



Australian  
National  
University



THINGS I WISH I'D KNOWN  
**Lessons from your alumni community**



# Students today, alumni forever

Did you know that you became part of the global ANU alumni community from the moment you arrived on campus? As current students you are future alumni.

Being part of the alumni community will enhance your student experience. Stay connected to have access to alumni events and programs including speed mentoring, career networking and to nominate for the Student of the Year—an award within the prestigious ANU Alumni Awards. Participating in these activities is your first step in a lifelong relationship with ANU.



ANU Alumni



@ANUAlumni



Australian National University Alumni



ANUalumni

**Alumni:** Graduates or former students of a university, college or school

# THINGS I WISH I'D KNOWN

"My advice is always be on the lookout for interesting and quirky places to study—a new environment can help you concentrate better and stay on task. Great places to study for me were the bottom floor of the Law Library, the computer labs in the Baldessin Precinct Building, the National Botanic Gardens (behind campus) and the coffee shop at the National Arboretum (if you can find transport!)."

## **Stephen Priest**

BAsiaPacStudies '12, LLB (Hons) '12, GDLP '14

"When choosing your courses, the path to success in or beyond university starts with following your passion, not dollar signs. If you are interested in something, no matter what it is, do it and immerse yourself in it. No matter what happens, you will never regret it."

## **Carys Chan**

BComm (Hons) '13

"You have the opportunity to meet some fantastic people while at ANU. Make sure you have a business card with contact information that you can hand out. Also, if you receive a business card, make sure you send out an email thanking them for the opportunity to meet up and indicate that you look forward to future meetings."

## **Arjuna Mohottala**

GradDipIntDevEc '12, MIntDevEc'13

"A degree at ANU is an opportunity to expand your horizons and find something you're passionate about. It's not a ticket for a job."

## **Brad Carron-Arthur**

BPsych (Hons) '11

"My pieces of advice are:

1. Get involved with clubs and societies at ANU. It's a great way to meet people outside of your College or course.
2. Easiest way to get a graduate job is to go through an internship. Many graduate positions are filled through internships.
3. Attend as many career fairs as you can. Many recruiters look for (and remember) potential graduates at these events."

## **Alissa Irgang**

LLB (Hons) '10, BActS '10, GDLP '12

"After a few years at uni, take a break, get an internship and spend some time away; even if it turns out that you hate the work, it is good to get some perspective. You'll come back to uni having a much better idea of what you want out if it."

## **Jack Muir**

PhB (Hons) '14





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The thing I always wish I had known in my first year is this: get involved in student community life early on! Uni can be an isolating place and it can get lonely, especially in the first couple of years. As soon as I got involved with ANU Volunteers and the ANU Women’s Collective in my later years, I was really, really happy.

”

**Katrina Marson**

BA '12, LLB (Hons) '12, GDLP '13

# THINGS I WISH I'D KNOWN

"Four things I wish I'd known were:

**Referencing:** As a tertiary student, it's critical to acknowledge others' work in assessments. I highly recommend the use of End Note software available in ANU libraries as well as participating in an 'Academic Writing' course run by the Academic Skills and Learning Centre.

[academicskills.anu.edu.au/resources/handouts/referencing-style-guides](http://academicskills.anu.edu.au/resources/handouts/referencing-style-guides)

**Grades aren't everything:** While it is important to achieve academic excellence at university, students with limited or no practical experience may find it hard to secure their first job in their chosen profession. Participate in various extra-curricular activities that ANU offers as well as gaining practical experience either through an internship or as a volunteer to demonstrate application of knowledge gained through university study. Don't leave your visit to the ANU Careers Centre until the last semester—the career centre assists new ANU students with part-time jobs, internship as well as volunteer enquiries.

[www.anu.edu.au/events](http://www.anu.edu.au/events)  
[careers.anu.edu.au](http://careers.anu.edu.au)

**Networking (apart from Facebook):** ANU is a very diverse university with a strong international student contingent as well as high achieving Australians. Networking with your classmates, ANU alumni, academic staff and the wider ANU community, gaining an insight into others' life and career experiences is all part of learning at ANU. Also, professional affiliation with peak industry bodies (like Engineers Australia for engineering students) will unlock a number of industry contacts as well as relevant networking events.

**Libraries other than Chifley and Hancock:** Canberra offers exceptional learning spaces outside the ANU campus, closer to where you live. The National Library of Australia and the ACT Libraries in Civic, Gungahlin, Woden, Belconnen and Tuggeranong all have WiFi connectivity, great cafes close by and may not be as busy as ANU libraries during peak study periods."

