential for innovative research and career prospects.

✓	Minor (four courses)
✓	Can be incorporated into Masters programs
✓	Study abroad opportunity
✓	Learn online
✓	Available via Open Universities Australia

Why study Mongolian at ANU?

- The ANU Mongolian program is the only such university program in the Southern Hemisphere
- Flexible delivery online for those outside Canberra or with work commitments
- Experiential learning opportunities in Mongolia for undergraduate students
- Home to the world-class ANU Mongolia Institute

Overview

Mongolian is spoken by about seven million people, living in Mongolia and provinces within China, Russia and across Central Asia. As a new democracy, a country with huge mining resources and one of the world's largest commodity exporters, Mongolia faces significant social, economic and ecological challenges. Learning Mongolian at ANU complements studies in history, anthropology, archaeology, geology, international relations, political science, environmental science, development studies, economics, linguistics, law and public health.

The ANU Mongolian language program is designed to be student-centred, flexible and supportive.

ANU is the first university to offer four Mongolian language courses as a minor online. The courses are a convenient, easy and fun way to learn a language. Students start by learning Modern Mongolian and the use of the Russian Cyrillic script. At the end of the first year of study, you will be able to converse about daily life in Mongolian. This progresses to an intermediate level, where students learn how to converse using a more complicated sentence structure and idioms, as well as how to write short reports and essays. Through learning the language, students are also introduced to Mongolian culture and traditions.

ANU offers student scholarships to study within an in-country intensive program in Mongolia through the Australian Government New Colombo Plan initiative.



Supriya
Bachelor of Asian Studies/International Relations

"When I was introduced to Mongolian at ANU during a summer course, I absolutely fell in love with it. We had our classes in the ger (a traditional Mongolian yurt on campus), which we also assembled on our own. I'd never had an experience like that course. It wasn't just about learning the language, but also learning the culture. During winter in 2017, I took part in a two-week study tour to Mongolia. There we saw how the mining sector, an important area of cooperation in Australia's relationship with Mongolia, is increasing exchanges between the two countries. There are also many opportunities for those with Mongolian language skills in legal, financial and tourism services."



Persian

Persian/Farsi is the most widely spoken member of the Iranian branch of the Indo-European languages. More than 100 million people speak Persian around the globe. However, it is spoken primarily in Iran, a country which plays a crucial political role in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf region. Persian is also spoken in Afghanistan, Tajikistan and in some regions of Central Asia and the Middle East.

✓	Major (eight courses)
✓	Minor (four courses)
✓	Advanced minor (four courses)
✓	Can be incorporated into Masters programs
✓	Study abroad opportunity
✓	Learn on campus
✓	Learn online
✓	Available via Open Universities Australia

Why study Persian at ANU?

- Benefit from the deep expertise at the ANU Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies (CAIS)
- Broaden your horizons into one of the world's ancient civilisations by studying in Iran
- Enhance your cultural literacy through studying Persian history, art, music, film and society
- Study online as either an award or non-award student

Overview

Persian is influential, unique, poetic and beautiful. It is unique, because unlike other languages, it has moved seamlessly out of its medieval past into the status of an official language in three modern countries without undergoing any significant modification. Due to the longevity and relative stability of New Persian — which emerged in the 8th century CE — Persian written documents from that time have been fully legible across generations over a period exceeding a millennium up to the present time. The same language is now a key language of international affairs, global politics and world-known literature; demonstrated by the masterpieces of Ferdowsi, Khayyam, Sa'adi, Rumi and Hafiz. Persian literature has influenced the works of European writers such as Victor Hugo, Voltaire, Lamartine, Maeterlinck, Goethe and F. Scott Fitzgerald,

as well as many Arabic, Turkish and Urdu writings, and thus many Persian words are retained in those languages. Therefore, gaining proficiency in Persian exposes students to the rich resources and cultural heritage of the Middle East throughout millennia.

Studying Persian at ANU requires no previous knowledge of the language and can be learnt both online and on-campus. Through studying Persian at ANU, students quickly master the Persian script and on completion of the major are able to speak, listen, read, write, and comprehend Persian across various everyday communicative subjects in semi-formal and formal social and literary contexts. Students will also acquire a familiarity with Persian's deep historical, literary and cultural legacy across the Middle East and Central Asia.



Alexa
Bachelor of Laws (Honours)/Middle Eastern and Central Asian Studies

"Persian is my favourite program at ANU. I decided to study this language as I was attracted to Iran's rich and artistic history, as well as the recent focus on Iran at an international level. While learning how to write and speak in Farsi, the course simultaneously teaches you the history and current situation of the land as well as its cultural practices and festivals. The class environment is supportive and the teachers exceptionally engaging. Additionally, the small class sizes ensure that the teachers respond to the needs of each student. The Persian culture is a wonderful one to become familiar with, as it is an inclusive community which responds to any desire you have to learn more about the language or culture. It has made me very excited to visit Iran one day and perhaps even work with its community in the future."





Russian

Russian is the language of a major world power and the lingua franca of many millions of people in the countries of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. It is the basis of a unique literary culture, of film, drama and opera, and the language of a large body of scientific literature. It is also the language of a large immigrant community in Australia. Studying Russian at ANU provides the linguistic grounding on which students may build a familiarity with that rich cultural tradition.

