

The Australian National University

Visitors Guide





The University

The Australian National University is both a teaching university and a centre for original research in the natural and social sciences. The University was created as a research university, being established in 1946 by an Act of Parliament 'to encourage and provide facilities for postgraduate research and study both generally and in relation to subjects of national importance to Australia'. Undergraduate teaching was added in 1960 with the amalgamation of Canberra University College and since that time the University has operated with two principal interrelated parts: the Institute of Advanced Studies and the School of General Studies.

The Institute of Advanced Studies has seven large Research Schools: Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Earth Sciences, the John Curtin School of Medical Research, Pacific Studies, Physical Sciences, and Social Sciences.

These fields of interest were chosen for their importance to Australia or because they could be studied with advantage in an Australian setting. Most of the 400 graduate students in the Institute of Advanced Studies are working for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy: about half are from overseas.

The School of General Studies which provides education for some 5000 undergraduate students and over 600 graduate students, including 200 PhDs, also has facilities for research. It consists of five faculties: Arts, Asian Studies, Economics, Law, and Science. In several areas the primary national centre of work is in the School of General Studies: it contains the country's only full Faculty of Asian Studies, and the only university Department of Forestry. There is particularly notable work as well in several aspects of Aboriginal studies.

In addition the University has a number of multidisciplinary research centres and units, such as the Centre for Research and Environmental Studies, the Humanities Research Centre, the Contemporary China Centre, the Centre for Federal Financial Relations, and the North Australia Research Unit, which focus on problems of special interest for Australia.

Multidisciplinary units exist also within some research schools, and interdisciplinary courses are offered to undergraduate students.

Besides its substantial enrolment of part-time students, the University has a Centre for Continuing Education which runs a non-credit, open-access community education program for residents in the local region, and a refresher extension program in a number of areas for professional associations, government departments and interested individuals.

School of General Studies

Faculty of Arts

Aboriginal Studies, Classics, English, Fine Art, Geography, Germanic Languages, History, Human Sciences Program, Linguistics, Medieval Studies, Philosophy, Political Science, Prehistory and Anthropology, Religious Studies, Romance Languages, Slavonic Languages, Sociology, Women's Studies.

Faculty of Asian Studies

Asian Civilizations, Chinese, Indonesian Languages and Literatures, Japanese, Linguistics, South Asian and Buddhist Studies.

Faculty of Economics

Accounting and Public Finance, Administrative Studies, Economic History, Economics, Statistics, Centre for Research on Federal Financial Relations.

Faculty of Law

Faculty of Science

Applied Mathematics, Biochemistry, Botany, Chemistry, Computer Science, Forestry, Geology, Microbiology, Physics, Psychology, Pure Mathematics, Theoretical Physics, Zoology, National Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Centre.

Institute of Advanced Studies

Research School of Biological Sciences

Behavioural Biology, Developmental Biology, Environmental Biology, Genetics, Neurobiology, Population Biology, Bioenergetics Unit, Molecular Biology Unit, Protein Biochemistry Unit, Taxonomy Unit, Virus Ecology Research Group.

Research School of Chemistry

Inorganic Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Physical and Theoretical Chemistry.

Research School of Earth Sciences

Cosmochemistry, Economic Geology, Experimental Petrology, Geophysical Fluid Dynamics, Global Geodynamics, Isotope Geochemistry and Geochronology, Major and Trace Element Geochemistry, Mineral Physics, Palaeomagnetism and Geomagnetism, Rock Deformation, Seismology.

John Curtin School of Medical Research

Biochemistry, Clinical Science, Experimental Pathology, Human Biology, Immunology, Microbiology, Pharmacology, Physical Biochemistry, Physiology, Medical Chemistry Group.

Research School of Pacific Studies

Anthropology, Biogeography and Geomorphology, Economics, Far Eastern History, Human Geography, International Relations, Linguistics, Pacific and South-East Asian History, Prehistory, Contemporary China Centre, Development Studies Centre, South Asian History Section, Strategic and Defence Studies Centre.

