



Undergraduate and Postgraduate Arts Humanities and Social Sciences Course Guide



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Acknowledgement of Country

Charles Darwin University acknowledges and pays respect to the Elders both past and present of all First Nations people upon whose lands CDU campuses and centres are located.



Fit learning around your lifestyle

Study your way with a leader in online learning

At CDU, you can fit your learning around your lifestyle. Choose to study online from anywhere in Australia, part-time or full-time, and complete your placements close to home.

How online study works



Whether you study online or on campus, you will have access to our online learning platform, Learnline.



Take part in interactive lectures and group discussions live, or download recordings and resources to access later.



You'll have 24/7 access to your own study-specific tutoring service and round-the-clock technical support via email.



Access your laptop, desktop or mobile device and upload assignments from anywhere.



Meet other students and have lots of opportunities to make friends.



“

“CDU has a great advantage: it’s small enough that lecturers recognise you and remember your face, but big enough to equip you with all the right tools to reach for that dream job.”

Taylor, Bachelor of Arts

Study Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences at CDU

Flexible, contemporary courses in the arts, humanities and social sciences develop your skills in critical thinking and creative problem solving. You will be prepared for the demands of an ever-changing world and the broad spectrum of jobs within it.

With an extensive range of study areas from Indigenous knowledges and sociology to public policy, and much more, you can take your interests and passions and turn them into a profession.



Learn from leaders in Indigenous and Asia Pacific knowledge and benefit from lecturers' strong links to Northern Australia and South-East Asia.



Flexible study options. Choose to study online, on campus, part-time or full-time.



Graduate industry-ready with hands-on experience.



#5-star university for humanities and social services graduate salaries.[^]

Find your course online for the latest admission requirements and course details:
cdu.edu.au/study/arts | cdu.edu.au/study/humanities-social-sciences

[^]Good Universities Guide 2025

Bachelor of Arts

 **LOCATION** – Casuarina, Online

 **DURATION** – 3 years full-time, 6 years part-time

 **DOMESTIC INTAKE** – Semester 1, Semester 2, Summer Semester

The Bachelor of Arts is a highly flexible, future-focussed degree featuring a choice of six majors, each offering a unique perspective on the world around you and your role in it.

You'll learn how to improve your decision-making, generate new ideas, and think critically and creatively. At a time when some jobs are disappearing, others are evolving, and new jobs are emerging, these are the transferable skills that will futureproof your career.

CDU's Bachelor of Arts develops the breadth and depth of your knowledge. It gives you the freedom to focus on your area of interest while also studying other subjects from a wide range of fields.

At CDU, you'll benefit from a unique focus on Indigenous leadership and the issues and opportunities facing northern Australia and South-East Asia. You'll also have the flexibility to study online, on campus or a mix of both, part-time or full-time. With 24/7 access to learning materials and online collaboration tools, you can study when it suits you.

Choose from six majors:

- > **Media Studies, Literature and Creative Writing:** Explore how the digital age is changing communication, interaction and the way information is shared. Learn about social media, media ethics, creative and professional writing, and multi-screen communication.
- > **Society and Digital Culture:** Learn how philosophy, sociology and Indigenous knowledge traditions influence the way we think about the world and make decisions. You'll explore the social issues facing northern Australia and South-East Asia and the cultural drivers that impact change.
- > **Australian Indigenous Knowledges:** Gain the skills and knowledge to work with Indigenous cultures and communities in a culturally competent way. This major focuses on developing the knowledge and skills for meaningful policymaking and implementing change for Australia's Indigenous peoples. You'll learn about the sociological, economic, historical and cultural drivers that impact Australia's Indigenous policy-making and governance.
- > **Languages, Linguistics and Culture:** Learn a new language and examine the role of language and linguistics in our communities – Chinese, Greek, Indonesian or one of three Indigenous languages (Yolŋu, Arrernte or Bininj Kunwok). Explore the mechanics of language, the role of languages in our socioeconomic and political lives, and how languages shape our identities and strengthen communities. Opportunities exist to advance your language skills with an in-country study program.
- > **Interdisciplinary Studies:** Adopt a variety of knowledge and skills from various disciplines across the university to explore special interests and advance your employment options in an ever-changing world.
- > **Justice Studies, Peace and Truth-Telling:** This major allows students to carefully consider the world hidden in plain sight. Units in this major explore climate justice, violent power structures, practices of social transformation and their challenges. Graduate in this major with the skills to solve wicked problems.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Graduating from this course may lead to career opportunities in various fields. The knowledge and skills you acquire through this degree will prepare you for work in a range of government and statutory authorities such as land councils, museums, training and research organisations, diplomacy, policy advisor, communications, media, or consultancy, particularly where these organisations engage with central and northern Australia and Asia. Study with a focus on interdisciplinary studies will support your career as a project manager, public servant or entrepreneur.