- ✓ Minor (four courses)
- ✓ Learn on campus
- ✓ Can be incorporated into Masters programs

Why study Russian at ANU?

- Broad applicability with degrees and disciplines including Bachelor of Arts, International Relations, Contemporary Europe, Art History and Curatorial Studies, History, International Security Studies and many others
- Regular engaging panel discussions as part of the ANU Language Teaching Forum

Overview

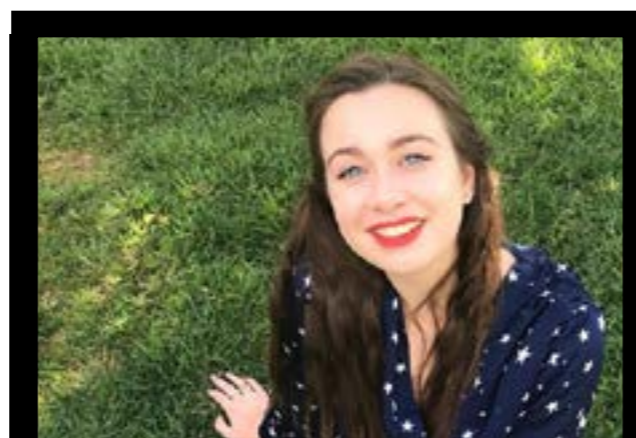
Russia is the world's largest nation, bordering European and Asian countries as well as the Pacific and Arctic oceans. Consequently, Russia is an immensely important and significant player in global affairs and diplomatic relations. As such, any understanding of the language will serve students well as they graduate and enter into the workforce.

Russian is taught as a minor at ANU. Beginner Russian courses are offered on campus, and Intermediate Russian courses can be completed through Macquarie University in distance mode.

Upon successfully completing this minor students will be able to: read, comprehend and infer authors'

meanings in media such as newspapers, magazines, literary and academic texts written in Russian; engage in short conversations in Russian with clarity and accuracy; write texts in Russian with correct script and grammatical structures, and appropriate vocabulary and; identify aspects of Russian-speaking cultures and societies as evident in Russian language texts and other media.

Through studying Russian at ANU, students are better prepared for careers in organisations, businesses or government agencies dealing with, or based in, Russian-speaking countries. There are promising career pathways for Russian-language graduates including in international organisations, diplomacy, national security and strategic advising agencies, translation, language teaching and many other fields.



Maddy
Bachelor of International Relations/European Studies

"My teacher, Dr Elena Govor, went above and beyond to help us all to learn her language. She was also an invaluable supporter of my application to study abroad in Russia."



Sanskrit

Sanskrit, the classical language of India, opens new worlds into timeless Hindu and Buddhist traditions and is relevant to those interested in yoga and meditation.

- ✓ Major (eight courses)
- ✓ Minor (four courses)
- ✓ Advanced minor (four courses)
- ✓ Can be incorporated into Masters programs
- ✓ Learn online
- ✓ Available via Open Universities Australia

Why study Sanskrit at ANU?

- ANU is the only university in Australia to offer a full one-year Sanskrit major
- It is ideal for yoga practitioners aspiring to teach – or just stimulate their chakras (inner psychic-energy centres)
- Students collaborate in weekly online sessions to speak, chant and sing together
- Learn Sanskrit as a living tradition through this highly innovative award-winning program

Overview

Sanskrit is the key to the civilisational treasures of Indian culture, history and thought. As the language of Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism, Sanskrit provides direct access to a vast repository of literary, scientific and philosophical wisdom and is the primary language of classical Indian art, music, dance, literature and religion. Sanskrit is also essential for students of historical and comparative linguistics and provides a basis for the study of modern Indian languages. Many of our students are yoga teachers or practitioners, adherents of Indian spiritual traditions, and students of South Asian heritage who wish to learn more about their cultural roots.

The Sanskrit program at ANU is unique worldwide as we teach the language as part of a living tradition. Unlike most other programs, we seek to balance the reception of the language with its production.

In our class, in addition to the essential study of grammar and texts, our students learn to sing, chant and speak Sanskrit. Following the first year, during which we cover basic grammar and conversation, we explore some of the great classics of Sanskrit literature, including the epics, dramas, courtly poetry and philosophical texts. At the same time, students explore the historical and philosophical setting in which these works evolved and the role they play in Indian culture. By the end of our program, our graduates are confident, competent and independent scholars, well prepared to embark on further research in Sanskrit studies.



Divya
Bachelor of Arts/Laws

"My family has been chanting Sanskrit mantras for generations, but I never before understood the meaning or symbolism behind the words. My decision to study Sanskrit has been one of the best I've ever made; I only wish I had known about it earlier in my first year. It's given me a new perspective into my own culture and broadened my horizons as a student. As an on-campus student, I attend classes in person but I also take part in the online lectures. There are online students from all over the world, drawn to ANU because Sanskrit is such a niche language to learn that attracts likeminded students."



Languages



Spanish

Studying Spanish opens the door for you to excel at a major international language. With more than 400 million speakers globally, Spanish is the second most widely spoken native language (after Mandarin) in the world, and is one of the six official languages of the United Nations, the Mercosur, the European Union and the African Union, to name a few. Spanish is a language rich in literature, significant in international affairs and trade and, in the Australian context, a vibrant community language with over 170,000 speakers. According to the 2021 Census, it is the 9th most widely spoken language other than English.

