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Majors and minors

WHAT IS A MAJOR AND WHAT IS A MINOR?

A major is a sequence of eight units from one discipline area that you will study over the course of your degree.

A minor is a sequence of four units from one discipline area.

In the Bachelor of Arts, you need to choose to study either:

- 2 majors (of eight units each) OR
- 1 major (eight units) and 2 minors (of four units each) OR
- 1 major (eight units) and 1 minor (of four units each) and 40cp from the Rome Semester

LIST OF MAJORS AND MINORS AVAILABLE BY CAMPUS

The list of majors and minors is available in the Arts unit list document and in the Handbook course rules for the Bachelor of Arts. The link to the Handbook is in the Course Enrolment Guide. On the Handbook course information page, click on the link to the major or minor to see the campus availability. When reading the Handbook, ensure you select the year you started the course.

| Discipline | Brisbane | Canberra | Melbourne | Strathfield |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------------------------------|
| Archaeology (available online for all campuses) | Major/minor | — | Major/minor | Major/minor |
| Business Studies | Major/minor | — | Major/minor | Major/minor |
| Communication | minor | — | minor | minor |
| Digital Technologies (Computing) | — | — | — | minor |
| Drama | Major/minor | — | Major/minor | Major/minor |
| Economics (available online for all campuses) | minor | minor | minor | minor |
| English | Major/minor | Major/minor | Major/minor | Major/minor |
| Geography, Environment and Society | Major/minor | — | Major/minor | Major/minor |
| Graphic Design | — | — | minor | minor |
| Healthy Development | — | — | minor | — |
| History | Major/minor | Major/minor | Major/minor | Major/minor |
| International Development Studies | — | — | minor | — |
| Mathematics | Major/minor | — | Major/minor | Major/minor |
| Music | Major/minor | — | Major/minor | — |
| Philosophy | Major/minor | — | Major/minor | Major/minor |
| Politics and International Relations | Major/minor | — | Major/minor | Major/minor (Offered North Sydney) |
| Psychology (non-APAC accredited) | — | — | Major/minor | Major/minor |
| Sociology | minor | — | Major/minor | Major/minor |
| Study of Religions | Major/minor | — | Major/minor | Major/minor |
| Theological Studies | Major/minor | — | Major/minor | Major/minor |
| Visual Arts | Major/minor | — | Major/minor | Major/minor |
| Youth Work | — | — | minor | — |

The followings are available only to students who commenced the minor before 2024:

| Discipline | Brisbane | Canberra | Melbourne | Strathfield |
|--|----------|----------|-------------|-------------|
| Creative Writing (suspended from 2024) | minor | — | minor | minor |
| Media (suspended from 2024) | — | — | Major/minor | — |

HOW DO I RECORD MY MAJOR IN THE STUDENT SYSTEM?

Once you have completed a semester in the Bachelor of Arts, you should register your major/s in Student Connect.

You should also update this information if you change your major at any time, as it helps us to monitor your progress through the course and provide advice.

You do not need to register your minor/s.

In Student Connect, click on **My Enrolment** then click **Select your Major/s**.

CAN I CHANGE MY MAJOR OR MINOR LATER IN THE COURSE?

Yes, most students can do that, particularly if you are in the early stages of the degree. It is a good idea to check with your Course Coordinator about whether this will extend your degree or not. Changing your major or minor may require different subject choices and may potentially extend your degree. You can apply to change your major in Student Connect after the end of your first semester.

In Student Connect, click on **My Enrolment** then click **Select your Major/s**.

Electives

WHICH UNITS CAN I TAKE AS ELECTIVES?

Electives can be any unit from the National School of Arts and Humanities Unit List provided that prerequisite requirements are met. You **cannot** take electives from Education, Health Sciences, Nursing, Law, Criminology, or any other unit not listed in the Arts Unit List.

CAN I CHOOSE AN ELECTIVE AS AN EXTRA UNIT IN MY MAJOR OR MINOR?

You may do this if there are more units on offer over the course of your degree than the major or minor requires. See the National School of Arts and Humanities Unit List for the yearly choice of units. You can discuss this with your Course Coordinator if you have any questions.

SHOULD I DO ALL MY ELECTIVES IN ONE AREA, OR SELECT EACH ELECTIVE AS THE MOOD TAKES ME?

That's up to you! Some students strategically develop an area they think will be useful in the workforce while others enjoy sampling different subject areas to give them a wider knowledge base.

CAN I STUDY A LANGUAGE AT ACU?

You may study a language minor in the Bachelor of Arts at ACU. The available languages are Italian or Spanish.

ACU offers you the opportunity to complete a Diploma in Languages in conjunction with your ACU undergraduate degree. If this interests you, please contact AskACU for advice.

With the approval of your course coordinator, you may study a major or minor in the language of your choice (other than English) through cross-institutional study at another university.

Language units are also available as electives in the Bachelor of Arts.

In a Bachelor-level degree, credit is not given for pre-tertiary studies.

Enrolling in units

HOW DO I FIND WHICH UNITS ARE AVAILABLE TO ENROL IN?

The units on offer are updated each year and the unit list will show you what you can choose in current academic year. Always use the updated unit list. **You will find the current unit list in the Course Enrolment Guide.** This is one of the most important sources of information that you will need to complete your enrolment and changes each year.



SHOULD ALL STUDENTS COMMENCING THE BACHELOR OF ARTS ENROL IN THE FOUNDATION UNITS?

Yes, all students who started in 2024 or after should enrol in HUMA114, HUMA115 (in semester 1) and HUMA116 in semester 2.

HOW DO I KNOW THE LEVEL OF THE UNITS I'M ENROLLING IN?

The course map will guide you as to the level of the unit you need to choose.

