Standalone Minors
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Standalone minors

Australian Literature
Celtic Studies
Criminology
Diversity Studies
Sanskrit
Social Policy
Writing Studies
Study with us

The Faculty
The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) at the University of Sydney is Australia’s oldest and most comprehensive faculty of its kind. We have an outstanding reputation for our teaching and research in the humanities and social sciences. For more than 164 years, our students and staff have been thinking, writing, and arguing about ideas and their consequences.

Consider any issue that you really care about – whether it is global poverty, climate change, social and economic reform, or even the nature of beauty – and lying beneath all the spin and froth of everyday debate are fundamental ideas and concepts that require rigorous analysis and careful reasoning.

Standalone minors
Expand your education and give a new level of flexibility to your degree with a second field of study in Australian Literature, Celtic Studies, Criminology, Diversity Studies, Sanskrit, Social Policy or Writing Studies*.

Enjoy studying English while also pursuing your interest in Writing Studies; combine your major in Asian Studies with Sanskrit; or develop expertise in Diversity Studies while studying International Relations.

* These disciplines are offered as a minor only and cannot be taken a a major. However, most majors in FASS can also be taken as a minor, for a full list of available majors and minors visit sydney.edu.au/courses

To continue to a Bachelor of Advanced Studies or Honours, a minor can be taken alongside two majors in order to satisfy entry requirements.
Australian Literature

A minor in Australian Literature allows you to apply research and hone critical skills. Learn how to read works closely and make sophisticated connections between Australian writing and the wider culture.

About the minor

The Australian Literature minor, offered by the Department of English, gives you a broad understanding of the history and characteristics of Australian literature and its international contexts. It offers you the chance to become better acquainted with writing in and about Australia and Australian writers in their various national and international contexts while examining some of the innovative and influential works that have shaped Australia’s cultural heritage.

Australian Literature at the University of Sydney teaches you to express advanced theoretical concepts with insight, clarity and rigour, while engaging with the literature and ideas that have contributed to the nation’s distinctive intellectual and artistic formations.

The curriculum

A minor in Australian Literature requires 36 credit points. While studying Australian Literature, you can choose from a selection of units introducing you to a wide range of literary and cultural works — poems, plays, novels and films — from colonial times to the present day, including works by Indigenous authors.

These units might include:

- Narratives of Romance and Adventure
- The Gothic Imagination
- Australian Stage and Screen
- Australian Writing in the Postmodern Age
- Writing Australian Nature
- Writing Country: Indigenous Ecopoetics
Celtic Studies

Delve into a diverse program of study across culture and language, allowing you to develop skills and knowledge in a subject that is highly significant to European as well as Australian cultural heritage.

About the minor

A minor in Celtic Studies is centred in the study of language, history and culture of the Celtic-speaking peoples from prehistory to the present. This ethnic group has played a highly significant role in the development of European civilisation, particularly in the British Isles.

The Celts may be defined as those peoples who speak or whose forebears have spoken a Celtic language. Early Celtic languages included Celtiberian and Gaulish in ancient continental Europe, Galatian in Asia Minor, as well as British, Goidelic and Pictish in the British Isles. Breton, Irish, Scottish Gaelic and Welsh are the Celtic languages spoken today.

The curriculum

A minor in Celtic Studies requires 36 credit points. You will take core units in study of Celtic identity and historical influence of the Celtic peoples and Celtic narrative literature.

Selective Celtic language units (Irish, Scottish Gaelic and Welsh) develop your knowledge of language itself and enhance access to cultural and literary studies.

These units might include:

- Defining the Celts: Narratives of Romance and Adventure
- Language, Texts and Time
- Celtic History and Culture
- Scottish Gaelic Language and Culture
- The Celtic Otherworld
- Old Irish
Criminology

Understand the impact of crime and the legal system across different communities and institutions. Learn how to apply research and hone critical skills as you examine the complex relationship between social and cultural forces and the criminal justice system.

About the minor

Criminology is a field devoted to the study of crime, deviance, social control and the legal system. It aims to understand who commits crimes and why, the societal responses, and how laws impact the prevention of crime.

You will examine the central criminological topics in contemporary society, such as policing, youth justice, criminal justice, sentencing, prisons and punishment, crime and media, indigenous justice, forensics, and human rights.

The curriculum

A minor in Criminology requires 36 credit points. You will be introduced to the key ideas and concepts that criminology scholars have developed to help understand the world.

In the second year units, you will consolidate your grasp of theory and methods and focus on particular topics in criminology theory, such as the logic of crime and punishment, crime causation, youth justice, and policing.

In the third year units, you will grapple with aspects of criminology in classroom situations on topics of medico-legal and forensic practices, and crime and media.

