



Australian  
National  
University

# Development Studies



Development studies

**#1**

in Australia

#14 globally

\*QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026

Development studies at the Australian National University (ANU) explores the social, economic and political dynamics that characterise our interconnected but uneven world. The major examines the nature of development and how it arranges relations between individuals, communities, and nations in an economy that is more globalised than ever, but also fraying under the strains of new and existing inequalities.

This is an interdisciplinary major that draws on core concepts from anthropology, international relations, political science, and sociology. It offers a solid grounding in the histories and processes of development and a keen understanding of the institutions, discourses, and practices through which it is implemented.

## Career opportunities

Development studies prepares you for a variety of careers focused on economic, social or political development in Australia and abroad. Our graduates are employed in government agencies such as DFAT, non-governmental organisations and aid agencies such as Oxfam and World Vision, and international bodies such as UNICEF and the World Bank. Many graduates are engaged in policy making or work with multinational corporations in a range of capacities.

## Development studies at ANU

ANU is a leader in the field of development studies. It is ranked first in Australia and 14th in the world<sup>1</sup>. It has well-established relationships with Australian and international organisations.

As a development studies major, you will be able to take courses on regions such as Central Asia, the Middle East, China, Latin America, Oceania, and South and Southeast Asia. You can also take courses from allied disciplines including economics, environmental studies, political science, anthropology and sociology. By studying a language, you will gain a deeper understanding of how development operates across specific regions.

Development studies students learn to:

- Identify the theory and principles of development
- Analyse development practices
- Examine region-specific development problems
- Further their understanding of contemporary issues by engaging in social sciences.

## Internships & study abroad opportunities

As a development studies major, you can make the most of the University's location in the nation's capital. You can gain invaluable experience through internships with governmental and non-governmental organisations. You can also take advantage of opportunities to work and study abroad under the supervision of a local employer and an ANU faculty member. You can undertake projects and research which will be credited towards your degree. For information on the Australian National Internships Program (ANIP), see [anip.anu.edu.au](http://anip.anu.edu.au)

## Scholarships

There are a number of scholarships for both international and domestic students. For more information, see [study.anu.edu.au/scholarships](http://study.anu.edu.au/scholarships)



### Lavinia

**Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science**  
**Major: Development Studies**

I chose ANU because of the diversity and breadth of courses offered. There are lots of opportunities to specialise in issues of environmental sustainability and the anthropology of development.

The most surprising thing about my course is the opportunity to travel overseas with ANU and conduct self-directed research. I found the most personally challenging and rewarding experiences have been through my placement at AusAID as part of the Australian National Internships Program (ANIP) and an independent research project I was fortunate to complete whilst working in Bangladesh.

## Further information

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W [cass.anu.edu.au/study](http://cass.anu.edu.au/study)



ANU-School-Of-Archaeology-Anthropology



ArchAnthANU

<sup>1</sup>QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026