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Welcome

The School of Social and Political Sciences (SSPS) is a lively, friendly and enthusiastic community of scholars from around the world, and attracts some of the very best students from Australia, and beyond.

We take great pride in ensuring that our teaching is current, topical, challenging and always informed by a deep engagement with the world around us.

Most recently, the Excellence for Research in Australia, which the federal government superintends to gather evidence on the performance of all disciplines across Australia, rated social sciences at the University as 5 out of 5, the highest in New South Wales and equal top in Australia with UQ and the ANU.

In the Leiden rankings, which is a metric-based global exercise to examine where the most significant research is taking place, the social sciences in Sydney was placed second in Australia.

These and other external measures of quality underline once again the extraordinary progress we have made as a School and as an academic community of the social sciences in becoming one of the very top institutions in the world.

With nearly 100 academic staff, a constant stream of eminent visiting scholars, forums, conferences and workshops, the School is an exciting place to work and study. This guide will hopefully give you an idea of the range of activities and courses we offer in SSPS. We hope you find it informative and that it will spark your interest in visiting us.
New Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences building

In 2018 the School will be moving to a state-of-the-art new building, which will greatly enhance the facilities available to students, as well as underpinning our development as the leading centre for research and teaching in the social sciences in Australia. It features experimental labs, student study areas, a high-tech lecture theatre and many spaces designed to enhance the student experience.
Why study the social and political sciences

Our undergraduate programs of study are flexible and complementary, engaging students in emerging contemporary issues as well as enduring concerns in the social and political sciences.

Our graduates learn analytical and practical skills that lead them to pursue diverse careers in the public service and non-profit sector, aid and development agencies including the United Nations, a range of non-governmental groups and businesses with a core interest in international trade, teaching, research and the university sector, as well as in journalism and communications, law and legal studies, consultancies and private sector management.

View specific options offered for your course:
- sydney.edu.au/courses

Departments and Centres

We are one of six schools in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, and consist of the following Departments and Centres:

- Anthropology
- Government and International Relations
- Peace and Conflict Studies
- Political Economy
- Sociology and Social Policy
- Centre for International Security Studies
- LCT Centre for Knowledge-Building
- The Sydney Asia Pacific Migration Centre

Find us online

@Usyd_ssp
/Usyd.ssp
sydney.edu.au/arts/ssps/
Undergraduate degrees

Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Advanced Studies

The Bachelor of Arts (BA) at the University of Sydney provides an outstanding liberal arts education. It prepares you to meet the challenges of the modern workforce, where expertise, inventiveness, logic and critical thinking come to the fore.

Combining a BA with the Bachelor of Advanced Studies in this new four-year degree gives you the opportunity to deepen your knowledge and skills, add further breadth to your University qualification by studying subjects from a range of disciplines, and apply your skills and disciplinary knowledge to real-world problems.

You will explore your passions, interests and ambitions as you complete a double major. You can choose both majors from our broad choice across more than 45 subject areas in the humanities and social sciences, or select a second major from the University’s shared pool of units, across a number of different faculties.

In the fourth year of the degree you will undertake advanced coursework and a substantial real-world industry, community, entrepreneurship or research project. As you develop a personal portfolio of expertise and high-level skills you broaden your opportunities and prepare yourself for future success.

All majors in the School of Social and Politics Science are also available as a minor.

For a full list of majors, minors, as well as the shared pool of units across the University, visit:
- sydney.edu.au/courses
Undergraduate degrees

Bachelor of Arts
To qualify for the award of the Bachelor of Arts, a candidate must complete 144 credit points, comprising:
- A major (48 credit points)
- A minor (36 credit points) or second major (48 credit points)
- A minimum of 12 credit points of units of study in the Open Learning Environment
- Where appropriate, elective units
- If enrolled in a stream, complete the requirements for the stream

Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Advanced Studies
To qualify for the award of the Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Advanced Studies, a candidate must complete 192 credit points, comprising:
- A major (48 credit points)
- A second major (48 credit points)
- 12 credit points of units of study in the Open Learning Environment
- A minimum of 24 credit points in a single subject area at 4000 level, including a research, community, industry or entrepreneurship project of at least 12 and a maximum of 36 credit points.
- Where appropriate, elective units

For a detailed explanation of course components visit:
- sydney.edu.au/courses

Sample course structure: Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Advanced Studies
(majors in History and Sociology, advanced study in History, minor in Criminology)
Department of Anthropology

The Department of Anthropology looks at the way people imagine and change their worlds in the past, present, and future. Anthropology asks questions about people’s lives in small and large places, and the ways human groups are connected across the planet. How do people reimagine their worlds after war or tsunamis? What is the impact of global financial crisis on villagers in Brazil, and on financiers in Wall Street? How do religious movements arise, grow and decline? And what do the answers to such questions reveal about our human capacity to change, imagine, adapt and survive? When you study anthropology, you learn much about yourself and others: Anthropology is a window but it is also a mirror.

There are special reasons to study Anthropology at the University of Sydney. Ours is the first Australian Department of Anthropology, established in 1925 by famous scholar, Professor A. R. Radcliffe-Brown. We have a commitment to providing students with a balance of the breadth and depth the discipline has to offer. Our staff undertake research, publish and teach across a variety of regions including Indigenous Australia, mainstream Australia, China, Latin America, the South Pacific, and Southeast Asia.