If the map states, 'Major 100 level', you must choose a unit code that starts with a '1', for example, HIST115. These are sometimes referred to as "introductory" units. You can enrol in up to two 100-level units in your major or minor sequence.

If the map states '200-level', choose a unit that starts with a '2', for example, HIST251.

Don't enrol in a 200-level unit until you have completed at least one first-year unit from the same sequence, or any required prerequisite.

Students normally enrol in 300-level units towards the end of their degree and when they have completed any prerequisites that might be required. You must complete two 300-level units to complete a major.

Prerequisite units

WHAT ARE PREREQUISITE UNITS?

A prerequisite is a unit you must complete before you can enrol in a higher-level unit.

The enrolment system will prevent you from enrolling in units for which you do not have the prerequisite. If you have transferred from another degree and believe you have met the prerequisites for higher-level units, you may need to apply for credit for your previous studies. More information is available at the following link:

https://acu.service-now.com/askacu?id=askacu_kb_article&sys_id=2b66ca9b71502140c04b31c7202e9a1b

HOW DO I APPLY FOR A WAIVER OF PREREQUISITE UNITS?

You can find more information along with the prerequisite waiver form at the following link:

https://acu.service-now.com/askacu?id=askacu_kb_article&sys_id=dcca40f91bf3d814f66eebd6ec4bcb9c&table=

Special units

WHAT IS THE HUMA332 ARTS AND HUMANITIES SPECIAL PROJECT UNIT?

The special project unit will focus on different projects in different years. There are two internships on offer. One is an internal internship for the *Scroll* magazine and students may apply from any degree or major in the National School of Arts and Humanities, especially (but not limited to) those with skills in any of English, Creative Writing, Communication, Media, Graphic Design, Visual Arts. The other is an internal internship with the Our Lives project, a longitudinal study of young people in Queensland and it is open to students majoring in Sociology. Priority will be given to final year students, and GPA will be considered. This unit will count as an elective in your degree.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HUMA330 AND HUMA331?

HUMA330 is a placement unit where students undertake a placement in an organisation in the community in semester 2. If you have a disability or additional needs that need to be considered in the choice of placement, please contact your course coordinator prior to enrolling.

HUMA331 is a classroom-based unit where students work in groups (or alone if needed) using key skills in research and analysis, to devise, plan and pitch an idea for a social business or social enterprise. There is no placement in this unit. In 2025, this unit will run in summer term and semesters 1 and 2.

You must take either of these units in third year to meet the core Community Engagement requirement of the Bachelor of Arts.

For more information about any of the special units, please contact your Course Coordinator.

Study part of your Bachelor of Arts at our campus in Italy

The Bachelor of Arts is one of the key degrees at ACU that is designed to offer students the opportunity to spend a full semester in Italy. All units are taught for ACU students by ACU staff, in English, so you do not need to have Italian language skills to take this option. Students stay in the ACU accommodation during their study in Rome.

To plan for this opportunity, it is a good idea to follow the specific map that incorporates the semester in Rome from the time that you commence your degree.:

- Choose the Major, minor and study in Rome degree option
- Follow the map designed for this:
 - [Semester 1 intake course map \(one major, one minor, and Rome semester\)](#)
 - [Semester 2 intake course map \(one major, one minor, and Rome semester\)](#)
- Students in the Bachelor of Arts, who wish to take a full semester of study in Italy normally study four units at the ACU Rome campus in semester 2 of year 2 but you may study in Rome in semester 1 if that option is available.
- To express interest in being selected for the Rome semester in 2025 please fill in the following form before the end of the enrolment period:

[ACU Study in Rome: 2025 Expression of Interest](#)

The Rome Campus Semester offers units that really make use of the city of Rome, its art, history, architecture and people.

In 2025 this will include the following units in semester 2 (each unit runs for three weeks):

- ITAN101 Introductory Italian
- HUMA254 The Idea of the City: A Study of Rome
- HUMA207 More than a Museum: Modern Rome
- HUMA252 Art, Politics and Society in Renaissance and Baroque Rome
- HUMA319 Rome Field School: Landscapes Past and Present
- THEL214 Cults, Gods and Religion in Ancient Rome
- THEL215 All Roads Lead to: Mapping Laudato Si' and UN Sustainable Development Goals
- PHCC320 - The Just Society

The Vice Chancellor's travel grant and HELP loans make overseas study a more affordable option.

CAN I DO A SINGLE ELECTIVE ON THE ROME CAMPUS? HOW DO I APPLY?

Yes, students can take units in Rome as electives or sometimes as a single unit in your major or minor. Some of the units run after the end of semester 2, such as HUMA252 Art Politics and Society in Renaissance and Baroque Rome which normally runs in December. You can find out more in the Study Overseas web page (log in required):

<https://www.studentportal.acu.edu.au/career-and-opportunities/so/acu%20rome%20campus>

Duration of degree

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO COMPLETE MY DEGREE?

There are several ways to study the Bachelor of Arts degree.

Full-time Accelerated:

This mode allows students to finish the Bachelor of Arts degree in 2.5 years. The program is designed to use summer or winter units to speed up your degree.

Full-Time (Standard)

This mode allows students to finish the Bachelor of Arts degree in 3 years. Students may take summer or winter units if they wish but are not required to do so.

Full-Time (Standard) with semester in Rome

This mode allows students to finish the Bachelor of Arts degree in 3 years with a semester at the ACU Rome campus.

Part-Time

This mode allows students to finish the Bachelor of Arts degree in 7 years. Students may choose to study only in standard semester time or can spread three or four units per year over semester 1 or semester 2, summer and/or winter (as available).

Choose the right course map

In the 'Course maps' tab of the Course Enrolment Guide you will find various versions of the course map. Select and follow the appropriate map for your circumstances, noting the year and semester you started the course.