



Australian
National
University

Psychology



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 2025

Include a major in Psychology
in your Bachelor of Arts.

The discipline of psychology seeks to understand how and why people think, feel, and act as they do. The discoveries from the discipline are often translated into the practice of psychology, to help improve people's lives both individually and collectively. To achieve this, psychology is necessarily multifaceted — it includes understanding the biological basis of behaviour, how people perceive and think, how people develop and change over time, why people become depressed and have other psychological challenges, how people are different from each other, and how people's thoughts, feelings and behaviours change from when they are alone to when they interact with others.

When students complete a major in psychology at The Australian National University (ANU), they learn about each of these facets, while having the opportunity to expand their studies to include the application of psychology to health, organisations, and the law. Students also learn how to conduct research in psychology, often having the opportunity to conduct their own psychological research projects.

Students gain a comprehensive understanding of the core areas of psychology, while developing practical skills that often underpin career success: a clear and evidence-based understanding of people and how they function, as well as excellent skills in communication, critical thinking and analysis.

The intention of the psychology major is to ensure students develop deep and broad understandings of contemporary psychological theories, the formal



evidence that supports those theories, and the domains in which the theories can be applied.

Students are taught by world leading experts who are active not only in the teaching of psychology, but in the production of the knowledge itself through their own research programs. These research programs seek to answer a wide variety of questions with real-life implications; some of the questions being asked include: Why are some people better than others at recognising faces? How do people come to believe and remember things as 'true'? How do people manage and control their attention, particularly in very complex environments? Why do people have eating disorders, and how can we help them? What are the cognitive and neurobiological mechanisms of mental illness? How can we better understand parenting and the parent-child relationship? How can we build social cohesion, tolerance and reduce discrimination especially as communities become more diverse?

Learning Outcomes

Students who have completed the Psychology major will be able to:

- Understand, critically evaluate, apply, integrate and generate psychological knowledge in educational and professional contexts.
- Develop and engage in a range of skills and methods to identify, analyse, critique and respond to complex problems involving psychological processes.
- Systematically identify relevant psychological theory and concepts, relate these to appropriate methodologies and evidence, and draw appropriate conclusions.
- Apply appropriate psychological research methods, including statistical techniques, to evaluate data.

- Communicate psychological concepts and results clearly and effectively in written and/or oral formats to diverse audiences.
- Work and learn in both independent and collaborative ways with others to encompass diverse abilities and perspectives on psychological issues.
- Critically examine psychological knowledge and skills, and their application, from diverse cultural perspectives, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' perspectives.
- Utilise psychological knowledge and skills for exercising personal, professional and social responsibility as a global citizen.

Flexible Double Degrees

The Bachelor of Arts with a major in Psychology can be combined with degrees such as the Bachelor of Environment and Sustainability, the Bachelor of Pacific Studies, Bachelor of Commerce, or a Bachelor of 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

Further information

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