



Graduate Certificate of the Repatriation of Ancestral Remains and Cultural Objects



CRICOS code: N/A

Duration: 0.5 Year FT or 1 Year PT

Prerequisites: none



1st
in Australia

ANU is ranked #1 in Australia
(and in the top-20 in the world) for
9 disciplines across humanities,
arts and social sciences.

*QS World University Rankings by Subject 2024

From the earliest days of colonisation, Indigenous ancestral remains were taken from funerary sites and sent to museums worldwide. The theft and scientific misuse of First Nations bodily remains was a colonial violence, the impact of which continue today. Historically, Indigenous people opposed the theft of their ancestors when they could. From the 1970s the global repatriation movement began to emerge when First Nations, particularly in Australia, New Zealand, and North America started campaigning globally for the return of their ancestors and cultural objects. In some countries this prompted unprecedented change in museum policies and the teaching and practice of associated disciplines. Repatriation can play a fundamental role in healing and reconciliation. Today, repatriation of ancestral remains and cultural objects continues to be a key priority for Indigenous peoples in Australia and overseas.

As repatriation activity accelerates in Australia and overseas, this unique Graduate Certificate addresses an acute need for significant capacity building and advanced knowledge in the repatriation of Indigenous ancestral remains and cultural materials. As well as a rapidly increasing interest in repatriation as a topic of research in museum and heritage studies, repatriation is quickly becoming core business for museums, governments, and Indigenous community organisations. Applied and scholarly research in repatriation is mutually inclusive. In order to undertake repatriation work successfully, an understanding of its context and history is essential, with a priority on Indigenous perspectives, histories, knowledges and approaches. Taught by an Indigenous and non-Indigenous team with extensive expertise in repatriation research and practice, the Graduate Certificate fills a distinct gap in availability of programs dedicated to this important and transformative issue.



Employment Opportunities

These include the GLAM sector, Federal and State Governments, International Organizations and Inter-Governmental agencies, First Nations organisations, NGOs and private sector companies (e.g. heritage consultancies, auction houses etc.).

Learning Outcomes

1. demonstrate a broad knowledge of the removal and return of ancestral remains and cultural material, relevant policies, and provenance research;
2. demonstrate a critical and contextual understanding of practical and research skills required for successful repatriation;
3. reflect critically on the history of the removal and scientific use of First Nations ancestral remains and cultural objects and the rise of repatriation as a global movement; and
4. display cross-cultural leadership skills through engagement with self-reflective inquiry.

Cognate disciplines

Indigenous Studies; Heritage and Museum Studies

Prizes & scholarships

There are a number of scholarships for both international and domestic students. To find out if you are eligible see study.anu.edu.au/scholarships/find-scholarship

Admission enquiries

- A Bachelor degree or international equivalent with a minimum GPA of 4/7.
- All applicants must meet the University's English Language Admission Requirements for Students

Further information

T 1800 620 032
E futurestudent@anu.edu.au
W cass.anu.edu.au/short-courses

