



Australian  
National  
University

# English



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

Students of English at The Australian National University (ANU) have the opportunity to work within a range of disciplines, including literary studies, drama, gender studies, and creative writing, in order to become more accomplished in critical reading, research, and analysis, and more effective in written and spoken communication.

## Studying English

We live in an information-rich age in which the notions of 'text' and 'narrative' are constantly evolving.

Studying English at ANU will focus your attention on a diversity of print and audio-visual texts, deepening your understanding of literary history and transforming how you think about reading, writing, and the practice of criticism. You will learn to read closely, carefully, and critically, engaging as you do so with major literary forms and genres. Readings will include primary 'texts' (such as books, poems, plays, audiobooks, films, creative works and more) and critical and theoretical texts that support interpretation and analysis.

You will become more proficient in writing, textual analysis, creative collaboration, and presentation, while improving your capacity for critical inquiry and argument.

You will also deepen your understanding of how literature has transformed and adapted, from spoken and print forms to visual, audio, digital, and social media.

## Career opportunities

Graduates of the ANU Bachelor of Arts with a major in English develop transferable skills in analytical reading, written and oral expression, and imaginative thinking. Career opportunities may include education, government policy and research, media, journalism, creative arts, and publishing.

## Study program

- ANU offers an outstanding variety of programs in which you can study English.
- English courses are offered from undergraduate to honours and postgraduate levels, and various enrolment options cater for different student needs.
- You can complete a Major or Minor in English literature within degree programs such as the Bachelor of Arts.
- You can also take individual courses in English literature as electives, including creative writing courses.
- Graduate degree programs available include the Master of Philosophy (MPhil) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD).

## English at ANU

ANU is ranked among the world's top universities, and has a strong international reputation in humanities, arts, and social sciences.<sup>1</sup> The English program at the ANU is one of the largest and most dynamic in Australia. We are known for our expertise in book history and reception studies; early modern studies; Australian literature; and the digital humanities. Researchers in English hold prestigious Australian Research Council fellowships and our research programs have attracted millions of dollars in external funding.

Works studied in English courses span the early modern period to the present day, and include theatre, film, and television, as well as printed texts. Our courses cover the major fields of Australian, British, Irish, and US literatures, while also asking how reading literature can help us approach urgent environmental, social, and cultural problems. Diverse staff expertise ensures that students are exposed to a range of theoretical and interpretive approaches.

Creative writing courses use workshop classes to develop and practice skills in writing for print, theatre, film, and television. You will also learn techniques for provoking debate, captivating your audience, and for editing your work with a view to publication and production.

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



### Jill

**Bachelor of Philosophy (PhB) (Hons)**

**Majors: English**

When I came to the ANU to study English, it was foremost because PhB Arts gave me the freedom to study whatever interested me most — be it poetry, theatre, or television — from the most broad to the most niche of my literary interests.

What I found was more than the opportunity to study widely: everyday I get to work with lecturers who are not only interested in what they teach, but in me, and in my thinking about English. ANU English has quite literally led me to meet my closest friends, while guiding me towards new, thought-provoking works and ways of thinking, ultimately giving me the needed push to strive further in my writing, and beyond.

## Flexible Double Degrees

As part of a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Languages, an English major can be combined with other Art and Social Science degrees as well as with degrees in Law, Business, Science, Engineering, and Computer Science as part of the ANU Flexible Double Degree program.

For a full list of degree combinations see [anu.edu.au/study/study-options/flexible-double](https://anu.edu.au/study/study-options/flexible-double)

## Further information

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



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