Our vision

To learn the nature of things.
To teach what we have learned.
To use what we have learned for the greater benefit of all.
OUR AMBITION

The Australian National University (ANU) is endowed by the nation to bring credit to Australia through the quality of its research, education and contribution to societal transformation.

ANU has been since its founding in 1946, and must remain, integral to the building of Australia as a prosperous country with a unique national identity.

As Australia’s national university, ANU has a particular role and responsibility in the contemporary world to produce and nurture intellectual leaders of national, regional and global standing.

Contemporary ANU will sit among the great universities of the world, and be defined by a culture of excellence in everything that we do.

We will be renowned for the excellence of our research. It will be international in scope and quality, always measured against the best in the world. Our research investment will be strategic, taking a long-term view and focusing on high quality activities, high-impact infrastructure and areas of high national importance.

We will be renowned for the excellence of our undergraduate and graduate education: excellence in student cohort, excellence in teaching, excellence in student experience, and excellence in outcomes.

We will be renowned for the quality of the contribution our research and education make to societal transformation. We will identify emerging areas of need for the nation and provide research and education that will equip Australia to cope with challenges not yet imagined.

The University’s research, education and contributions to public policy making will change Australia and change the world. It will have impact.

ANU will attract the very best people to work and study at the University by leading Australia in building

> an academic culture in which every student and academic, professional and technical staff member knows what excellence means and takes pride in being the best;
> a human culture that is as diverse as it is inclusive; and
> a campus environment that is physically, culturally and socially rewarding.

We will ensure a positive campus culture that provides opportunity equally to women and men, to Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, to people living with a disability, and to those who aspire to do great things regardless of sexuality, religion, ethnicity or socio-economic status. We will work across the University with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the pursuit of national reconciliation and indigenous empowerment.

ANU will nurture an intellectual and cultural environment in Canberra worthy of a great nation’s capital city. We will bring national, regional and global intellectual leaders to Canberra, fostering public discussion and debate across the breadth of our research, and make a significant contribution to the cultural life of the city.
OUR PRIORITIES

Research as the foundation of all that ANU does

Consistent with our founding tradition, ANU will undertake both fundamental and applied research of the highest international academic quality and of distinctive strategic value for the nation.

Our research areas will be benchmarked against the best departments in the world and regularly reviewed by external colleagues of the highest international calibre. We will have one of the world’s most international faculty and we will have one of world’s highest rates of publishing with international partners.

Each research area at ANU will:

- aim to be top-20 in the world,
- plan to be top-50 in the world, and
- be, without exception, in the top-100 in the world.

The Australian Government through the National Institutes Grant endows ANU with a responsibility to ensure its research is internationally excellent and nationally meaningful.

We will bring our unique combination of discipline strengths across arts and humanities, social sciences, engineering, medicine and science, interdisciplinary inquiry and innovative application to the challenges facing the contemporary world.

We will plan our research at a discipline level, but look for opportunities across disciplines, fostering performance, opportunity and renewal. We will lead the nation in pioneering, cross-disciplinary research that is at the edge of current areas of inquiry.

We will focus on bringing together the research disciplines, both fundamental and applied, necessary to understand, and position Australia in, our own Asia-Pacific region and the wider world of the 21st century.

As Australia’s national university, we have a special role to play in reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians through research, education, and outreach.

We will meet our contemporary obligation to grow the research capacity of the nation by providing a higher degree research program that is international in its design, and provides our graduates with a degree equal to best in the world.

We will deliver exceptional training for future research leaders, and provide support to early career researchers. We will provide support to early career researchers to undertake high-risk, high-gain research.

Education of a kind unique within Australia

ANU will offer a tertiary education unique in Australia and among the best in the world.

Our students will be drawn from across Australian society and all nations of the world. Our diverse student body will receive an education distinguished by its excellence, with a very high staff to student ratio, high research intensity, and an integrated on-campus experience.

ANU students will have an education that is grounded in our history and academic tradition but contemporary in nature. It will be research-led and distinguished by novel approaches to teaching and learning, by opportunities to undertake research with intellectual leaders, and by a collegiate environment that connects each student to a broad cross-section of the ANU community.

ANU campus life will be characterised by a cross-cultural experience that encompasses the entirety of our intellectual activities. An ANU education will extend beyond the campus, providing our students with international experience and opportunities in business, government, and civil society.

An ANU education is a lifetime experience. Through our alumni programs and networks, our graduates will continue to learn from our intellectual leaders, and help teach future generations of students from their experiences and knowledge. Our graduates will be intellectual leaders. They will have excellent employment outcomes and make a difference in the world.

We will measure the success of our education program not only on graduate employment and income, but on the breadth and quality of the institutions where they work, the contributions they make to those institutions, and their satisfaction with their ANU experience.
Transformation of our society and our world

ANU will build the capacity of Australia and our region to respond nimbly to policy challenges both unresolved and not yet foreseen. Our approach will be international and multi-disciplinary.

ANU will bring cross-disciplinary inquiry to complex problems, producing research that shapes our nation, and impacts on both regional and global policymaking. Our staff and students will be encouraged to bring academic excellence in their disciplines to policy design, development and debate.

ANU will serve Australia and our region as the Asia-Pacific leader in policy research, design and analysis. ANU will provide outstanding education and training for policy leaders of our nation and our region.

ANU will be the destination of choice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander intellectual leaders as a place not only of research and education, but policy development.

Our postgraduate coursework program will reflect our national, regional and global role, offering programs developed in partnership with government, business and civil society. An ANU postgraduate education will develop the capacity of future Australian, Asia-Pacific and global leaders to transform their institutions and society.

We will be the national leader in breaking down the walls between universities, government, industry and civil society. We will implement secondments for our staff to Australian and overseas governments, international agencies, business and non-government organisations.

We will play a leadership role bringing together the best thinkers in the academic, government, business and community sectors in policy debate, to foster capacity for creative responses to a rapidly changing world. We will form international strategic alliances with complementary institutions create high-impact global policy thinking.

We will be the Australian university of choice for businesses to work with and the benchmark of good practice for the sector.

We will contribute to new businesses, providing staff and students with training in entrepreneurship and access to venture development opportunities, measuring our success on the amount of ANU-derived intellectual property taken up by industry. We will encourage interaction between our staff and students with industry partners, and start-up support organisations.

ANU has a shared mission with our fellow national cultural institutions in the development of national identity. We will grow our partnerships with them to include adjunct and joint appointments, joint student supervision, joint research and education projects, and joint projects in the national interest.