Research School of Physical Sciences

Applied Mathematics, Astronomy, Engineering Physics, Mathematics, Nuclear Physics, Solid State Physics, Theoretical Physics, Diffusion Research Unit, Electron and Ion Diffusion Unit.

Research School of Social Sciences

Demography, Economic History, Economics, History, Law, Philosophy, Political Science, Sociology, Statistics, Centre for Foreign Politics (Western Europe), Education Research Unit, History of Ideas Unit, Urban Research Unit, Australian Dictionary of Biography, Business and Trade Union Archives collection.

University Centres

Analytical Services Unit
Centre for Continuing Education
Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies
Humanities Research Centre
NHMRC Social Psychiatry Research Unit
North Australia Research Unit
Office for Research in Academic Methods
Survey Research Centre
Vice-Chancellor's Computing Research Group

Residences and Colleges

The University's four halls of residence — Bruce Hall, Burton and Garran Halls and Toad Hall — and the affiliated colleges — Burgmann, John XXIII and Ursula — provide accommodation for approximately 1600 students. Postgraduate students are accommodated in Graduate House and others with families rent University flats. University House is a hall for postgraduate students and staff and a centre for visiting scholars from around the world. The halls, colleges and University House are available for conferences and seminars mainly during the University's vacations.

University Union Sports Recreation Centre Health and Counselling Services

The University Union is a central meeting place for students and staff, with dining and leisure facilities for cultural and social gatherings.

The Sports Recreation Centre, joined to the Union by a common room, includes squash courts and a gymnasium. The University Health Service and the University Counselling Centre (individual counselling, communication and study skills tuition, and careers and appointments advice) are located in the same building.

Information for the Visitor

The Campus: The University welcomes visitors to its landscaped campus which occupies an area of 145 hectares (358 acres) near Canberra's Civic Centre, bordered by Black Mountain and Lake Burley Griffin. The grounds of the University are open to the public. Conducted tours of the University for senior secondary school and other interested groups may be arranged, given sufficient notice, through the University Information Office in Balmain Crescent, opposite University House; by telephone (Canberra 49 2229), or by letter.

For longer term visitors, branches of most banks, a post office, a pharmacy, a book shop as well as the University Credit Union and the AUS Travel Service are all situated in the Union Court area shown on the map.

Mt Stromlo and Siding Spring Observatories: At Mt Stromlo Observatory, headquarters of the University's Department of Astronomy, 16 km (10 miles) from Canberra City, a gallery which forms part of the 1.9 m (74 inch) telescope building is open to visitors from 9.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. The gallery contains a photographic display of the Department's activities and the 3.9 m (150 inch) Anglo-Australian Telescope project at its observatory on Siding Spring Mountain near Coonabarabran, New South Wales, where an exhibition, 'Exploring the Universe', is also open daily from 9.30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Information about degree courses: Inquiries concerning undergraduate and postgraduate degree courses should be made at the inquiry desk in Chancery Annex, Ellery Circuit; if by telephone, 49 3339 for information on undergraduate courses and 49 2268 for postgraduate courses. Postal inquiries should be addressed to the Academic Registrar.

The Faculty Handbook (course details of Faculties in the School of General Studies, \$2.50 plus postage) may be purchased from the University Co-operative Bookshop.

General Information: General information about the University can be obtained from the University Information Office which is open Monday to Friday from 9 to 12.30 and from 1.30 to 5. Information leaflets are available from a display cabinet outside the office at other times.

For those who would be interested to have more detailed information on the work of the research schools, faculties and other parts of the University, copies of University publications including the annual Report to Parliament will be supplied free on request. The address for postal inquiries is:

University Information,
The Australian National University,
PO Box 4, CANBERRA ACT 2600
or telephone University Information 062-49 2229.