Diploma of Arts

 **LOCATION** – Casuarina, Online

 **DURATION** – 1 year full-time, 2 years part-time

 **DOMESTIC INTAKE** – Semester 1, Semester 2, Summer Semester

The Diploma of Arts offers students diverse specialist and interdisciplinary thematic knowledge in a variety of areas including:

- > Media Studies, Literature and Creative Writing
- > Society and Digital Culture
- > Australian Indigenous Knowledges
- > Languages, Linguistics and Culture
- > Interdisciplinary Studies
- > Justice Studies, Peace and Truth-Telling

As a student, your journey through this program will also develop core communication, critical and creative thinking skills to prepare you to participate in a multidisciplinary and global workforce.

The Diploma of Arts is ideal for anyone who wants a taste of studying arts and would like to gain a qualification but may not be ready to commit to a full bachelor's degree.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Graduating from this course may lead to career opportunities in a range of fields. The knowledge and skills you acquire through this qualification will start to prepare you for work in a range of government and statutory authorities such as land councils, museums, training and research organisations, as a policy advisor, or for work in diplomacy, communications, media, or consultancy – particularly where these organisations engage with central and northern Australia and Asia.

Study focussing on creative endeavours will support your career as an artist, writer, designer or performer, particularly if you can combine your study with some work in entrepreneurship and business management.

Diploma of Indigenous Research

 **LOCATION** – Casuarina, Online

 **DURATION** – 1 year full-time, 2 years part-time

 **DOMESTIC INTAKE** – Semester 1, Semester 2

The Diploma of Indigenous Research is exclusively for Indigenous students. You will draw on your own knowledge, heritage and cultural traditions to carry out on-ground research work and learn how research may contribute in positive ways to Indigenous people, places and futures.

If you are new to research, you will gain an introduction to key issues and themes, and develop practical skills informed by the place where you live and its law and knowledge.

If you are already exploring your own research projects, you will gain supervision and support, and meet other students exploring their own projects in other places.

If you are an experienced researcher, you will demonstrate this and be recognised for the skills and practices that are important in your workplace or community.

This course includes an on-ground research project where you will be supported to develop your own research work in urban or remote Aboriginal communities. All units in the course are available online and can be carried out in the places where you live and work.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

You will graduate with the knowledge and skills that are useful for research within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander contexts, organisations and communities, government departments and agencies or private agencies and organisations that are involved in Indigenous research. The course seeks to credential the Indigenous research knowledge and skills you already have and helps you apply it in other research settings.

Bachelor of Arts Honours

 **LOCATION** – Casuarina, Online

 **DURATION** – 1 year full-time, 2 years part-time

 **DOMESTIC INTAKE** – Semester 1, Semester 2

The Bachelor of Arts Honours program provides an initiation into independent research. Through its core units, graduates gain a robust understanding of research and fundamental knowledge, empowering them to carry out and proficiently present their independent research across a chosen field of interest.

Equipped with the requisite knowledge and skills, students will learn to conduct ethical research, foster positive working relationships, and appropriately acknowledge intellectual property rights. Students will work closely with their research supervisor during the course to develop a high-quality research thesis, industry project or sustained creative work project.

