



Australian
National
University

Classical Studies



1st
in Australia

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

*QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026

Classical Studies at The Australian National University (ANU) investigates the history, society, material culture, and literature of Ancient Greece and Rome and their reception and legacy in the modern world.

Why study Classical Studies at ANU?

What is the best form of government? Is there such a thing as a just war? How should we remember problematic individuals? How do we cope with grief and loss? What kinds of machines are most useful to humans? What are the values we should teach our children? How do we model religious tolerance?

The Ancient Greeks and Romans struggled with these and many other fundamental questions about the human experience through their histories, plays, poems, speeches, letters, and artistic works. Classical Studies at ANU places students at the heart of these conversations.

Our students join Thucydides and Aristophanes as they explore the devastating war between Athens and Sparta through Pericles' soaring funeral oration

and a wickedly hilarious female sex-strike. They accompany Alexander the Great and Cleopatra on campaign and trace the rise and fall of democracies and republics. They explore many stories of innovation and creation from Greek potters to the machines of Hero of Alexandria and discover the language of love and longing in the poetry of Sappho and Catullus. And they learn how Romans crafted and manipulated political rhetoric to justify colonialism and imperialism, a legacy which still haunts our contemporary world.

Career Opportunities

Classical Studies graduates have the ability to analyse, critique, and research history, literature, and culture. ANU Classics alumni have pursued successful national and international careers as: parliamentary advisors and researchers; senior officers at NGOs and think-tanks; strategists in the philanthropy sector; historians and curators in libraries and museums; authors, editors and translators in the publishing sector; teachers of Ancient History and Latin; university academics, administrators, and researchers in the fields of Classics, Music, Political Science, and Linguistics.

Classical Studies at ANU

ANU is ranked among the world's top universities, and has a strong international reputation in humanities, arts and social sciences.¹ The Centre for Classical Studies is one of the leading places to study Ancient Greece and Rome in Australasia. The Centre's internationally renowned staff have expertise in topics such as Greek and Roman science, religion, technology, music, poetry, drama, politics, environment, gender, material culture, and slavery extending from the 12th century BCE to the early Middle Ages (c. 500 CE). They also engage in research on museums and collection practices and the cultural legacy of Greece and Rome in the contemporary world.

You will benefit from a warm and supportive teaching environment, excellent library resources, including the Classics Centre's own collection of texts and dictionaries, and a vibrant student culture. Students receive hands-on training in the material culture of the Greek and Roman worlds in our Classics Museum, which features ancient art and objects illustrating daily life. The Centre for Classical Studies regularly hosts a distinguished array of international experts for seminars and workshops, connecting students with leading historians, literary scholars, and archaeologists from across the world.

Study Program

Students may choose to study a major in Classical Studies within the Bachelor of Arts. Students may also combine the Bachelor of Arts degree with other degrees on offer at ANU through Flexible Double Degrees.

Classical Studies may be studied as a major (8 courses) or a minor (4 courses). Many of our students combine Classical Studies with majors in Ancient Greek or Latin (no prior knowledge necessary) or with majors in History, Archaeology, English, Philosophy, and Politics.

Classical Studies courses on offer include:

- Classical Mythology
- Ancient Greece: History, Culture, and Society
- Ancient Rome: History, Culture, and Society
- Faith and Belief in Ancient Greece and Rome
- The Muse and the Machine: The Arts, Technology, and Society in Graeco-Roman Antiquity
- Alexander the Great and the Hellenistic World: An Age of Transformation and Discovery
- Democrats, Tyrants, and Emperors: The Art of Government in the Ancient Mediterranean
- Life, Love, and Loss in Ancient Greece and Rome
- Rome: The Eternal City from Antiquity to the Early Middle Ages
- Emperors, Pilgrims and Crusaders: The World of Byzantium



Hannah

Flexible Double Degree – Bachelor of Classical Studies & Bachelor of Art History and Curatorship Classical Studies major

Studying Classics at ANU has honestly been the highlight of my time at university.

I was able to learn ancient languages from beginner level and study a broad range of topics through the courses offered by the Classics Department. A definite benefit has been small class sizes which means that I have been able to get to know my classmates and lecturers over multiple semesters and has encouraged me to grow more confident and challenge myself.

It has been incredible to learn about topics that I previously had never considered – everything from Ancient Greek colonisation to Roman medical equipment! Something that I think is really special is that our classes never feel stuck in the past, even though we are studying events which occurred thousands of years ago. The Classics lecturers are so passionate, and always incorporate different ideas into their teaching which helps students to understand how deeply rooted Classics is in the world we continue to live in today.

Scholarships and Prizes

There are a number of scholarships available to current ANU students to help with the cost of your studies. Donors and benefactors, external organisations and the Australian Government fund many of the scholarships we offer. Visit the ANU scholarships page to find out more: anu.edu.au/students/scholarships

Further information

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

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