✓	Major (eight courses)
✓	Minor (four courses)
✓	Advanced minor (four courses)
✓	Learn on campus
✓	Study abroad opportunity
✓	Can be incorporated into Masters programs

Why study Spanish at ANU?

Studying Spanish at ANU prepares students for a global career, from both the linguistic skills you acquire, and the critical understanding you gain of the society, history and culture of the Spanish-speaking world. We bring our research into the classroom, to offer a range of courses covering such topics as Hispanic literary studies, Hispanic Film, and Hispanic Linguistics. Students are exposed to Spanish as used across the Spanish-speaking world, and a wide variety of sources including newspapers, magazines, media, cinema, songs and literature are drawn on.

- Learn from Australia's leading scholars in Spanish studies
- Go global and study abroad at one of our many partner universities in Spain and Latin America
- Study flexibly with degrees and disciplines including International Security Studies, Political Science, Linguistics, History, Contemporary Europe, Art History and Curatorial Studies, the PhB (Bachelor of Philosophy with Honours), and Bachelor of Languages

- Undertake internships in Spanish-speaking embassies

Overview

Through studying Spanish at ANU, you will develop the skills necessary to communicate and function in Spanish in a wide range of environments. You also will become familiar with culture and society in Latin America and Spain, developing an understanding of linguistic, social, political, economic and cultural issues. Students can begin their Spanish major or minor at any level, and those with a background in Spanish can take a more specialised minor, in Advanced Spanish. Students are encouraged to study in Spain or Latin America at one of our partner universities, and can apply for an Ethel Tory Scholarship to support your study and travel while you are a student at ANU.

The study of Spanish is a natural complement to studies in international relations, international business, sociology, political science, history, development studies, Latin American Studies, anthropology, contemporary Europe, and more. Graduates in Spanish go on to fulfilling careers in a wide range of employment areas, including working in education, publishing houses, government departments and international agencies, journalism, tourism and a wide range of enterprises that deal with the Spanish-speaking world.



Alex
Bachelor of Arts (Honours)

"The Spanish department at the ANU is amazing, and I enjoyed every moment of my Spanish studies. The experience goes beyond language acquisition — it is also about the history and vibrant cultures of the Hispanic world. The faculty arranges lectures by ambassadors from Spanish-speaking countries and offers opportunities for embassy visits. I took courses that explored Spanish language cinema and the evolution of Hispanic literature. They were true eye openers. Also, language classes are great for making lasting friendships as they offer so many opportunities to interact during and outside of class."



Taiwanese (Southern Min)

Taiwan holds a key geopolitical position in East Asia, and studying its language and culture at ANU offers a unique perspective that is valuable for careers in international relations, diplomacy, and regional studies.

✓	Study abroad opportunity
✓	Learn on campus

Why study Taiwanese at ANU?

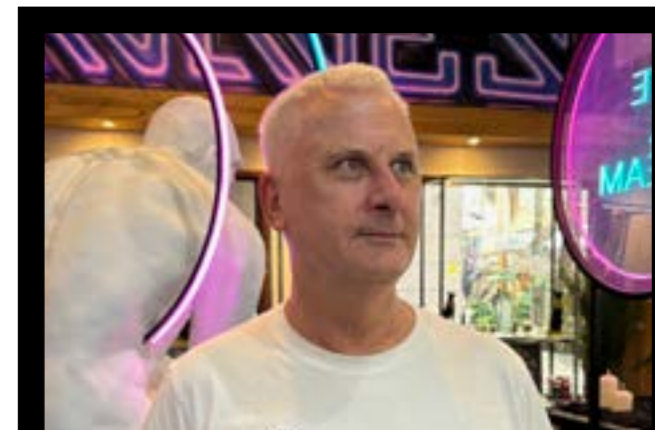
- ANU expertise in East Asian studies, including Taiwanese culture, history, and language, ensures a high-quality learning experience
- Learn from Australia's top scholars and experts on Taiwanese language and culture
- Broaden your horizons and study on exchange at ANU-partner universities in Taiwan

Overview

This course provides an in-depth introduction to contemporary Taiwanese, also known as Holo, a language belonging to the Hokkien or Southern Min (Minnanyu) branch of the Sinitic language family. Taiwanese is widely spoken in Taiwan, particularly in daily life, business, and media. It is also used in the southern region of Fujian Province in the People's Republic of China, as well as in many overseas communities, particularly in Southeast Asia, where generations of speakers have preserved and adapted the language.

The course focuses on fundamental aspects of Taiwanese, including pronunciation, grammar, and sentence structure. Students will develop the ability to conduct basic conversations, use essential vocabulary, and engage in written communication. Through practical exercises, they will learn to express ideas in everyday situations, improving both listening and speaking skills.

Beyond language acquisition, this course also explores the cultural and historical influences that have shaped Taiwanese over centuries. It introduces students to traditions, folk customs, and linguistic features unique to Taiwanese society. Additionally, as one of the oldest surviving Sinitic dialects, learning Taiwanese deepens an appreciation of traditional Chinese poetry and literature, offering insight into its rich linguistic heritage and its connection to broader Chinese cultural expressions.