At CDU, you'll have the one-on-one support and flexibility to design a bespoke research project that aligns with and develops your talents and interests. Graduates will have developed a level of expertise in a number of key discipline majors available for study and will have been immersed in an environment of locally based social and cultural issues and practices that will have an impact upon their professional practice, further study and/or research.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

With various practical and specialised majors and study subjects to select from, CDU's Bachelor of Arts Honours courses are adaptive and versatile. As a Bachelor of Arts Honours graduate, depending on your discipline, your skills will be in demand in a range of careers, including business, community services, education, government civil service, international relations, media, museums and other historical or cultural institutions, not-for-profit community or policy work, private sector consulting, public office, public policy and research.

Graduate Certificate of Arts

 **LOCATION** – Casuarina, Online

 **DURATION** – 6 months full-time, 1 year part-time

 **DOMESTIC INTAKE** – Semester 1, Semester 2

The Graduate Certificate of Arts program is designed to diversify and expand your knowledge in cultural and creative spheres.

You can choose units in various areas, including:

- > Social Sciences
- > Indigenous Knowledges and Engagement
- > Indigenous Languages and Contemporary Social Issues
- > Indigenous Research Practice
- > Creative Arts

Whether you aim to consolidate your expertise or embark on a new career path, this degree will equip you with the analytical and critical thinking skills necessary for success.

At CDU, you will explore unique perspectives on contemporary issues facing Indigenous Australia, northern Australia and South-East Asia. Our lecturers, who are leaders in their fields, are ready to guide and mentor you.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

A Graduate Certificate of Arts will open up opportunities for you by adding a new dimension of knowledge and skills to your existing qualifications. It can prepare you for work by giving your qualifications and experience a competitive edge. It also allows you to access locally specific, Indigenous or creative skills and knowledge development without committing to longer periods of study.

Graduate Certificate of Public Policy

 **LOCATION** – Casuarina, Online

 **DURATION** – 1 year part-time

 **DOMESTIC INTAKE** – Semester 1, Semester 2

Be a change maker and help shape social, environmental, and economic policy in Australia. Our Graduate Certificate of Public Policy will give you the in-demand knowledge and skills to engage in effective and ethical research, analysis and writing for policy development in government or private companies.

You will explore a variety of political, cultural and social theory approaches to public policy and gain a solid understanding of evidence-based policy development, evaluation, and practical research theories and methodologies.

Study with us to get:

- > To get a unique perspective on the challenges and characteristics of policy development in Northern Australia including the policy issues in the region's remote contexts, the significance of First Nations people and cultures, and its proximity to South-East Asia.
- > To receive one-on-one supervision and support from university research, public policy researchers, policy developers and evaluators, and teaching staff.
- > For flexible study options, including part-time or full-time, and either 100 percent online or on campus.

Specialist elective units can be chosen from the postgraduate offerings at Charles Darwin University in a variety of discipline areas including education, emergency and disaster, environment, health, Indigenous knowledges, management and governance, safety and security.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Graduating with a Graduate Certificate of Public Policy can lead to career opportunities in government and private companies as a policy researcher.

Graduate Diploma of Indigenous Policy Development

 **LOCATION** – Casuarina, Online

 **DURATION** – 1 year full-time, 2 years part-time

 **DOMESTIC INTAKE** – Semester 1, Semester 2

The Graduate Diploma of Indigenous Policy Development will build on professional knowledge and experiences by providing a critical understanding of important aspects of Indigenous economic and policy development in modern Australia.

You will examine key issues of Indigenous policy development and implementation, economic development and participation, traditional and modern governance structures, and intellectual and cultural property rights in current social and political contexts. This course is an essential foundation for respectful and accountable engagement with Indigenous people and the current social and political issues they face in Australia and internationally.

This is an important course if you want to develop your knowledge and understanding of:

- > The workings of government and policy
- > The structures and functions of governance in relation to Indigenous people
- > The practice of cultural engagement with and between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people
- > The culture and language of Yolŋu people.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

A Graduate Diploma of Indigenous Policy Development will open up opportunities for you by adding a new dimension of knowledge and skills to your existing qualifications.

