



Australian
National
University

History



History

#1

in Australia

#17 globally

*QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026

Graduates of the Bachelor of Arts with a History major develop an understanding of everything from individual lives to broad cultural transformations and the character of the contemporary world.

Studying History

As a critical engagement with the past, history sharpens judgements, expands perspectives, and feeds curiosity. History finds connections in experience across time and place; it also confronts us with the need to understand the unfamiliar. Most of all, history is concerned with the skills of inquiry and argument and assists us to shape and present a view of the world.

History takes in all aspects of human experience. Courses offered in the School of History explore that experience and encourage you to ask questions which lead to an understanding of past and present societies.

History students learn to:

- Develop critical and analytical skills
- Develop an understanding of multiple periods or cultures of the past.
- Explore the historical significance of ideas, technologies and cultures, national boundaries and the theories and values that underlie historical explanations.

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Career opportunities

Graduates of the History major develop critical and analytical skills and are highly valued by employers in sectors including government, industry, finance, politics and, public relations, journalism, diplomacy, teaching, the services sector and the arts.

History at ANU

The ANU is ranked first in Australia for history and 17th in the world.¹ Areas of interest in the History Major include Australia, the Pacific, the United States, Europe, Asia and the Middle East. Courses in the School of History also cover empire, terrorism, revolution, war, gender, race, technology, politics, culture and the environment.

Some courses focus on themes and philosophies that underlie historical analysis or techniques of historical research. All core courses will train you in historical theory and method.

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

Further information

T 1800 620 032

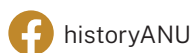
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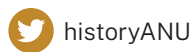
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Kate

Major in History

I chose to undertake a program in Humanities and Social Sciences because of its flexibility and inbuilt research courses. I have completed both a History major and a French minor, as well as a variety of electives in other disciplines. My degree has also offered me the unique opportunity to work independently with academics on projects of my choosing. I have explored a broad range of topics – from environmentalism in the 1970s, to museum representations of the Cold War. It has been incredible to receive feedback from ANU’s world-class historians.

I could never have foreseen how hands-on my study of history would be. In my second year, a study tour of the ‘Anzac battlefields and beyond’ saw me travel across Gallipoli and the Western Front with twenty-five other students. We critiqued war memorials and museums, considering the politics of commemoration. It was exciting to be out ‘in the field’ discussing how the past and present are inextricably linked.

I am now beginning my Honours year, and I am looking forward to the challenge of writing my thesis. Being in Canberra is a history student’s dream! With access to institutions such as the National Archives and National Library, there is an abundance of fascinating sources to discover. I hope to one day pursue postgraduate study, and I am grateful for the foundational skills I have developed over the past few years. While I am not entirely sure what the future holds, I know that my time at ANU will stand me in good stead wherever I go.