



Australian  
National  
University

MASTER  
DEGREE

# Master of Anthropology and Planetary Futures



**CRICOS code:** 114811F

**Intakes:** S1 and S2

**Duration:** 1 year FT

**Prerequisites:** none



Anthropology  
**#1**  
in Australia  
#9 globally  
\*QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026

## Anthropology for a Future Planet

This program provides a humanities and social science lens to understand overlapping threats to social, ecological, political, economic, and health systems. Foregrounding anthropology's unique ethnographic method, which centres grounded and people-focused perspectives and values, it provides an evidence base for advocacy and public debate in areas including public health, international development, environmental sustainability, and social justice.

The Master of Anthropology and Planetary Futures engages critical social thought and research methods to step back from crisis-thinking to consider the political and social work that these threats justify and enable. The degree equips students to describe and theorise how planetary emergencies came about precisely due to human social engineering and the dominance of particular sets of cultural values, while also recognising that

the world is shaped by the creative responses of people engaging with rapid transformations on their own terms.

## Why study Anthropology at the ANU?

The Master of Anthropology and Planetary Futures emphasises rigour in research methodologies to develop key analytical skills for systems thinking alongside cutting edge qualitative, fieldwork-based, and applied skills that provide solid empirical and critical foundations for future research careers.

Training in methods from biological anthropology is combined with cultural anthropology's ethnographic exploration of human diversity. Students of this program will gain a rich set of anthropological theories and tools for social engagement that empower them to analyse our planetary crises, to understand their cultural histories, and to fight for a better future.



## Employment Opportunities

Anthropology is the study of contemporary human cultural lives. In a globalised world, cross-cultural literacy and analysis have never been more important. The Master in Anthropology and Planetary Futures is a highly sought-after program that places very strong emphasis on anthropological theory and methods with the intention of equipping graduates with the skills for work in applied research contexts in the public and corporate sectors.

A Master of Anthropology and Planetary Futures will advance your career working in cultural institutions, the public service, international development and public health organisations, NGOs, academia, or any professional area requiring an understanding of critical thinking, social behaviour, human experience and cross-cultural analysis.

## Learning Outcomes

1. analyse and engage the cutting edge of anthropological theories and ethnographic methods, and apply them to key global challenges and events;
2. design and execute engaged and ethical anthropological research;
3. understand the social bases and effects of planetary crises, as well as how particular understandings of and responses to crises emerge; and
4. translate anthropological insights into social justice activism to address urgent social and planetary problems.

## Admission requirements

Applicants must present one of the following:

- A cognate Bachelor degree or international equivalent with a minimum GPA of 5/7
- A Bachelor degree or international equivalent AND a Graduate Certificate or Graduate Diploma in a cognate discipline with a minimum GPA of 4/7

## Further information

To transfer to the VAPF-Master of Anthropology and Planetary Futures (Advanced) program, students must achieve a Distinction grade in Foundations for Social Research and have confirmed appropriate supervision through an Expression of Interest (EOI) proposal to the anthropology faculty.

For general information, please contact:

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