Graduates from this course working in various government and other professional roles enhance their employability by strengthening and deepening their understanding of the interface between policy-related aspects of their work and the needs and aspirations of the broader Indigenous community.

Graduates can credit their studies in the graduate diploma towards a Master of Public Policy. Potential employment opportunities include roles in government and non-government organisations related to Indigenous affairs in areas such as research, policy development, media and communications, or academia.

Master of Applied Linguistics

 **LOCATION** – Casuarina, Online

 **DURATION** – 1.5 years full-time, 3 years part-time

 **DOMESTIC INTAKE** – Semester 1, Semester 2

The Master of Applied Linguistics at CDU is a postgraduate degree that prepares you for analysis, evaluation, and application of linguistic understandings to language, its use, and its role in various contexts. You will build theoretical foundations in applied linguistics for developing knowledge and awareness in the field that targets developments in practice and research.

The focus of the program is on contextualised evaluation of language, which can be applied to theoretical analysis or contribute to the continuing professional development of linguists, language teachers, Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) practitioners, and education policymakers. You will explore content incorporating aspects that apply to local, regional and global contexts and offer directed engagement with First Nations, Australian, Asian and global content and perspectives. Study opportunities exist on-campus or online, in full-time or part-time study modes.

You may personalise your course by completing a capstone research project in an area of interest complemented by additional coursework electives. Areas of focus across the course include Indigenous languages, linguistic analysis and documentation, language teaching and testing, and sociolinguistics. All areas are represented in coursework components, and in pursuing a capstone research project, you will have access to an expert research supervisor who will guide you in the research journey.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Graduating from this course can lead to career opportunities in fields concerned with applied linguistics, language education, policymaking and professional domains where language, its use, and role are a priority. Graduates may also be provided with pathways for further study at the PhD level through research preparation.

Master of Arts (Coursework)

 **LOCATION** – Casuarina, Online

 **DURATION** – 2 years full-time, 4 years part-time

 **DOMESTIC INTAKE** – Semester 1, Semester 2

CDU's Master of Arts (Coursework) is a flexible, postgraduate unit-based course that offers students opportunities to develop competencies in various fields, enhance career progression, update skills, and pursue their interests in arts and social sciences. The course will diversify and grow your knowledge in cultural and creative spheres.

You will choose to specialise in one of following areas:

- > Social Sciences
- > Indigenous Knowledges and Engagement
- > Indigenous Languages and Contemporary Social Issues
- > Indigenous Research Practice
- > Creative Arts
- > Research (PhD Pathway)

Whether you want to consolidate your expertise or forge a new career path, this degree will equip you with the analytical and critical thinking skills you need to succeed.

At CDU, you'll explore unique perspectives on the contemporary issues facing Indigenous Australia, northern Australia and South-East Asia. Our lecturers are leaders in their fields and are ready to guide and mentor you. In a world where opinions are rife, but facts and considered thought may not be, your ability to critically evaluate ideas, concepts and information will set you apart.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

A Master of Arts is a great way to deepen and strengthen your knowledge and skills across professional careers ranging from the creative industry to Indigenous policy. The course offers the opportunity to credit the work you are doing on existing projects towards your study.

Master of Public Policy

 **LOCATION** – Casuarina, Online

 **DURATION** – 2 years full-time, 4 years part-time

 **DOMESTIC INTAKE** – Semester 1, Semester 2, Summer Semester

The Master of Public Policy gives you in-depth knowledge of political, cultural and social theory approaches to public policy and a solid understanding of evidence-based policy development and evaluation embedded within practical research theories and methodologies. Challenge yourself by taking on master's level study and gain transferrable skills to advance your career.

This course is designed to uniquely focus on northern Australia and its relation to South-East Asia. You'll explore policy issues in remote contexts, the significance of First Nations peoples and cultures, and the regions proximity to South-East Asia.

