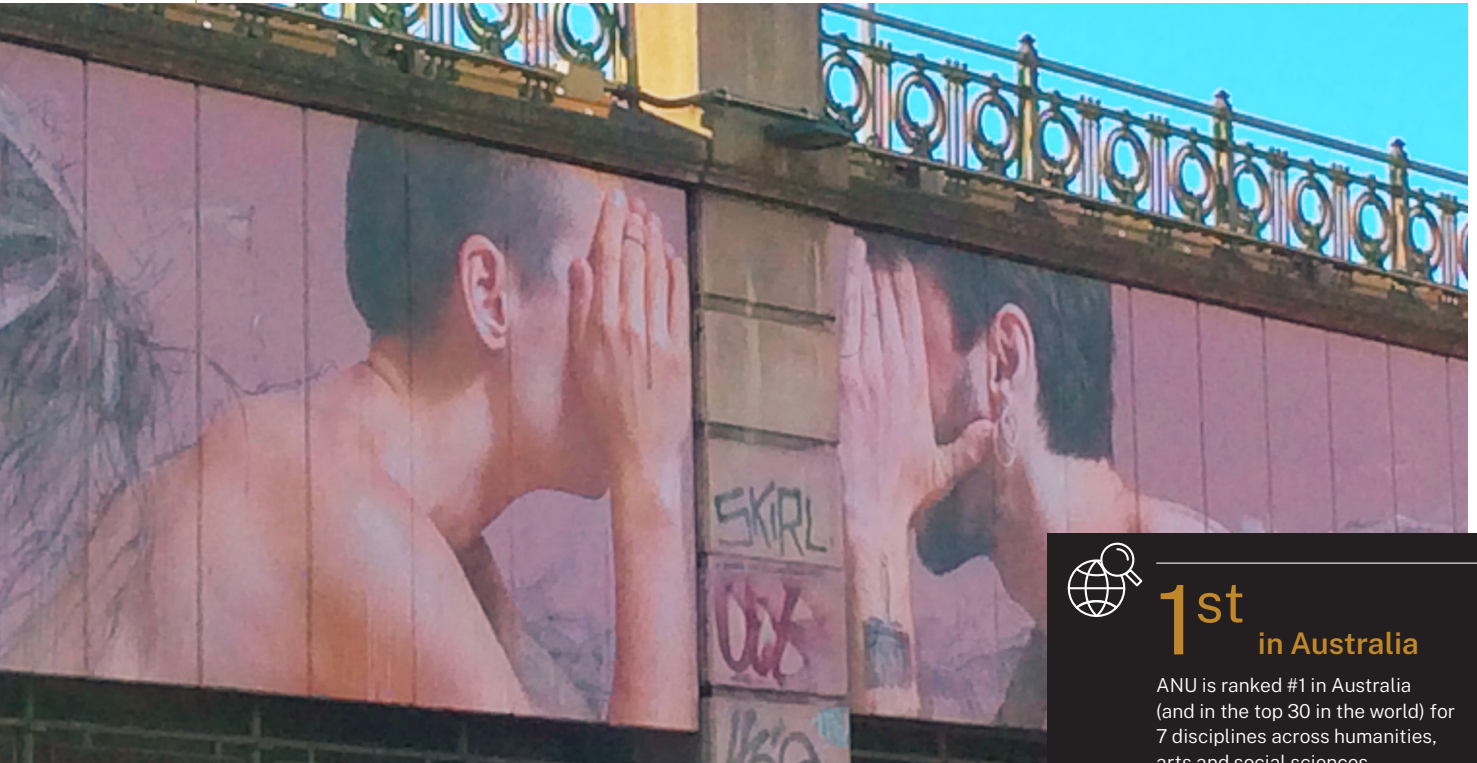




Australian
National
University

Criminology



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

Courses in the Criminology major examine crime, deviance, policing and punishment through interdisciplinary perspectives. The major provides a strong theoretical and methodological foundation for understanding criminality, disorder and social control within broader social, political and cultural contexts.