Benjamin Penny
Taiwanese convenor

"Studying Taiwanese at ANU offers more than just language skills; it's an opportunity to engage with a rich cultural history, expand your global perspective, and connect with one of Asia's most vibrant communities. Whether you're passionate about Taiwan's unique culture, its dynamic role in the global economy, or its fascinating linguistic heritage, learning Taiwanese will give you the tools to deepen your understanding and make meaningful connections. I encourage you to embark on this journey with us, and in doing so, you'll not only learn a language, but also open doors to new experiences, relationships, and ideas that will shape your future."

Languages



Tetum

Timor-Leste is one of Australia's closest neighbours, but few people realise just how close. Ties between both countries are increasing through international security, trade and development projects. As a niche language, Tetum affords its speakers unique advantages across diverse career and research pathways.

- ✓ Minor (four courses)
- ✓ Can be incorporated into Masters programs
- ✓ Learn online
- ✓ Available via Open Universities Australia

Why study Tetum at ANU?

- ANU is the only university in Australia that offers Tetum
- Students can complete a full minor in Tetum
- Learn from Australia's top scholars and experts on Timor-Leste
- Study flexibly through our online delivery model

Overview

Timor-Leste, as part of the Southeast Asian archipelago, has a deep human history and its cultural heritage contains traditional Timorese, Portuguese, Chinese and Indonesian facets. The study of Tetum is essential for anyone wishing to understand Timor-Leste's society, culture and history. When Timor-Leste gained independence in 2002, Tetum was adopted as one of the country's two official languages. Due to its colonial history, Tetum has strong linguistic influences from Portuguese. In addition, many words in Tetum are derived from Malay. Despite Timor-Leste being one of Australia's closest neighbours, experts on Timorese language and culture outside the country are rare.

ANU is the only university in Australia that offers Tetum, providing a program with a specialised and flexible approach. In our classes we read and engage with Tetum-language media, write and speak the language. Because of Tetum's grammatical simplicity, students usually move quickly in their language progression.

Our courses, all of which are offered 100% online, range from beginner to advanced level. In Tetum, students will gain a practical command of basic Tetum and an elementary capacity to read Tetum newspaper articles with the help of a dictionary. In the most advanced course students learn how to discuss and write about a variety of topics including government officials and functions, health, the environment and Timorese history.



Jade
Bachelor of Arts (Linguistics)

"Most of the time when I say I learn Tetum, people don't even know what it is. It's definitely overlooked and underrated. It's definitely a niche language and a great way to stand out."



Thai

The rapid rise of Southeast Asian economies means Thai speakers are well-placed to seize growing opportunities in trade, diplomacy, research and cross-cultural collaboration.

- ✓ Major (eight courses)
- ✓ Minor (four courses)
- ✓ Can be incorporated into Masters programs
- ✓ Study abroad opportunity
- ✓ Learn online
- ✓ Learn on campus
- ✓ Available via Open Universities Australia

Why study Thai at ANU?

- ANU is the only university in Australia to offer Thai as a major
- The ANU Southeast Asia Institute is the premier national research hub on Thai politics, language and society
- ANU gives you the opportunity to study on exchange in Bangkok and Chiang Mai

Overview

Thai is a member of the Tai-Kadai family of tonal languages and the national language of Thailand, a country of ancient traditions, tropical beaches and spectacular cuisine. It is spoken by the majority of Thailand's 70 million people and has a unique writing system and script. Thai language and culture encapsulate the linguistic diversity and rich history of the South and Southeast Asian region. A part of Thai vocabulary and traditional cultural concepts are derived from Pali, Sanskrit, Mon and Khmer.

As the only country in the region that was not directly colonised, Thai history and political dynamics have been a subject of academic and international-relations studies. Recently, the inclusive youth movement and socio-political dynamism have brought international attention to Thailand. Understanding Thai language paves the way to both traditional and contemporary Thai worldviews including Buddhism, art, literature, popular cultures and sub-cultures.

The ANU Thai program is designed to develop students' receptive, interactive and productive skills in a supportive learning environment. Both spoken and written Thai are emphasised alongside cultural knowledge and exploration. In the first year, students learn the tones, consonants, vowels, essential grammar, polite particles, writing system, and a range of simple sentence patterns, which enables them to use the language in day-to-day situations. Students complete translation exercises and increase their exposure to the language through audio-visual media and converse on selected topics in class.

In the advanced courses, students learn how to talk about and analyse current affairs and complex socio-cultural, economic and political issues in Thailand. Advanced students can pursue specialised areas of interest. ANU Thai major students also have an option to engage with Thailand through an in-country study program.



Luke
Bachelor of International Security Studies

"At a time when it is more difficult to set yourself apart from others, choosing to learn Thai is a great decision. Australia's Embassy in Bangkok is one of its busiest in the world. DFAT is consistently communicating with its Thai counterpart, which is why I believe the decision to study Thai is invaluable. Australia needs more people who can speak Thai, not only to enhance insight into how things are run in the country but also to help guide policy decisions in the region."



Languages



Tibetan

Understanding Tibetan allows speakers to access rich cultural texts and traditions, to play a part in preserving these traditions and gain contemporary links to a country and region undergoing rapid change.

✓	Minor (four courses)
✓	Can be incorporated into Masters programs
✓	Learn online
✓	Available via Open Universities Australia

Why study Tibetan at ANU?

