Graduates of the Bachelor of Arts with a major in Indigenous studies develop an understanding of Indigenous peoples’ cultures, societies, languages and history.

About studying Australian Indigenous studies

Indigenous peoples have a vital role in Australia’s past, present and future. It is important for all Australians to develop an understanding of Indigenous peoples’ cultures, societies, languages and history as we work to build a common future. Whether you are Indigenous or non-Indigenous, an undergraduate major in Australian Indigenous Studies will expand your understanding of the breadth and depth of Indigenous cultures, and provide you with knowledge and skills to undertake effective engagements and collaborations.

Career opportunities

The United Nations estimates that there are over 370 million indigenous people living in over 70 countries worldwide. A knowledge of Indigenous cultures, histories, languages, politics, development aspirations and representation is increasingly vital for careers both domestically and internationally: in the private sector (banking, law, industry, business), public sector (state, territory, commonwealth and local governments), Indigenous sector (native title bodies, land councils, community organisations) and in non-government, not-for-profit and charitable organisations.
Those wishing to pursue higher degree studies by coursework or research can take advantage of the many postgraduate programs offered by ANU in related fields across a wide number of disciplines.

**Australian Indigenous studies at ANU**

The ANU ranked number 16 in the world for humanities and the arts, has a strong international reputation and a deep commitment to teaching and research in Australian Indigenous Studies. Further, it is home to the National Centre for Indigenous Studies, the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, the Australian Centre for Indigenous History, and the Tjabal Indigenous Higher Education Centre.

An interdisciplinary subject, Australian Indigenous Studies at the ANU reveals to students some of the enormous diversity of Australia’s Indigenous peoples and their cultures. The major enables an exploration of a wide range of topics and issues including:

- Indigenous knowledge and epistemologies
- Indigenous occupation, adaptation and management of land and sea
- Indigenous socio-cultural, ceremonial, artistic and linguistic practices past and present
- Impacts of European colonisation
- Histories of relationships between Indigenous and other Australians
- Indigenous Australians, politics and the law, and
- Issues of identity, representation, equity, and resilience.

Australian Indigenous Studies is concerned with the place of Indigenous people in Australia socially, culturally, economically, politically and historically. ANU offers the opportunity to undertake Indigenous studies as an undergraduate major or minor. The subject is interdisciplinary, and it is possible to undertake courses from anthropology, archaeology, art, economics, gender studies, history, linguistics, music, public policy and law.

Australian Indigenous Studies students at ANU will engage with distinguished scholars, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, from across Australia to develop and deepen their understandings.

**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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Sarah
**Bachelor of Arts**

Australian Indigenous Studies was the most enjoyable and interesting part of my Arts degree at ANU. I began Indigenous Studies in my second year with a mix of anthropology, archaeology and history courses. The subjects cover Indigenous culture and society, both historical and contemporary. The most attractive aspect is the experience and knowledge you gain across a number of disciplines, from music and art to history and linguistics. This variety exposes you to a number of different perspectives on Indigenous studies, allowing you to come away with a more rounded understanding of Indigenous people, their culture and history. I also enjoyed the opportunity to learn from an Indigenous lecturer and from researchers who are leaders in their fields.

Australian Indigenous Studies has ignited my desire to continue further study in Indigenous affairs and opened up opportunities to volunteer with organisations that work with Indigenous Australians. It has made me appreciate the culture and history of Indigenous people and has inspired me to work in this field once I graduate—whether it is working with Indigenous people face-to-face with an NGO, or working on policy through a government department.

I recommend this major or minor to anyone who wants diversity in their degree, is interested in working with Indigenous Australians or with preserving their culture, or simply wants to learn more about the longest-surviving culture in the world.

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1 QS World University Rankings by Faculty 2018.