[www.nla.gov.au](http://www.nla.gov.au)  
[www.library.act.gov.au](http://www.library.act.gov.au)

**Ajay Satyan**  
MComp '08, MBus '09



“Wish I’d known that ANU has such a fantastic support network, so if you are ever in trouble or have a query, make sure you ask someone (and do not just assume!!). I’m sure, with the nature and breadth of services offered, there will be someone who will be there to assist you.”

### **Shweta Mariwala**

MBus '10, MProfAcc '11

“I wish I knew about the Canberra weather. I came from cold winters in my country to this amazing summer in Canberra. I wish I knew that it’s going to be that hot. Canberra can really get hot in summer, so make sure you pack your sunscreen and other sun protection gear.”

### **Bhavya Vyas**

MBA '11

“You don’t need to walk all the way to Civic for a scoop of gelato. Biginelli Espresso at the School of Music serves lovely gelato too!”

### **Iris Chan**

BlntBus '11, MBus '12

“Something I learnt towards the end of my undergraduate degree was how privileged I was to have the time and space to think deeply, read widely, and enjoy learning for the sake of learning. Once you’re in the workforce, this time and space is gone, or at least limited. Don’t get bogged down in the idea that university is just preparing you for a career—it’s also about developing your ability to think, to observe, to question, to be curious about the world and your place in it.”

### **Cathryn Stephens**

BA '11, LLB (Hons) '11, GDLP '13

“As an ANU student there’s often opportunities to travel as part of or alongside your studies. In addition to the exchange options, keep your eyes and ears open for other opportunities and scholarship programs overseas. This is a great way to expand your horizons while completing your degree. Joining mailing lists for different departments is a good way to hear about opportunities when they arise. Sweet Bones is a great little vegetarian cafe in Braddon I wish I had known about sooner. Also if you are passionate about something, seek opportunities to work or volunteer in that area. Employers really value ‘real world’ experience, so experience additional to your study in an area you’re interested in can help open up doors when you finish your degree.”

### **Sarah Cameron**

MStudies '12

“Don’t be afraid to apply for everything and anything that interests you. Opportunities like internships, studying abroad and stumbling across work in your field of interest are the best things you’ll do as a student, so don’t undermine yourself by not putting yourself forward for consideration, or not being prepared to take risks when they arise. Trust me, you’re ‘good’ enough, so make your own luck and get to where you want to go. Also remember to stay on top of your readings/labs/ the content that is relevant to your courses. It makes it easier to cram or pull an all-nighter if you’re already across the basic material!”

### **Tamara Leahy**

BA '11, LLB (Hons) '11

# THINGS I WISH I'D KNOWN

"The Academic Skills and Learning Centre can provide feedback on any essays or assessments you have. Make sure you visit them often! There are also many work experience opportunities and internships available at Parliament House. Go to their website and browse the available jobs. And most importantly, remember that all your lecturers and tutors have an open door policy. Make use of it as much as possible!"

## **Harriet Bateman**

BA(IR) (Hons) '10

"There are a few key things I'd wish I'd known:

1. That Murrays buses have a cheap rate for ANU students (just call them and ask for the ANU rate).
2. You can also get a student discount at places like JB HiFi, DickSmith, and the Mac1 store. Again, just ask!
3. Getting involved in student politics and clubs and societies is easy! Whether you're an undergrad or postgrad, there are always things to get involved with across the campus and people are really welcoming of new members and contributors. Take for example the student newspaper Woroni, they're always keen for stories or comment pieces from students—just send them an email!"

## **Areti Metuamate**

MStudies '11, PhD (expected '14)

"Be willing to learn more from experience than set coursework".

## **Matthew Tilney**

BlfTech '05

"If you get a chance to take a course outside your College or field of study do it as it will be an interesting experience. Also remember that being an ANU student entitles you to free or discounted things like free copies of Microsoft Office, anti-virus software or discounts on DHL shipping from the ANU campus to anywhere in the world".

## **Adam Reed**

BlfTech '03, BComm (Hons) '04

"Really the best thing to do in first year is get involved in things—do something new. Find a balance between study and everything else. The experience of university is more than just hitting the books—you'll forget that, it's the other stuff you'll remember."

## **Daniel Rodwell**

BlfTech '03

"University is a place where you will learn through coursework as well as experiences. It is a place where you will make friends that you'll keep for many years to come."

## **Arwen Hickey**

BA '05

"As jam packed and full of fun O-week events are at college and ANU, try to resist attending them until you've sorted most of your academic issues (e.g. enrolment, course choices, checking course readings, etc.) and living arrangements (e.g. tidiness of room, etc.). Trust me—your future self in week one will thank you! I attended some of my lectures not realising that I didn't do the prescribed readings for that week."