Streams include:

- > Education
- > Environment and livelihoods
- > Health and social policy
- > Indigenous contexts
- > Public management and governance
- > Secure and safe communities

The two-year full-time or four-year part-time course can be studied 100 percent online or on campus and culminates in a research project that explores issues of research in policy-related fields. Whilst the structure is mostly prescriptive, there is scope within the course to conceptualise new thinking in an important public policy research project of your choice. We welcome the opportunity to discuss your ideas and to tailor a course to suit. During course engagement, you will receive one-on-one supervision and support from university research, public policy researchers, policy developers and evaluators, and teaching staff.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Graduating with a Master of Public Policy can lead to career opportunities in government and private companies as a policy researcher, advisor, analyst or writer.

A woman with dark curly hair and a man with short dark hair are sitting at a wooden table in a cafe or study area. The woman is wearing a black and white patterned top and is smiling while looking at the man. The man is wearing a light-colored button-down shirt and is also smiling. They appear to be in a friendly conversation. In the background, there are wooden-framed glass doors or windows.

A place for you at CDU

Undergraduate

Entry requirements that recognise your achievements

Each university course has its own entry requirements – if you've achieved the required ATAR and meet the criteria you can apply directly into the course of your choice.

But perhaps you didn't ace Year 12, decided to start your career with a trade, parked your first degree to go travelling, or already have great professional experience in your industry.

We welcome and celebrate unique paths like these, which is why we offer a range of non-traditional, flexible entry requirements.

Postgraduate

Ready for the next step in your studies?

Postgraduate courses range from graduate certificates through to doctorates and can help you take the next step in your career. In most cases, you will need to have completed an undergraduate degree to apply for a postgraduate course. In some cases, consideration can be given to non-graduates who have relevant professional experience. For some courses, other criteria such as an interview, curriculum vitae (CV), audition or portfolio submission apply. Check the admissions requirements for your chosen course at cdu.edu.au/study

Inherent requirements

Many professions require practical, physical, cognitive, literacy, numeracy and certain personal capabilities, such as ethical behaviour, communication skills and legal reporting compliance.

Find out more at: cdu.edu.au/inherent-requirements

How to apply

1. Visit cdu.edu.au

Explore course information, entry requirements and selection processes for your preferred courses.

2. Select your preferences

Register with [SATAC](https://satac.edu.au) and select up to six preferences. Make sure you select your dream degree as your first preference and check the key dates for applications. Late applications may still go through but the application fee may be higher.

3. Apply

Follow instructions from SATAC to complete and submit your application. SATAC may contact you for further information.

4. Accept your offer and enrol

If you are successful you will receive an offer to study at CDU. This will arrive by email from SATAC. Offer rounds will be made from December, with the majority of offers being sent in January for Semester 1 intake. CDU will then email you information on how to accept and enrol.



TIP

After you've enrolled with CDU take the time to apply for available scholarships: cdu.edu.au/scholarships

Returning to study with us?

If you've previously completed a TAFE Certificate III or higher, the Tertiary Enabling Program or an undergraduate degree at CDU, you may be able to apply for your next course directly through CDU rather than via SATAC.

MyNextCourse is an easy, online portal that allows you to apply faster, avoid application fees and receive your offer sooner.

Visit mynextcourse.cdu.edu.au



Be supported

We are a university that will empower and support you. Whether you study online or on campus, you'll be connected to a network of support services to help keep you focused, motivated and on-track with your studies.

Free academic skills programs

Language and learning support is free and confidential, assisting you with skills development tailored to your specific unit. Language and learning advisors work with you to help you understand assignment requirements and improve communication and study skills for your discipline.

You will be paired with a dedicated peer advisor to help you navigate your studies. They will check in with you every other week. This ongoing support ensures that you're progressing well in your studies and academic life. Peer advisors also run collaborative sessions focusing on preparing you for assignments and exams.

Online study buddies

Enjoy seamless, interactive collaboration with your peers, tutors and lecturers on Learnline. Jump into forums, join discussion boards and chat online with your fellow students – any time of the day or night, across Australia and beyond.

