



Australian  
National  
University

# Sociology



Bachelor of Arts students majoring in Sociology gain a deep, research-based understanding of the social forces influencing how and why people think and act in particular ways. They learn conceptual and methodological approaches to analyse social norms and institutions and to understand social change.

## About studying Sociology

At a time when citizens, governments, and corporations alike are calling for solutions to urgent social problems, sociology training equips graduates with the skills to ask critical questions about social processes and problems and address these effectively through research.

Sociology is not content to treat the changing fortunes of individuals as merely personal or

accidental, but provides tools to connect them to broader political, economic, and cultural forces and processes of social change. Sociology focuses on the factors and issues that directly affect people's quality of life and sense of identity. The research sociologists generate is critically informed and methodologically diverse.

It helps citizens and policymakers challenge common-sense ideas about the causes of social problems, such as inequality, marginality, conflict, illness, climate change and so on.

Sociologists study all aspects of social life. These include the effects of transformations in science and technology, education, work and leisure arrangements, family life, media and popular culture, environmental use and governance. Sociologists study and make an impact in areas such as health and medicine, urban studies, embodiment, gender and sexuality, global economies and migration, religiosity and spirituality, social movements and environmental change.

## Career opportunities

A sociology degree provides students with a cognitive and transferable skill set and empowers them to participate effectively in wider intellectual and policy debates about key social issues. It is therefore a recognised and valued qualification.

Sociology graduates develop career trajectories in many fields including policymaking, journalism and diplomacy, project management, advocacy, migrant and ethnic affairs, market research, services for the aged, community development, welfare policy and administration, women's issues, human resources, youth and family services, crime and justice services, workforce research and public health. Graduates may find employment in federal, state and local government departments and research agencies, in community service organisations and NGOs, and in the commercial sector.

## Sociology at the ANU

ANU is ranked number second in Australia and 19th in the world for sociology.<sup>1</sup> Sociology at ANU is available as a major or minor within the Bachelor of Arts. Sociology students benefit from the discipline's international profile, from being taught by world-leading scholars, and from exposure to cutting-edge research findings and practices. Key issues covered in the sociology curriculum include social and economic inequalities, classical and contemporary social theory, technology and AI, surveillance, urban transformation, education and work, environmental and animal studies, drug use and addiction, populist political movements, posthumanism, social policy, and more.

Students in sociology learn to:

- understand how ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, age, religion and nationality shape social experience
- use sociological concepts to understand social inequalities and conflicts and produce blueprints for change
- assess critically the merits of competing theoretical perspectives and methodological approaches used in social sciences scholarship
- develop advanced skills in critical and creative thinking, information sourcing, research design and administration, idea development and dissemination.

## 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](http://study.anu.edu.au/study-options/flexible-degree-options-anu)

<sup>1</sup>QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026



## Gabriela Falzon

### Bachelor of Arts , Sociology Honours

Studying sociology has given me the means to analyse and interpret society through radical and revolutionary frameworks. I have especially enjoyed learning about how different thinkers have criticised the structures and hierarchies that underlie capitalist and patriarchal society.

By studying the social construction and perpetuation of ideas that we often see as 'natural' I have been able to develop a different lens through which I can understand the world. One of the crucial lessons that sociology and gender studies teaches us is that theory is not simply for interpreting phenomena on an abstract level; it can be used to practically change and transform our society in a radically political way.

This has been a helpful field to combine with my interest in progressive political action in the union movement and the continuing fight for a world that does not exclude or punish marginalised groups. By understanding how and why inequality exists we can also understand how to prevent its existence. I look forward to continuing my studies in sociology and gender theory and further learning about how we can create a better society.

## Further information

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