



Australian
National
University

MASTER
DEGREE

Master of Political Science



CRICOS code: 102925F

Intakes: S1 and S2

Duration: 1.5 years FT/
2 years FT (for Advanced program)

Prerequisites: none

Master of Political Science
(Advanced):

CRICOS code: 096438J



Politics & International Studies

#1

in Australia

#14 globally

*QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026

The Australian National University (ANU) is the first and only university in Australia to offer a Master of Political Science. The program provides cutting-edge research training with a focus on the contemporary politics of Australia and the Asia-Pacific region.

The program provides students with the analytical tools they need to answer a range of critical questions about contemporary political affairs, ranging from election forecasting to ethnic conflict. It provides training in political science research methods in addition to courses on the contemporary politics of Australia, Asia and other major regions of the world.

You can explore the discipline, match your program to your interests, and even incorporate your own language learning.

Learning outcomes

Graduates of the program will be able to:

- Critically evaluate key theories in political science;
- Interpret and utilise relevant political science methods;
- Critically analyse evidence-based research and policy across a range of political issues;
- Use theories and methods from political science to explain contemporary political affairs in Australia, Asia, and globally;
- Conduct high-level research to undertake self-directed study in political science;
- Communicate research findings at a level appropriate for academic and policy audiences.

ANU College of Arts
and Social Sciences



What will I study?

Students can choose from a wide selection of topics including political theory, methods of studying politics, voter behaviour, authoritarianism and democracy.

The program will be of interest to those intending to pursue research-oriented careers in government, international organisations, NGOs and private bodies, and to those intending further study in the field.

Admission requirements

- Bachelor degree or international equivalent with a GPA of at least 5.0/7.0 (6.0/7.0 GPA for the Advanced program).
- All applicants must meet the University's English Language Admission Requirements for Students.
- At a minimum, all applicants must meet program-specific academic/non-academic requirements, and English language requirements.
- Admission to most ANU programs is on a competitive basis. Therefore, meeting all admission requirements does not automatically guarantee entry.
- Students wishing to pursue a research project during the Masters program may apply for transfer to the Master of Political Science (Advanced), subject to a GPA of 6.0/7.0 in the first year of the program.

Further study

This program prepares students for Higher Degree Research in Political Science–Master of Philosophy (MPhil) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD). Internationally recognised, this degree also paves the way to pursuing a PhD overseas.

The Master of Political Science (Advanced) program includes the requirement to complete a thesis. High-performing students are able to frame their own research topic and are matched with an academic supervisor who holds expertise in the relevant field. The thesis is worth 24 units of credit and can be completed part-time or full-time.

Further information

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