



Persian



1st in Australia

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 2026

Studying Persian at The Australian National University (ANU) provides a powerful entry into the rich and diverse culture of a globally significant region and connects students to the more than 150 million native speakers globally.

Persian is spoken primarily in Iran, a country which plays a crucial political role in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf region. Persian is also spoken in Afghanistan, Tajikistan and in many regions of Central Asia. Historically, it was widely understood from the Mediterranean to India, and has a rich historical and cultural legacy.

Given the geo-political and cultural significance of the Middle East, Persian speakers are in high demand worldwide. Students completing a Major or Minor in Persian can pursue a wide range of career opportunities including in foreign affairs, diplomacy, translation, journalism, teaching and business.

How can I study Persian?

Persian courses can be undertaken as:

- single courses for students competing a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Languages,
- as a major, minor or advanced minor through the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies (CAIS),
- Persian courses can also be included in post-graduate coursework, and as an adjunct to research for MPhil and PhD
- as an online course for either award or non-award students.

Language courses

The Persian language program offers three levels of language study: Introductory, Intermediate and Advanced. In every level, students develop their proficiency in the four areas of language acquisition, namely listening comprehension, speaking, reading and writing.

Students completing either a major or a minor in Persian equip themselves with the capacity to write in Farsi, read websites and novels written in Farsi, watch Persian news and listen to Persian music. Students will also be able to communicate with native speakers and better understand Iranian culture and society.

The **Major in Persian** requires the successful completion of 48 units, including up to two language courses at an introductory level plus both Advanced Persian A & Advanced Persian B. Students are also required to complete a minimum of two and a maximum of six of the following:

- Intermediate Persian A
- Intermediate Persian B
- Politics in the Middle East
- Iranian History and Culture
- Gender and Culture in Iran and the Middle East
- Iran in World Politics
- Politics in Central Asia

The **Minor in Persian** requires the completion of 24 units, including two courses at either Introductory or Intermediate levels. Students are also required to complete two of the following:

- Advanced Persian A
- Advanced Persian B
- Iranian History and Culture
- Gender and Culture in Iran and the Middle East
- Iran in World Politics



Renae

Master of Middle Eastern & Central Asian Studies (2018)

“I started this semester with Persian, having had no prior experience with the language. I had studied Arabic about ten years ago so I was ok with the script, but I had to learn the vocabulary and grammar this semester.

The lecturer, Dr Zahra Taheri, was so great at teaching us from the very basic elements of the language, making us feel comfortable and encouraged us along the way as well.”

The **Minor in Advanced Persian** requires the completion of 24 units including Advanced Persian A & B. Students are also required to complete two of the following:

- Iranian History and Culture
- Intermediate Persian A
- Intermediate Persian B
- Politics in the Middle East
- Politics in Central Asia

Further information

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