Free career advice

The Careers and Employment team offers expert advice and online tools to help you find a job, understand your work style, build your CV, practice job interviews and more.

Log on to the library

Online and on-campus students have 24/7 access to library resources. Knowledgeable and friendly library staff are ready to help over the phone, via email or face-to-face on most campuses.

Staying well

CDU offers a range of resources to help improve your wellbeing including confidential counselling and wellbeing services.

Equal access

The Access and Inclusion team is on hand to provide free and confidential services and support for students with a disability and/or health conditions. This may include providing adjustments to your study conditions, course materials or assessments or the provision of supportive resources like assistive technology.

Scholarships and financial help

CDU offers scholarships to help you complete your studies. Scholarships are available across a range of categories – not just for high achievers. Get assistance with fees, budgeting and grants to help with your financial health and wellbeing.

Student Central

Student Central is your one-stop spot for support and guidance. You can phone, email or visit them on campus for advice on admissions, timetabling, enrolling, exams, course fees and payments, study plans, scholarships and more.

Respect. Now. Always.

At CDU we believe in diversity as a strength and welcome differences in culture, race, religion, gender identity, ability, and sexuality. We are proud of the diversity of the CDU community, and we are working together to create a fair, safe, and inclusive university where everyone can thrive.

CDU is a part of the Universities Australia, Respect. Now. Always. initiative. We are committed to ensuring our students and staff are safe from gender-based violence, sexual assault or harassment.



Why Choose CDU?

Join students from all across Australia who choose CDU to empower and support them to launch or progress their career.



A leading university for graduate employment outcomes¹

Graduate job-ready – with a salary to match. CDU graduates earn 5% more and are 6% more likely to land a full-time job than the average university student.²



Study your way

CDU is a specialist in flexible study. Fit learning around your lifestyle with part-time, full-time, online and on-campus options.



Top 5 Australian university for first-in-family study

We're a leading university for supporting students who are the first in their immediate family to go to university.¹



Scholarships to help you through

We have a diverse range of scholarships that recognise hard work, support those in need and assist students with the financial burden of studying.



The dual-sector advantage - we're a TAFE and a university

From certificates and apprenticeships through to diplomas and degrees, we have a course to fit your preferred level of study and pathway options. This means if you complete a TAFE course and decide to continue studying, you can do it all with CDU.

1. The Good Universities Guide 2025

2. 2023 Graduate Outcomes Survey National Report

Contact us

E: study@cdu.edu.au

Freecall: 1800 061 963

Mon – Thursday 8.00am - 4.00pm

Friday 8.00am – 3.00pm (ACST)

cdu.edu.au

Casuarina

Larrakia Country

Orange 1.1

Ellengowan Drive, NT

Education and Community Precinct

Larrakia Country

54 Cavenagh Street, Darwin NT

Darwin Waterfront

Larrakia Country

21 Kitchener Drive, Darwin NT

Palmerston

Larrakia Country

University Avenue, Palmerston NT

Alice Springs

Arrernte Country

Grevillea Drive, Alice Springs NT

Katherine Town Centre

Jawoyn, Wardaman and Dagoman Country

19 Second Street, Katherine NT

Katherine Rural

Jawoyn, Wardaman and Dagoman Country

Lot 5626 (16km North of Katherine)

Stuart Highway, Katherine NT

Nhulunbuy

Yonju Country

Lot 1468 Dartnall Close, Nhulunbuy NT

Sydney

Gadigal Country

Level 10, 815 George Street,

Haymarket, Sydney, NSW

While all reasonable efforts have been made to ensure that the information in this publication is correct, matters covered by this publication are subject to change. Charles Darwin University does not assume and hereby disclaims any express or implied liability whatsoever to any party for any loss or damage caused by errors or omissions, whether these errors or omissions result from negligence, accident or any other cause.

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Student Central

Freecall: 1800 061 963

E: study@cdu.edu.au

You make CDU



cdu.edu.au