



Australian
National
University

Demography



Ranked

#1

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

*QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026

The study of Demography is essential to understanding and shaping the world around us.

About studying Demography

Demography is about how populations change across space and time. Demographers study not only the size and composition of populations, but also what factors lead to a changing population.

You will study population dynamics with a focus on demographic processes such as birth, migration, partnering, and death which are core processes of the development of culture, society, nation states as well as families and individual life courses. Demography is also concerned with the interactions between people and the natural and built environment.

Future cohorts of population analysts will improve the capacity for population policy research, and contribute to health and social issue professions, market research, government departments, international agencies and any organisation which needs to understand our changing world.

The study of demography also facilitates interdisciplinary learning, which is critical for understanding complex problems. It provides an avenue for collaboration and exchange of knowledge between academic disciplines, including for example, sociology, political science and international relations, history, indigenous studies, anthropology, law, economics, geography, health, environmental sciences and statistics.

Demography at ANU

The School of Demography at The Australian National University (ANU) is a world-class demographic research centre, which applies a research-led approach to teaching. Many of our academics are involved in international projects in the areas of fertility and family studies; mortality, ageing and health; and migration and spatial demography. You will be able to learn from our specialist researchers to study population change and address population issues.

Career Opportunities

Demographers study population change and its cause and effects. Their knowledge is sought after by many organisations. As such, career opportunities are often within, or for government and public service departments, as well as international NPOs and NGOs where high quality population information is needed for policymaking.

Demographic skills acquired through population research and analytics equip graduates with an understanding of population issues and policies. These competitive skills make better-trained specialists for the health and social care professions, insurance and superannuation professions and many other agencies that require a sound social analytical basis for decision-making.

Professional Outcomes

Our graduates have pursued a range of successful careers in both the public and private sector, succeeding in careers in places such as the Australian Public Service, the United Nations, the financial sector, and at leading universities around the world.

Flexible Double Degrees

The Bachelor of Arts can be combined with degrees in Law, Business or Science as part of the ANU Flexible Double Degree program. For a full list of degree combinations see study.anu.edu.au/study-options/flexible-degree-options-anu



Sophie

I was interested in studying demography because of how much I enjoyed geography in high school and current global population trends. I felt like this is an interesting area, with broad applications to the environment, town planning, global migration, family planning, and the economy.

I now see new and different links between countries that I hadn't known about, like countries that are on different sides of the world with declining populations due to their similar fertility and migration patterns. I have learnt about the extremes of the world and that many tiny countries can collectively alter global population patterns. The evolution of our world and the relationship between age structure and other factors of life has been really fascinating.

Studying demography has helped me understand where Australia sits in the world from a different perspective. I definitely would recommend taking at least one course, as a way of connecting different subjects together.

Further information

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