



Australian  
National  
University

# German Language & Culture



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 2025

With a rich literary and philosophical tradition, German is a language of culture, science, history, technology, business and international relations.

German Language and Culture courses at The Australian National University (ANU) are aimed at students who seek to develop a high level of competence in German language as well as a critical understanding of German-speaking cultures. Courses are small-group, discussion-based and take a variety of interdisciplinary approaches. You can choose from courses in German language, literature, cultural and film studies. Courses are offered from beginners' to advanced levels. The exact sequence of courses depends on your language proficiency when beginning German at ANU. If you have previous knowledge of German you will be asked to sit a placement test in order to determine the appropriate entry level.

## Berlin ist cool!

Germany is the largest economy in Europe, one of Australia's most important trading partners and a world leader in environmental policy. German is the most commonly spoken first language in the European Union, with more than 100 million speakers, and is an official language of Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and Liechtenstein. Since Germany's reunification, it has played a leading role in European politics. The capital Berlin was famously declared "poor, but sexy" by the city's former mayor, and boasts dynamic art and youth culture scenes. Spending a semester at a university in a German-speaking country offers students the opportunity for additional language and culture study as part of their program. ANU currently offers exchange programs with universities in Berlin, Munich, Bonn, Freiburg, Vienna, and Zürich.

Students who study German Language and Culture at ANU learn to:

- Express themselves in German confidently and appropriate to the situation, including using the language for academic purposes, e.g. essay writing with referencing and class presentations;
- Read literary texts and understand German films in the context of German-speaking cultures, and how to analyse and critique them;
- Understand and reflect on current affairs in German-speaking societies;
- Identify and understand key aspects of 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century history of the German-speaking countries and relate this knowledge to their own cultural background;
- Critically compare and reflect on cross-cultural issues and thereby develop their intercultural awareness;
- Expand their research and communication skills, e.g. critical thinking, written skills.



## Caroline

**Bachelor of Languages**

**Major: German Languages and Culture; Linguistics**

"The German department at ANU is amazing," Caroline enthuses. "I thought, 'I've found my people!'"

While studying at ANU, Caroline undertook an internship with the German-Australian Chamber of Industry and Commerce. She did translation work as well as research for German companies on niche areas of the Australian markets.

Caroline is excited to go on exchange at Konstanz University in Germany. "I'll be doing a month-long intensive language and culture adjustment course before the actual semester starts in October. And then I'll be taking half of my courses in German and half in English." Caroline adds that she's looking forward to the challenge of taking a course that is intended for native German speakers.

German appeals to Caroline because, she says, it has so much character and there's a lot of history behind it. There are many German words that don't have an English equivalent. "Vergangenheitsbewältigung is this massive word that means coming to terms with the past, and it became really applicable after the Second World War.

## Study Program

ANU offers an outstanding variety of programs that cater to those students interested in studying a language.

Courses are offered from beginners' to honours and postgraduate levels, and various enrolment options provide for different student needs.

Students may also combine any of these Bachelor degrees with other degrees on offer at ANU through the Flexible Double degrees.

German Language and Culture may be studied as a major (8 courses), an advanced minor (4 courses), a minor (4 courses) or as an elective (single course or courses).

Core language and culture courses are offered at several different levels:

- Introductory German
- Intermediate German
- Continuing German
- Advanced German

Later year thematic courses, German Cultural Studies and German Literature and Culture, cover a wide variety of topics, including

- Black German Studies
- Contemporary German Society
- Berlin Stories
- Germans and Indigenous Peoples
- German Film since the Wall
- Gender in German culture
- German Performance Studies

## Prizes and scholarships

The School of Literature, Languages and Linguistics offers a variety of prizes and scholarships to students at an undergraduate, honours, and graduate level.

Visit our prizes and scholarships page to find out more:

[slll.anu.edu.au/students/scholarships](https://slll.anu.edu.au/students/scholarships)

## Flexible Double Degrees

As part of a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Languages, a German major can be combined with other Art and Social Science degrees as well as with degrees in Law, Business, Science or 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

T 1800 620 032

E [externalrelations.cass@anu.edu.au](mailto:externalrelations.cass@anu.edu.au)

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



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