Anthropology at the ANU offers a wide range of courses grappling with cultural variation and social difference, including studies of the cultural basis of health and medicine, gender and sexuality, politics and the economy, ritual and religion, globalization and migration, and indigenous relations in the contemporary world.

As an anthropology student you can join field schools in South and Southeast Asia or the Pacific. Courses also focus on pressing issues of our ever-more interconnected world, such as health and food, refugees, money, violence and terror. Applied subjects offer you the opportunity to trial real-world research skills to study community dynamics and social interaction.

Career opportunities
Graduates with a major in Anthropology have highly developed skills in qualitative and human research, cross-cultural comparison, and social analysis. These transferable skills are highly sought after in a huge variety of employment fields. ANU anthropology graduates have found employment in media, public service, social service, economic, education and health fields, as well as a host of other specialist fields, like multicultural services and Indigenous affairs, government policy analysis, community development, management consulting, and design.
Anthropology at the ANU

Anthropology at ANU is found in the College of Arts and Social Sciences and the College of Asia and the Pacific. The discipline at ANU is ranked 1st in Australia and 4th in the world.¹

First-year Anthropology courses introduce you to major concepts in anthropology and social theory. You will learn how to encounter the world as an anthropologist, by thinking about contemporary events and issues through the disciplinary lens, and by trying your hand at some practical research techniques.

Later year courses enable you to apply anthropological analysis to diverse cultural settings and develop a truly global perspective on social behaviour.

On completion of an Anthropology major you will have the knowledge and skills to:

> demonstrate understanding of the major dimensions of analysis of societies and cultures (e.g., gender, religion, personhood, identity, violence, emotion, state, nation, globalisation);
> demonstrate understanding of both directed and unintended processes of change (e.g., culture and development, applied anthropology);
> demonstrate understanding of the interrelation of technique and theory in the recording and describing of cultures (e.g., film); and
> demonstrate understanding of the intersection of bio-social and material dimensions of social life.

Flexible Double Degree

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 anu.edu.au/study/study-options/flexible-double

Further information

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Luke
Bachelor of Arts (Honours in Anthropology)

Anthropology is a way of understanding the world. It is a way of making visible the otherwise unseen ocean in which we swim, the ocean called ‘culture’. Culture is everywhere, it permeates every moment of our lives. It shapes the way we think.

I once had a wonderful teacher who had majored in anthropology at ANU. When planning my own university degree, and teaching young kids myself in an after-school and holiday program, it seemed the obvious choice. I knew that ANU has a world reputation in anthropology and archaeology. And as a small but cosmopolitan city, Canberra has a relaxed yet focused atmosphere that is perfect for study.

My first year anthropology course was amazing. It gave me a new way of looking at the world that makes the commonplace both extraordinary and interesting. Culture is everyday life ... we talk about it as something grand, but it’s everyday people living everyday lives of incredible variety, complexity and difference.

Since then, I’ve completed courses on food and hospitality, the relationships between animals and humans, on religion as a system that produces a particular kind of knowledge, on gender and personhood. I’m currently writing an Honours thesis exploring the role that food plays in religion.

I’m not really sure what’s next: that’s at the other end of 20,000 words. Regardless of my future career, anthropology will always inform the way I view the world, my writing, and my teaching.

¹ QS World University Rankings by Subject 2020.