- Taught entirely online with engaging online materials
- ANU is the only university in Australia to offer multiple Tibetan language courses
- Understand travel and culinary etiquette, and key concepts of Tibetan identity and Tibetan Buddhism

Overview

Tibetan is the most widely spoken language in the Himalaya. It is spoken in Tibet, parts of China, northern Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan and parts of India. It is also used in Mongolia by followers of Tibetan Buddhism. It has an alphabet of 30 letters, no punctuation and has a unique counting system.

As the only living language that gives direct access to the ancient Bon religion and Mahayana Buddhism, Tibetan opens the door to a vast repository of literary, scientific and philosophical wisdom, and is the primary language of classical Tibetan art, music, dance, literature, medicine, history, astrology and logic. Apart from classical literature, Tibetan also provides a window to the modern Tibetan art and literature including movies, novels, poems, music, songs, and news. Tibetan is also essential for studying the culture, history and languages of the Himalayan region.

The ANU Tibetan program introduces students to the language in both its spoken and literary forms. By the end of our program, our students can confidently pronounce all Tibetan consonants, vowels, and the changes that occur when letters are

stacked and recognise the Tibetan Uchen script. You will be able to use the basic colloquial sentence structures that will allow you to conduct everyday conversations and to read simple Tibetan texts, and demonstrate an understanding of the importance of family, travel and surroundings to people who inhabit the high mountains of Tibet.

Our program was one of the first at ANU, and the first Tibetan program worldwide, to be offered with an entirely online option. Our first-year program is based on Introduction to the Tibetan Language (ANU Press), a well-designed multimedia introductory eTextbook. Each week, students work through the eTextbook lesson, which includes reading, writing and speaking exercises, before meeting for a 1.5 hour workshop. During the online classes, we review the week's material, talk, and compose together. Our teacher is a native Tibetan who has rich experiences in teaching Tibetan to non-Tibetan students. The program is available to any ANU student, or to external students and interested members of the public through Open Universities Australia.



Venerable Alex Bruce
Associate Professor, Law

"To apply for the DPhil in Comparative Theology at Oxford, I was required to demonstrate proficiency in two ancient languages. Since my thesis brings early Patristic Christian texts into dialogue with certain Indo-Tibetan Buddhist texts, I was keen to study Ancient Greek and Classical Tibetan. Happily, both of these languages were offered by the ANU and I enrolled as an undergraduate in the Bachelor of Classical Studies to study Greek. I was also able to take two subjects in Tibetan language, Colloquial and Classical Tibetan as electives. I am now working with both of these languages here in Oxford as part of my research."



Tok Pisin

Tok Pisin is one of the three national languages of Papua New Guinea, together with Motu and English. With more than 6 million speakers it is the most widely spoken language in the country, and the fastest growing language in the Pacific. Knowing Tok Pisin enables one to communicate widely in Papua New Guinea, beyond the small circle of English-speakers.

✓	Minor (four courses)
✓	Can be incorporated into Masters programs
✓	Learn online
✓	Available via Open Universities Australia

Why study Tok Pisin at ANU?

- ANU is the only university in Australia that offers 4 courses of Tok Pisin which together constitute a language minor
- Flexible study options through online delivery model: you can join our online live classes from anywhere the world
- Learn from Australia's leading experts on Papua New Guinea
- Understand cultural issues and current affairs in Papua New Guinea

Overview

Learning Tok Pisin through the ANU program gives students a deep insight into Papua New Guinea's diverse cultures, history, politics and economics. It also puts into context the relationships between Australia, Papua New Guinea, the Pacific and other global powers with political and economic interests in the region. Following the first year, during which basic grammar and conversation is taught, we embark on exploring authentic spoken Tok Pisin through a variety of audio-visual materials recorded in real-life situations and explore various non-technical topics such as the history of the language, the spiritual world, ancestral stories, witchcraft and violence, logging and mining, elections and politics...

Students completing Tok Pisin as Minor will gain competence in speaking, listening, reading and

writing. They will be equipped to communicate in culturally appropriate ways in various social situations. This will place them in a favourable position to confidently pursue research, work, travel and any other interests related to Papua New Guinea.

Tok Pisin is the language that connects culturally and linguistically the most diverse nation in the world. Though largely built on English vocabulary, it carries the richness of Melanesian expression, deriving from many languages of Papua New Guinea. The last few decades saw this pidgin-turned-creole reaching far beyond its historical label 'Pidgin English' and becoming the cultural and political vehicle of a modern nation.

The ANU Tok Pisin program is the first Pacific creole program in the world to be offered entirely online. Our courses are designed to give each student confidence to speak and a friendly space to learn. ANU students, external students or interested members of the public through Open Universities Australia, may complete two years of Tok Pisin with us, doing one course per semester, as part of a degree, or on a non-award basis.



Caroline Hendy
PhD Candidate

"I'm a PhD student in linguistics at ANU, researching how children learn language in Papua New Guinea. Taking the Tok Pisin course was a fun and essential part of my fieldwork preparation — it was engaging, well-structured, and full of practical applications. It gave me the skills I needed to navigate PNG with confidence and connect meaningfully with people there."



Languages



Turkish

Turkish is the official language of Türkiye and it is also spoken by millions of people outside of Turkey as a minority language, second language or a heritage language. Modern Turkish is written with the Latin alphabet like English, but has additional letters and very simple spelling rules. It is a part of the Uralo-Altaic family of languages and its closest cousins are to be found in Central Asia. It has similar grammatical structures to Hungarian, Finnish and even to Japanese and Korean. Turkish language also contains many words adopted from Arabic and Persian, as well as from other local and European languages.