Particular attention is given to the socio-cultural and political-economic processes that shape how individuals and groups come to be labelled deviant, how power operates within criminal justice institutions, and how social inequalities influence exposure to policing and punishment. Students explore the interconnections between crime, representation, institutional authority and social justice, as well as the broader political implications of justice practices in contemporary societies.

As a 48-unit major within the Bachelor of Arts, this pathway allows students to combine criminology with another Arts discipline, offering flexibility while building core research and analytical capabilities.

Career pathways

In the Criminology major, you will learn about the drivers of crime and how society responds to it.

The breadth of knowledge that you learn can be applied to many different industries and institutions. Graduates may find work in government, intelligence, criminal justice institutions, social work, the non-government sector, research, consultancy, journalism and policy making.

Criminology at ANU

The ANU has world-leading criminologists and prides itself on excellence in research-led teaching. The Criminology team draws upon a range of

disciplines to offer the very best in contemporary criminological theory and understanding.

It will appeal to students looking for an engaging and stimulating program of study and wishing to immerse themselves in the exciting field of criminology.

Criminology students learn to:

- Describe the social construction of crime, deviance and social control;
- Describe the dimensions of crime and key trends in Australia;
- Acquire, interpret and communicate a range of data, both quantitative and qualitative, in areas of key criminological significance;
- Critically evaluate criminological theories and explanations of crime causation, deviancy and social control;
- Recognise the socio-political contours and impacts of the criminal justice system on different individuals and groups;
- Engage with policy issues and key debates within the field of criminology; and
- Recognise the social and cultural responses to crime, deviance and social control from an informed scholarly perspective.

Internships & study abroad opportunities

You can apply to do an internship through the Australian National Internships Program (ANIP). This program provides you with opportunities to undertake a research project in a workplace for which you will gain academic credit. Through ANIP you can be placed with the Australian Parliament, the Australian Public Service, or with non-government organisations. See anip.anu.edu.au

Criminology students often complete exchange semesters at partner universities overseas.

Prizes and Scholarships

The Toni Makkai Prize for Excellence in Criminology is awarded annually to the best performing graduate of either the Bachelor of Criminology or Criminology major. See study.anu.edu.au/scholarships and anu.edu.au/students/program-administration/prizes

Further information

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W cass.anu.edu.au/study



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Erin

Bachelor of Criminology (Honours)

I initially began my undergraduate studies with the goal of becoming a psychologist, enrolling in a double degree of Psychology and Arts. However, after taking CRIM1001 as an elective, I discovered my passion for criminology and switched to a double degree in Criminology and Arts.

My favourite thing about the ANU is the diverse internship, research and travel opportunities that I was exposed to in my undergraduate degree. Within my degree I was fortunate enough to travel to Vienna for a fieldwork course and intern at the Australian Institute of Criminology to complete a research internship.

These positive experiences inspired me to pursue an Honours year in criminology, culminating in a thesis that remains one of my most rewarding academic achievements to date. Here, I had the opportunity to collaborate with ANU's exceptional criminology academics, as well as academics from other disciplines such as law and sociology. These academics were all deeply invested in student success, which made the process even more fulfilling. It was through the relationships that I built in my honours year that I was able to co-author and publish a journal article in the *Alternative Law Journal*.

Studying criminology at the ANU led me to my first graduate role as a Policy Officer at the Attorney-General's Department in the law enforcement policy space. In this role, I gained access to many important government skills, such as writing Ministerial submissions, briefings and talking points. I was also able to actively contribute to the policy development process, from policy scoping papers to legislative drafting instructions. Ultimately, my degree has allowed me to develop a strong analytical lens and special knowledge of the criminal justice space, to actively contribute to criminal justice policy reform and apply what I have learned in practice.

All in all, I loved my time studying criminology at the ANU!