



Australian
National
University

English



Ranked

#1

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

Students of English at The Australian National University (ANU) have the opportunity to work within a range of disciplines, including literary studies, screen studies, drama, gender studies and creative writing, in order to become more accomplished in critical reading, research, and analysis, and more effective in written and spoken communication.

Studying English

We live in an information-rich and hyper-connected age. Studying English at ANU will focus your attention on a diversity of print and audio-visual texts, deepening your understanding of literary history and transforming the way in which you think about consuming narratives. You will learn to read

closely, carefully and critically, engaging as you do so with major literary forms and genres, as well as with literary theory and criticism.

You will become more proficient in public speaking, written presentation, and creative collaboration, while improving your capacity for critical inquiry, creative interpretation, argument, and written expression. You will also understand better how literature has transformed and adapted as it has moved from print forms to film, television, and social media.

Career opportunities

Graduates of the ANU Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Philosophy with a major in English develop transferable skills in analytical reading, written and oral expression and imaginative thinking.

Some career opportunities may include government policy and research, education, the media, journalism, creative arts and publishing.

Study program

ANU offers an outstanding variety of programs. Courses are offered from undergraduate to honours and postgraduate levels, and various enrolment options cater for different student needs.

Undergraduate degree programs available to students of English Literature, such as the Bachelor of Arts.

Students may also combine any of these Bachelor degrees with other degrees on offer at ANU through the ANU Flexible Double Degree program.

Individual courses in English Literature, screen studies, and creative writing may also be studied as electives.

Graduate degree programs available include the Master of Philosophy (MPhil) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD). English can be taken as a specialisation in the Master of Arts (Advanced).

English at ANU

ANU is ranked among the world's top universities, and has a strong international reputation in humanities, arts and social sciences.¹ The English program at the ANU is one of the largest and most dynamic in Australia. We are known for our expertise in book history and reception studies; early modern studies; Australian literature; and the digital humanities. Our researchers currently hold five prestigious Australian Research Council fellowships and our research programs have attracted over \$5,000,000 in external funding in the last five years.

Works studied in English courses spans the late medieval period to the present day and includes theatre, film, and television as well as print texts. Together our courses cover the major fields of Australian, British, Irish and US literatures, while also asking how reading literature can help us approach urgent environmental, social, and cultural problems. You will also have the opportunity to explore how the digital humanities provide powerful tools to help us analyse and understand literary texts.

Creative writing courses use workshop classes to develop and practice skills in writing for print, theatre, film, and television. You will also learn techniques for provoking debate, captivating your audience, and for editing your work with a view to publication and production.



Jill

Bachelor of Philosophy (PhB) (Hons)

Majors: English

When I came to the ANU to study English, it was foremost because PhB Arts gave me the freedom to study whatever interested me most — be it poetry, theatre, or television — from the most broad to the most niche of my literary interests.

What I found was more than the opportunity to study widely: everyday I get to work with lecturers who are not only interested in what they teach, but in me, and in my thinking about English. ANU English has quite literally led me to meet my closest friends, while guiding me towards new, thought-provoking works and ways of thinking, ultimately giving me the needed push to strive further in my writing, and beyond.

Flexible Double Degrees

As part of a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Languages, an English major can be combined with other Art and Social Science degrees as well as with degrees in Law, Business, Science or Engineering and Computer 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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¹QS World University Rankings by Subject 2025