- ✓ Study abroad opportunity
- ✓ Learn on campus
- ✓ Can be incorporated into Masters programs

Why study Turkish at ANU?

- ANU is the only university in Australia that offers a Turkish program
- Learn from Australia's top Turkish experts in language and culture
- Access deep expertise and world-class research at the ANU Centre of Arab and Islamic Studies
- Participate in global study programs with partner universities in Turkey

Overview

The Turkish language program provides students with linguistic and cultural skills to communicate effectively in a variety of daily situations. There are many benefits to learning Turkish at ANU. The program is offered online using high quality resources and teaching and learning technologies. Interactive study modules and classes offer both the flexibility and guidance to students to navigate the experience of learning a new language.

Turkish language offers access to a rich and dynamic culture through media, particularly music, cinema and television drama, and enables a greater appreciation of a diverse tradition and modern literature. Turkey is a rapidly growing regional and global power and fundamental knowledge of Turkish language provides a deeper insight into Turkish politics and society, and increases opportunities.



Xiaoli
PhD candidate

"I started to learn the Turkish language as a part of my PhD studies at the ANU Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies both to support my research at the Turkish and Ottoman archives and conduct interviews during my fieldwork. Turkey has a dynamic economy and a tremendously rich history. In this respect, Turkish language skills are the key to have more opportunities in the job market and for better research in history, politics and international relations. In addition, learning Turkish has exposed me to a vibrant lifestyle and colourful culture."



Vietnamese

Vietnam is now home to Southeast Asia's fastest growing middle-class. As the sixth most-spoken language in Australia, Vietnamese is highly valued in many domestic sectors where your proficiency can put you ahead of the pack. There are also bright business opportunities for speakers in Vietnam, which is one of Asia's fastest-growing economies and one of Australia's key trade partners in the region.

- ✓ Major (eight courses)
- ✓ Minor (four courses)
- ✓ Can be incorporated into Masters programs
- ✓ Study abroad opportunity
- ✓ Learn online
- ✓ Available via Open Universities Australia

Why study Vietnamese at ANU?

- ANU has the longest-running, most comprehensive Vietnamese program of any Australian university
- Gain firsthand field research through the ANU Vietnam Field School, a dynamic in-country study program
- Improve your language skills and make friends through the ANU Vietnamese Students' Association
- Study beginner to advanced Vietnamese online

Overview

Do you think that Vietnamese is difficult? Probably yes. But, despite the common perception that Vietnamese is a difficult language, it is actually not hard to learn. First, the Vietnamese alphabet is based on the Latin alphabet, which makes it easier for English-speakers to read and write Vietnamese. Second, the grammar is simple – no verb conjugations, tenses are easy and often optional, no gender, virtually no plurals and no articles etc. Moreover, if you are proficient in Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Thai or Lao, you will have a remarkable advantage and it would be exciting to explore how much Vietnamese language is right at the intersection where Northeast and Southeast Asian languages meet. So, despite the claim that Vietnamese is hard, in fact, everyone can learn Vietnamese!

Vietnamese is spoken by nearly 100 million people in Vietnam and is the native language of approximately four million Vietnamese residing overseas. The language is the gateway into one of the world's most dynamic and fastest growing economies and is essential in engaging with the country's friendly people and exploring its rich and diverse culture.

Vietnamese courses at ANU are highly interactive and engaging. The first year of the program helps you become confident in conversational Vietnamese, particularly in the most challenging part of learning a tonal language – the pronunciation and the various tones. From Year 2 and above, while developing language skills remains the primary focus, understanding cultural elements embedded in the language and learning about the culture and society through the language is an integral part of the Vietnamese program.

The Vietnamese program is offered in entirely online mode, therefore providing flexibility and accessibility to not only ANU students but also external students enrolled through Open Universities Australia.



Michael
Bachelor of Arts/Asian Studies (Honours)

"I became interested in learning Vietnamese during a holiday in Vietnam. I wanted to continue learning when I returned to Australia. If you're interested in linguistics, tonal languages like Vietnamese are fascinating to study. As part of my Honours research, I have carried out field work in Da Nang, Vietnam, to analyse the pitch and tone of local speakers. Apart from the scholarships available to students of smaller languages like Vietnamese, having it as a major or minor can set you apart from the crowd and open up unique career pathways."



How your language fits into your degree

There are many ways to explore languages at ANU. Some language programs offer majors (8 courses) and some offer minors and specialisations (4 courses). Some languages are available as one-off intensive courses or a year long study program. All of our language courses are available for both undergraduate and postgraduate students.

Many students study a language as part of the Bachelor of Arts or the Bachelor of Asian Studies. Those who want to specialise in two or more languages choose to study a Diploma of Languages or the Bachelor of Languages, which also allows them to include translation courses and linguistics courses. Others incorporate a language into a specialist degree that focuses on a particular geographical or cultural area, for example:

- Bachelor of International Security Studies
- Bachelor of Asia-Pacific Affairs
- Bachelor of International Business
- Bachelor of International Relations
- Bachelor of Pacific Studies
- Bachelor of Philosophy (Honours) (Asia Pacific)

Students may also combine a number of these degrees with other degrees on offer at ANU through an ANU Flexible Double Degree (e.g. Bachelor of Commerce, Law, Science, etc.).