Students will be required to complete the following units of study:

- Introduction to Socio-Legal Studies
- Law and Contemporary Society
- Crime, Punishment and Society
- Studying Crime and Criminology
- Medico-Legal and Forensic Criminology
- Crime, Media and Culture
Diversity Studies

A minor in Diversity Studies will equip you with a wide range of frameworks for social justice and policy work in a variety of professions, and the confidence to work both independently and collaboratively on issues of social marginalisation, inclusion and diversity.

About the minor

A minor in Diversity Studies offers you an applied understanding of cultural diversity in its manifold forms. You will learn about the experiences of many groups of people, including Indigenous people, migrants, people of colour, women, and those of non-normative sexualities or identities.

Diversity Studies explores and conceptualises experiences of difference and marginalisation caused by such factors as racism, cultural or sexual difference, disability, class or poverty.

The curriculum

A minor in Diversity Studies requires 36 credit points. You will undertake units of study from a variety of disciplines, including: Gender Studies, Cultural Studies, Sociology, Education and Social Work, Australian Indigenous Studies, Anthropology and Government and International Relations.

These units might include:

- Cultural Difference: An Introduction
- Bodies, Sexualities, Identities
- Cultures of Masculinity
- Youth and Youth Culture
- Gender, Security and Human Rights
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Politics and Policy
Sanskrit

About the minor
The study of the Sanskrit language, the most important classical language of the Indian subcontinent, is the gateway for exploring the various intellectual, literary and artistic traditions - associated especially with Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism - that have shaped South Asian civilisation, and which have played a profound role in forming Asia as a whole.

The curriculum
A minor in Sanskrit requires 36 credit points of core language units. To complement a minor in Sanskrit, you may wish take a selection of the many non-language units offered dealing with the religions, philosophical ideas, literature and cultures of South Asia. Sanskrit can be complemented by a major in Asian Studies.

Adopt a critical yet balanced big picture perspective on South Asian society and culture and, more broadly, Asian society and culture. See beyond stereotypes and media hype in forming sophisticated and insightful responses to critical issues in both ancient and contemporary South Asia.
Social Policy

Grapple with aspects of social policy in classroom situations but also in the real world—deepening your understanding of key sites of inequality and change in the contemporary world. Learn to write and think sociologically using essays, reports, group work, posters, debates, and new social media.

About the minor

Most countries today have systems to provide for citizens in times of need, such as unemployment benefits for people out of work, or pensions for the elderly. Social Policy is the study of these policies. The Social Policy minor focuses on how different policies affect the social and economic welfare of individuals, families and communities. Studying social policy enables you to better understand the principles underpinning the provision of these policies. It explores why and how some policies emerge and also why they disappear.

The curriculum

A minor in Social Policy requires 36 credit points. You will be introduced to the discipline through key concepts and ideas that sociologists have been developing to help understand the world.

These foundational ideas will be consolidated in your second and third year units that explore the principles of social policy, and analyse social policy in different national contexts.

These units might include:

- Work, unemployment and employment services
- Youth and children's services; health policies
- Housing and urban/regional policies
- Policies for women, policies for Indigenous people
- Multicultural policies
- Policies on the environment
Writing Studies

Strengthen your academic and professional writing and increase your confidence in critical thinking, argumentation, global awareness, and composition. Critically engage with conventions of academic and professional writing and produce reasoned, rhetorically sound arguments across a range of genres, applying language consistent with appropriate disciplinary, cultural and professional conventions.

About the minor

Writing Studies draws from established research in a wide range of fields including rhetoric and composition, classics, philosophy, religious studies, digital cultures, Australian studies, and higher education studies. Learn to combine various research methods including rhetorical, discourse and textual analysis to examine written, spoken and visual texts at various stages of production from conception to transmission and consumption.

We teach you to consider, apply and control stylistic options in relation to prose style, figurative language, voice, register, tone and word choice. We encourage you to think creatively and imaginatively to produce effective written assignments according to the specific guidelines of a range of academic disciplines. You will understand rhetoric as the theoretical foundation of writing and recognise how rhetoric is used in various textual practices and discourse communities.

The curriculum

A minor in Writing Studies requires 36 credit points. Cultivate your ability to identify the historical, analytical, and ethical dynamics of written, oral, digital and visual communication, its material and cultural contexts, and its associations with power.

You will be required to complete the following units of study:

- Writing and Rhetoric: Academic Essays
- Writing and Rhetoric: Argumentation
- Contemporary Rhetoric
- Arguments that Change the World
- Workplace Communications
- Research Methods and Research Writing
What's your minor?
Diversify and complement your degree.

For more information, visit:
sydney.edu.au/courses

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