Digital Humanities is an interdisciplinary field of study located at the intersection of humanities scholarship and digital technology. Its key purpose is to investigate how computational methodologies can be used to enhance and transform research in the Arts and Social Sciences.

**Global Ranking:**

#16 for Arts and Humanities  
QS World Rankings by Subject 2019

**ANU College of Arts & Social Sciences**

**Studying Digital Humanities**

Digital Humanities students gain valuable experience of working as a team to develop large-scale projects along with the ability to carry out independent research. You will draw on the skills and knowledge of experts in the many disciplines of the Research School of Humanities and the Arts, including archaeology, anthropology, literature, linguistics, art history, and design. You are given support to pursue collaborative opportunities with the ANU College of Engineering and Computer Science and to develop connections with the important cultural and collecting institutions located in Canberra and further afield.

**Career opportunities**

Graduates in Digital Humanities have a unique combination of skills that bridge the critical thinking and in-depth research skills of an Arts graduate with a high level of digital literacy and technology skills, a combination highly sought after in today’s employment market. These skills are highly transferable and prepare students not only to work with current technologies and processes, but also to understand how to evaluate and learn emerging technologies. Digital Humanities thus addresses the growing demand for graduates well-versed in a combination of humanistic and digital skills and able to work in a variety of professional environments, from cultural and memory institutions, to the emerging job markets of information management and online content delivery.
Digital Humanities at the ANU

Digital Humanities is a new and dynamic program at the ANU that supports students and researchers working with digital technology in a range of disciplines across the humanities and social sciences. The ANU is one of only a few universities in the world to offer both undergraduate and graduate programs in Digital Humanities. These programs offer unique opportunities to apply digital methods to cultural objects and analyses, while also allowing students to turn a critical eye upon the rapidly changing digital world in which we live.

The ANU Centre for Digital Humanities Research (CDHR) is a hub of research and teaching activity that includes researchers and developers with expertise in areas ranging from literature and art history to anthropology and web science. The CDHR recently established a Digital Humanities Lab that provides students with access to cutting-edge technologies and methodological expertise that will enable and enhance the next generation of humanities researchers.

Our courses examine a diverse range of topics from contemporary digital culture to advanced project-based research in traditional humanities disciplines. Students learn the history of information technologies (from the printing press to Facebook) and how to situate current debates about online identity, ‘slacktivism’ and ‘fake news’ in a broad and historically informed framework. They will critically evaluate digital projects across different domains, including online databases for cultural collections, digital analysis of historical texts, and digital musicology. Our students actively engage with important approaches such as metadata creation, text encoding, Linked Data, and the production of 3D models using scanners and photogrammetry.

Alongside the subjects offered by the CDHR, students studying Digital Humanities will learn from experts across the university and can study topics including Computational Thinking, Programming and Algorithms, Creative Coding, Digital Literary Studies, Virtual Reality, Social Science and the Internet, Digital History, and Music and Digital Media.

Students at all levels are encouraged to work with and develop research projects with experts from the cultural heritage sector in Canberra including the National Museum of Australia, the National Library of Australia, the National Gallery of Australia, the Australian War Memorial, and other institutions.

By the end of your studies, you will have created a digital humanities project, built on your areas of interest and expertise. This might be digital mapping of an anthropological study, creating a database for an art collection, or analysing data drawn from repositories of historical texts. You will have learnt technical skills in 3D scanning, coding, and GIS, and applying critical ideas to digital projects, gaining a deeper understanding of what it means to work with diverse and complex humanities datasets.

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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Xinyuan Xu
Masters of Digital Humanities and Public Culture (Advanced)

Xinyuan Xu moved from Kunming, China, the “City of Eternal Spring” to the “Bush capital” to study at ANU. She completed her Master of Digital Humanities and Public Culture (Advanced) in 2018. Xinyuan worked with Dr Terhi Nurmikko-Fuller and Dr Bernardo Pereira on a research project looking at why people mourn celebrities on social media. She says she “never would have thought I could construct anything like this during my Masters studies”. Digital humanities looks at the intersection of technology and humans, it’s a new field, but for a variety of reasons, Xinyuan thinks it can shape the future, “I am ambitious. I believe digital humanities will equip me with the skills, experiences, and knowledge to be an academic pioneer, and to rise above the rest.” Xinyuan has developed diverse skills, from learning methodologies such as Linked Data, using RStudio to collect Twitter data through an API, and digital mapping.

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