Students may further continue their language study as honours or postgraduate students. ANU offers several language-focussed postgraduate programs including:

- Master of Asian and Pacific Studies
- Master of Diplomacy
- Master of General and Applied Linguistics
- PhD opportunities



No prior language knowledge is necessary to study languages at ANU, but if you do have prior knowledge of the language you want to study, you can sit a placement test to assess your eligibility to start at a higher level. The exact sequence of courses you take during your program depends on your language proficiency when you start studying.

Students from other universities may be able to enrol in our language programs as cross institutional students. If you are currently enrolled in a degree at another Australian university, and you would like to study a language at ANU for credit towards your degree, you can apply to study at ANU as a cross-institutional student.

Those not wanting to commit to a whole degree can study language with us as either non-award students, or audit some of the courses with the Centre for Continuing Education.

Career opportunities



ANU graduates are rated as Australia's most employable graduates and among the most sought-after by employers worldwide. In 2025, the Global Employability Ranking, published by Times Higher Education (THE), rated ANU as Australia's top university for getting a job for the 15th year in a row.

The international outlook you will gain as an ANU language graduate can lead to career opportunities in the following fields:

- Communications
- Community development
- Defence
- Diplomacy
- Journalism
- Language analysis
- Language teaching
- Tourism
- Trade
- Translation and interpretation

Former students have also enjoyed successful careers with non-government organisations (NGOs), including aid, human rights and humanitarian agencies, and foreign government agencies.

In international business, including banking, finance, trade and marketing, your language qualification can equip you with expertise on the specific needs of regional markets and policies, allowing you to provide risk analysis for companies investing in or exporting to the region, and to negotiate contracts, business deals and joint ventures.

With a specialist undergraduate or graduate degree,

you can use your regionally-specific knowledge and skills to succeed in a wide range of sectors both in Australia and overseas.

As former prime minister and ANU Asian Studies graduate Kevin Rudd AC can attest, Asian Pacific studies is particularly well-suited to improving your career opportunities in government departments and agencies with regional policy interests, including:

- Attorney-General's Department
- Department of Home Affairs
- Australian Federal Police
- Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO)
- Department of Defence
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

You will also find your language skills are in demand across a number of sectors, for instance, in government departments dealing with immigration, ethnic affairs, social welfare, health, and consumer affairs. Language graduates who complete a Diploma of Education can also teach languages in secondary schools.

Australian National Internships Program

The Australian National Internships Program (ANIP) is the perfect opportunity to begin networking and learn valuable skills if you're considering a career in policy, government, politics, or a wide variety of other fields. An internship with ANIP allows you to develop your academic and career skills through professional experience in the workplace.

Students have the opportunity to be placed with:

- Australian Commonwealth Parliament
- Australian Public Service departments and agencies
- ACT Legislative Assembly
- Non-government organisations
- Embassies, delegations and high commissions
- Think-tanks, chambers of commerce and research centres.

How to apply for domestic students

UNDERGRADUATE

There are two ways you can apply to study at ANU. The way that's right for you depends on whether you're a Year 12 school leaver or someone who left school a while ago.

Year 12 school leavers

Apply directly to ANU between March and May. Your application form will cover scholarships, student accommodation and admission, and could see you get an offer of a place in the most eligible degree on your list of preferences as early as September.

We will assess your application using your Year 11 or Year 12 results, whichever are better.

Visit the **ANU application portal**, including live chat: anu.edu.au/study/apply

Year 12 school leavers & nonschool leavers

Apply for admission to ANU through the Universities Admission Centre (UAC) later in the year. If you're a school leaver, though, you only need to apply via UAC if you missed out on applying directly between March and May.

Visit uac.edu.au for latest application dates and information.

POSTGRADUATE

Coursework

Apply directly to ANU to study in 2026. Make sure you meet ANU admission requirements before you apply.

For further information, visit the ANU application portal, including live chat: www.anu.edu.au/study/apply

Applications take 4–6 weeks to assess for the majority of programs. Offers are released on a rolling basis.

If you are in your final year of your bachelor's degree, you can apply for postgraduate study for next semester or next year now.

Higher degree by research (HDR)

Apply directly to ANU at any time. You must find a supervisor at ANU and meet admission requirements before you apply.

Explore Research areas: anu.edu.au/research/our-research

Apply online: study.anu.edu.au/apply/postgraduate-research

UNDERGRADUATE DIRECT APPLICATION DATES*

- > **3 March 2025**
Direct applications to ANU open
- > **15 May 2025**
Direct applications to ANU close
- > **4 September 2025**
Early offers released
- > **1 October 2025**
Early offer acceptance deadline
- > **30 January 2026**
Final offer acceptance deadline
- > **16 February 2026**
ANU Orientation Week
- > **23 February 2026**
Classes commence

POSTGRADUATE COURSEWORK DIRECT APPLICATION DATES*

- > **11 July 2025**
Semester 2, 2025 applications to ANU close
- > **13 February 2026**
Semester 1, 2026 applications to ANU close

*All dates are subject to change.