Anthropologists pose important questions about difference and our shared human condition in today’s world. Join us to learn how to ask questions that matter, and how to develop the skills to answer them.

Anthropology
major/minor

First year introduces you to our key methods of research, and the ways that anthropologists study and write about people’s lives in many parts of the world, past and present.

Second and third year units focus on:
- Regional studies including Indigenous Australia, Latin America, Pacific Islands, and Asia;
- Comparative units, in which different cultural perspectives are important (e.g., medicine and healing, economy, politics, religion, mythology, families, gender, psychology and psychoanalysis, language, communication, and media);
- Theoretical and practical units, to understand disciplinary tools and approaches.
Career opportunities
Anthropology graduates have outstanding skills to engage with the world and its critical problems. They bring their insights to issues like climate change, experiences of migrants and refugees, rapid technological change and new ways of work, Indigenous self-determination movements, development projects, and youth cultures. They work in foreign affairs, academia, with Indigenous and human rights organisations, in development agencies, and across various government departments and non-government organisations.

Graduates’ superior understanding of cultural diversity makes them valued employees in complex workplaces. Our graduates acquire a skills set that includes critical thinking, analysis, interpretation, problem solving, and intercultural communication. Even those who just want to sample first year or perhaps a minor, will add value to studies in areas like health, architecture, business, law, geosciences, social work or music, equipping themselves for a complex world.

Sample pathway: Anthropology and Sociology Major

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Units of study</th>
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<td>Sociology minor</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>Sociology minor</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>Anthropology major Anthropology major Sociology major*</td>
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* Your minor may be upgraded into a second major

Bachelor of Advanced Studies
Students enrolled in the Bachelor of Advanced Studies will have the opportunity of completing a fourth year in either Honours or Advanced Coursework in Anthropology.
Honours pathway

Anthropology Honours provides you with the opportunity to research in greater detail a region of the world or comparative theme that you have become interested in during the completion of your major.

Admission to Honours in Anthropology requires a major in Anthropology with a weighted average mark of 70 or above, and a second major.

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Advanced Coursework pathway

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<td>Advanced Coursework</td>
<td>Elective</td>
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Sample units of study

ANTH1001 Cultural Difference: An Introduction
ANTH1002 Anthropology and the Global
ANTH2601 The Ethnography of Southeast Asia
ANTH2605 Aboriginal Australia: Cultural Journeys
ANTH2606 Culture and the Unconscious
ANTH2623 Gender: Anthropological Studies
ANTH2625 Culture and Development
ANTH2626 Urban Anthropology
ANTH2627 Medical Anthropology
ANTH2629 Race and Ethnic Relations
ANTH2630 Indigenous Australians Today
ANTH2631 Anthropology Research Skills and Methods
ANTH2632 Anthropology of the Body
ANTH2653 Economy and Culture
ANTH2655 The Social Production of Space
ANTH2663 Discerning Tastes, Anthropology of Food
ANTH2666 History of Anthropological Thought
ANTH2668 Comparative Cosmologies
ANTH3601 Contemporary Theory and Anthropology
ANTH3602 Reading Ethnography
“I started this degree wanting to learn more about how international organisations work and the different mechanisms, processes and challenges. I’ve since grown in my passion for learning about political participation and digital media, and how my beloved social media can have an impact on politics and policy!”

Isabella Gorrez
Government and International Relations student

“I am passionate about political economy because it is a constant reminder that economics should work for people, not the other way around. Study in political economy taught me a great deal about the real effect that economics has on people.”

Alexi Polden
Political Economy student

“I think the future is about engaging “natural science” with “social science” based approaches. I’m working towards interdisciplinary PhD research, where I intend to focus on the innovative practices of low-income Indigenous Australians, and their cultural contributions to the fields of Science and Technology.”

Matthew Webb
Anthropology Honours student

“I am passionate about giving people the opportunity, dignity, and rights that they are entitled to and a big part of this is understanding how they are prevented from experiencing them in the first place.”

Alice McKenzie
Sociology student
Meet our academics

Dr Aim Sinpeng
Department of Government and International Relations
Aim’s research interests centre on the relationships between digital media, political participation and political regimes in Southeast Asia. She is particularly interested in the role of social media in shaping state-society relations and inducing political and social change. She is also the co-founder of the Sydney Cyber Security Network.

Dr Gareth Bryant
Department of Political Economy
Gareth’s research extends across the fields of heterodox economics, human geography, economic sociology and political ecology. He is interested in how political economic approaches to value, nature and policy can help to understand the causes of, and inform/evaluate responses to, contemporary challenges.

Dr Ute Eickelkamp
Department of Anthropology
Ute’s research is centred on Aboriginal people in Central Australia (especially Anangu), with a focus on children, art, Christianity, ideas of nature. Ute us specifically interested in manifestations of historical consciousness (in self accounts of dreams, life histories and work, and in play, art and religion) and in what appears to be an emergent notion of nature.

Dr Nadine Ehlers
Department of Sociology and Social Policy
Nadine’s research broadly focuses on the socio-cultural study of the body, law, and biomedicine, to examine the racial and gendered governance of individuals and populations. Her most recent work looks at the bio/necro/vital politics of health, specifically in terms of racial reproductivity.