

THE GOOD UNIVERSITIES GUIDE 2020

HUMANITIES, CULTURE & SOCIAL SCIENCES



This is a detailed profile of the humanities, culture and social sciences field of study. It lists the range of specialisations available and compares degree-level courses. We examine the institutions that get the best ratings, based on real student experience and graduate outcome data, which will help you decide the right university for your educational journey.

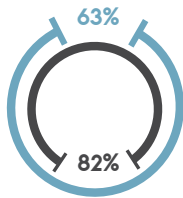
HUMANITIES, CULTURE & SOCIAL SCIENCES

This is one of the largest fields of study, and one of the most complicated. Many courses and specialisations lead to a broad range of careers and further study options. You can combine humanities with law, education, engineering or business, and many humanities graduates complete a postgraduate qualification to get a vocational edge.

FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT

UNDERGRADUATE POSTGRADUATE

Proportion of students who have secured a full-time job within four months of graduating.



MEDIAN GRADUATE SALARY

\$56,500
UNDERGRADUATE

\$78,000
POSTGRADUATE

NUMBER OF STUDENTS



10,188
UNDERGRADUATE
INTERNATIONAL

117,668
UNDERGRADUATE

27,539
POSTGRADUATE

WHAT CAN I DO?



Counselling



Disability Care



Librarian



Politics



Historian



Research

Data has been sourced from the Graduate Outcomes Survey. Results are pooled to represent graduates who completed the survey in 2018, 2017 and 2016. Graduates complete the Graduate Outcomes Survey approximately four months post-graduation.



FIVE-STAR UNIVERSITIES

HUMANITIES, CULTURE & SOCIAL SCIENCES

EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

CDU	91.4%
ECU	91.3%
BOND	90.7%
CQUni	89.1%
RMIT	88.1%
SUNSHINE COAST	86.9%
UNE	86.8%
NOTRE DAME	86.5%

NATIONAL AVERAGE = 82.3%

GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT

CSU	79.3%
UTS	78.0%
FEDERATION	75.0%
SYDNEY	72.3%
ACU	70.6%
MACQUARIE	69.0%
UNSW	68.8%
CANBERRA	68.5%

NATIONAL AVERAGE = 62.8%

LEARNER ENGAGEMENT

BOND	84.0%
NOTRE DAME	70.6%
SUNSHINE COAST	69.0%
UTS	67.5%
RMIT	67.4%
FEDERATION	67.2%
ADELAIDE	66.8%

NATIONAL AVERAGE = 59.1%

LEARNING RESOURCES

SOUTHERN CROSS	96.9%
UniSA	91.8%
BOND	91.2%
DEAKIN	90.5%
ECU	90.4%
GRIFFITH	88.8%
SUNSHINE COAST	88.1%
WOLLONGONG	87.9%
JCU	87.8%
CSU	87.5%

NATIONAL AVERAGE = 85.0%

MEDIAN STARTING SALARY

TASMANIA	\$70,000
ECU	\$67,900
MURDOCH	\$65,000
UNE	\$64,000
CSU	\$63,400
CURTIN	\$62,000
SUNSHINE COAST	\$60,000
VU	\$60,000

NATIONAL AVERAGE = \$56,500

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

ECU	91.1%
BOND	89.6%
RMIT	87.8%
NOTRE DAME	87.6%
CDU	86.2%
SUNSHINE COAST	85.7%
VU	85.6%
UniSA	85.4%

NATIONAL AVERAGE = 81.0%

STUDENT SUPPORT

BOND	89.2%
CDU	85.4%
NOTRE DAME	84.3%
FEDERATION	83.5%
ECU	83.3%
CSU	83.0%
UNE	82.9%
JCU	82.7%

NATIONAL AVERAGE = 73.2%

TEACHING QUALITY

ECU	93.7%
BOND	93.1%
SUNSHINE COAST	92.0%
FEDERATION	91.4%
CQUni	91.3%
CDU	89.7%
UNE	89.4%
NOTRE DAME	89.2%
VU	88.8%

NATIONAL AVERAGE = 85.4%

WHAT DO THESE NUMBERS MEAN? The ratings above represent the top 20 per cent of results for each measure in this particular field of study. For overall institution results, see the ratings section at the front of the guide.

HUMANITIES, CULTURE & SOCIAL SCIENCES

The humanities, culture and social sciences field of study is comprised of two main sections: humanities and social sciences, and languages.

The following are just some of the majors you can study in this field:

- Ancient cultures
- Anthropology
- Counselling
- Information management
- International studies
- Museum studies
- Philosophy
- Political science
- Sociology
- Youth work

If you're interested in pondering over the timeless life questions and really getting your head buzzing, then it's hard to go past the humanities and social sciences. This is one of the largest fields of study, so there's a lot to take in. It's also one of the most complicated, with many courses and specialisations within courses, as well as different kinds of careers and further study options.

Other related fields that may be of interest include business and management, communications, creative arts, economics, education and training, languages, law, psychology and social work. As you would expect, courses vary greatly in their ideologies and teaching approaches. Disciplines like politics and philosophy are among the oldest of all Western forms of learning — and with long histories come an equally long list of schools of thought.

If you want to combine your passion for the humanities and social sciences with something more applied to boost your career prospects, there are many double degrees available — you can couple humanities with law, education, engineering or business, just to name a few. Many humanities graduates complete a postgraduate qualification to get that vocational edge.

LANGUAGES

Learning a second or third language opens up your eyes to a whole new world. But if you're interested in languages yet don't have the desire to learn a new one, a foreign language is not the only path you can take. Many courses are available in English studies or linguistics, each looking at the human language in very different ways.

Many of those who line up to do a language at university already have a good grounding in a foreign language from school, although many institutions happily accept the raw beginner. Beginners might do a special intensive course in first year or over the summer break before joining the mainstream course at the start of the next semester.

COURSES AND SPECIALISATIONS

Since language studies are often found in the most common of all degrees (the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Business), they are readily available at campuses throughout the country. The options are broad and finding your niche can be an exciting challenge. Courses cover specialisations in a wide range of languages, although most only have a small number of students and are offered at just a few campuses, so you will have to keep an open mind about where you go to study.

WHERE TO STUDY

Courses are available at just about every campus in the country, but even those with the same name differ a great deal from one campus to another in terms of their focus and the specialisations offered.

The best language courses study the history, culture and even the economics of the societies in which the languages are used, as well as the languages themselves. There are also other things to keep in mind when looking for a language course. Are native speakers freely available? Does the institution run study tours or summer schools in other countries? If not, do they have other ways of teaching the language in context? Do they subsidise exchange trips to study in other countries (which may be essential for advanced learning)?