** Dependent on ATAR release date.



The co-curricular service requirement for domestic students

The skills you have gained outside the classroom during Years 10-12 will help you succeed at university. That is why when you apply to ANU, you will need to meet our co-curricular or service requirement along with the academic requirements for your degree program.

Skill to succeed

In your application, you will need to tell us about your involvement in activities outside the classroom. These can include such activities as volunteering, part-time work, caring for a family member or playing sport.

Meeting the co-curricular or service requirement

Refer to the matrix on the ANU webpage for examples of the type of activities that we recognise as meeting our co-curricular or service requirements.

Each activity is mapped against seven skills:

- Creative and critical thinking
- Community engagement
- Inclusion and awareness of diversity
- Communication
- Leadership
- Personal responsibility
- Teamwork

You have met the co-curricular or service requirement when you can demonstrate that you've attained **at least two of seven skills**.*

* If you are a domestic Australian school leaver in 2024 and wanting to apply for an undergraduate degree starting in 2025.

How the requirement works

- The co-curricular or service requirement is a threshold which is either met or not met. We won't use it to rank you against other applicants.
- The requirement does not modify your ATAR or ANU selection rank. You must meet it in addition to other admission requirements that apply to your preferred program.
- The requirements can be met through activities that were completed in Years 10, 11 or 12; and must be met at the time of application.
- You will need to provide supporting documentation with your application to confirm your participation in activities

For more information, go to anu.edu.au/study/apply/domestic-applications-anu-undergraduate/applying-to-anu-application-details/co

How to apply for international students

ANU welcomes over 3,500 international students each year. If you would like to be one of them in 2026, apply early for the best chance of success.

As an international student, you can apply directly to ANU, or use one of our international agents located around the world. The process is the same for both undergraduate and postgraduate applicants.

- ANU admits students twice a year, in Semester 1 and Semester 2.
- Semester 2 2025 applications close on May 2025 and Semester 1 2026 applications close on December 2025.
- You can apply for up to three programs, check our programs and courses catalogue to list the programs in order of preference. If successful, you will receive an offer to your highest eligible preference. To give you the best chance to receive an offer, we suggest not to list all three preferences with same entry requirements.
- To be considered for an offer, you must meet the prerequisite and cognate requirements for your preferred program, as well as the English language requirements. Learn more about the ANU assessment process - study.anu.edu.au/apply/international-applications/assessment.
- To find out if additional requirements apply, search our programs and courses website - programsandcourses.anu.edu.au.

APPLICATION TIMELINES

I am applying for a non-standard degree or honours program

- Some programs at ANU have specific application processes that have additional requirements.
- Find out more: study.anu.edu.au/apply/international-applications/anu-programs-additional-selection-criteria-international

I am completing my Year 12 in Australia, NCEA or IB:

- If you are completing an Australian Year 12, a New Zealand National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) Level 3, or an International Baccalaureate (IB), you need to apply through the Universities Admissions Centre (UAC).

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT APPLICATION DATES

- > **June 2024 – May 2025**
Semester 2, 2025
- > **March–December 2025**
Semester 1, 2026
- > **June 2025–May 2026**
Semester 2, 2026

Visit 'How to Apply' page for more information:



Take your language learning online

With more than a dozen languages taught online, ANU is at the forefront of the digital education revolution. Combining academic rigour with personalised flexibility, our unconstrained approach and commitment to innovation gives students the tools and support they need to succeed in language learning.

Online learning at a glance

When you study online with ANU you can learn what you want, when you want you're in control.

Our suite of sophisticated online learning tools enables a seamless study experience. You can upload your notes, essays and assignments. Lectures can be downloaded and saved to watch at a time that's convenient for you.

You can collaborate and connect with academic staff, mentors and peers without delay. Whether it be during a group discussion or live-stream seminar, you can ask questions (and get answers) in real time. Studying online doesn't mean you're confined to the digital world. You can also jump offline and head on campus to study on site, visit the library or meet with teachers.

How it works

Studying online enables you to learn at your own pace without compromising quality or support. Plus, our intuitive online learning tools will help you keep on top of your studies and stay connected to the ANU community.

What is WATTLE?

WATTLE (Web Access To Teaching & Learning Environments) is your personal hub for online learning at ANU, with easy access you to everything you need to succeed in your language learning journey.

For many of us, the thought of studying while juggling the demands of family and work can appear daunting, if not impossible. That's why we've developed an online learning platform that fits around you and your lifestyle.

Using WATTLE, you'll be able to take part in classes and seminars, connect with classmates and take exams. It's your online campus without walls where you can access units, plan your week and stay on top of your studies anywhere, anytime.

Learning with EPubs

ANU has an ever-growing collection of e-pubs, or digital books with embedded multimedia content, that make language learning fun and engaging. Students also get to collaborate with classmates and professors in weekly online video sessions that reflect the "flipped classroom" model.

Languages taught online

ANU College of Asia and the Pacific

Burmese

Hindi

Mongolian

Sanskrit

Tetum

Thai

Tibetan

Tok Pisin

Vietnamese

ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences

Arabic

Australian

Indigenous

Languages

Persian



Dean
Bachelor of Arts (Thai major)

"I work full-time for the Department of Defence, so being able to study at times that suit me is important. The support, responsiveness and communication from the academics is very strong. I also enjoy learning content tailored to my interest and experience. The instruction is highly personalised."



Australian
National
University

Contact us

ANU College of Arts & Social Sciences







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