## **Elisa Lu**

BA/LLB (expected '18)

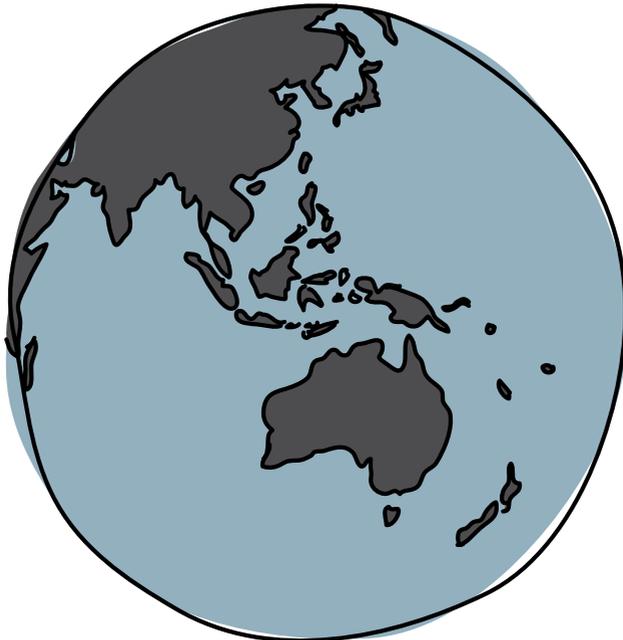
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Take every opportunity to study overseas, whether it be a year, semester, summer or holiday program, studying in a different culture will broaden your knowledge, challenge your views and open new doors. You'll remember the experiences long after you forget the cost.

When writing an assignment, reward your progress! Every 500 words have a treat, you'll get through that paper in no time!

”

Tim Lawley  
BA '13, LLB '13



# THINGS I WISH I'D KNOWN



**Get a bike. It makes getting to distant classes and carrying lots of books significantly easier.”**

**Tim Vines**

BA '08, LLB (Hons) '08, GDLP '10



“I wish I knew that the ANU Student Association’s departments provide amazing free resources for the demographic that they cater to. The Women’s Department provides food, a space for studying and a small feminist library for women-identifying students. For queer students, the Queer\* Department provides food, a large space for study and events, a small queer library and the details of local queer organisations. The International Students’ Department, ANU Disabilities Student Association and the Indigenous Collective also provide resources for their demographics. The emails of the Department Officers may be found at <http://www.anusa.com.au/advocacy/departments/>”

**Anna Torrington**

“Take advantage of the Senior Residents in the residential colleges and ANU services. Get to know the university health and emergency services. It’s better to be aware of what the university offers than to look for a particular service in the case of an emergency. You would be spending the next few years in Canberra—get familiar with the bus routes and timings as early as possible. Many colleges and the University offer city and campus tours—I wish I had taken a greater advantage of these when I was new. Regarding the courses you do, keep a note of all the deadlines regarding swapping/dropping courses. Also, don’t hesitate to change the default structure of your degree; the course advisors will be happy to help you plan your degree according to your liking. These were some of the things I wish I knew before commencing university here.”

**Saksham Malhorta**

BEC (expected '16)

“Take courses that interest you the most and don’t worry about CV-building! For the law students out there, make sure you take statutory interpretation seriously and do legal history.”

**Bin Ben Chen**

BEC '12, LLB (Hons) '13

“Sign up for the hard but useful courses you won’t study otherwise. I would particularly recommend maths and statistics. You can learn the things you are naturally interested in in your own time. Also don’t go and graduate by accident. Sadly, even if you have the time, you won’t get the same support from the government for a second undergraduate degree! Nothing you can do now will affect your options later in life more than what degree and major you choose. If you aren’t sure whether you should be studying science, arts, economics, or something else entirely, do some serious research and consider switching course like I did.”

**Robert Wiblin**

BEC (Hons) '12, BSc '12

“Work at getting the balance right. Marks do matter (for gaining opportunities early on, anyway). But remember that it’s the friends and experiences that stay with you long after you get that first job, so invest your time in university life—it will give back tenfold.”

**Saskia Vervoorn**

BA (Hons) '09

“How many amazing support services there are. No matter how big or small you think your problem or query is, there’ll be someone at ANU who can help.”

**Jarrold Cusack**

BEC '13, LLB (Hons) '13

“My advice is:

- 1) Make sure you organise an academic advisory session to plan out when you could go on exchange.
- 2) Save important academic dates into your calendar.
- 3) Prepare your bibliography and referencing even before you start your essay/project.”

**Adam Da Cruz**

BSc '14

“Try something new, pick up a sport, learn a language or join a club. Don’t be afraid to say ‘I don’t know’, but follow up with ‘I can find out!’”

**Adam Schwebel**

BSc (Forestry) '11



# CONTACT US

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