



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

Plan your liberal studies or specialist degree

—

2020 edition

sydney.edu.au/plan-your-degree

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Welcome to Sydney

If you are planning to study a liberal studies degree or a professional or specialist degree combined with a liberal studies degree, this guide is for you. It will help you understand the possibilities and provide step-by-step guidance on how to plan your time at Sydney.

We offer three types of undergraduate degrees:



Liberal studies degree

Follow your interests and continue studying what you enjoy most with the flexibility to combine study from a broad range of disciplines.

Degree examples: arts and social sciences, business, science, agriculture, environment and veterinary science.



Professional degrees

A specific study pattern that leads to a defined career outcome and possible accreditation.

Degree examples: engineering, law, teaching and physiotherapy.



Specialist degrees

A specific study pattern that leads to a career in a specific field, but which does not necessarily require industry accreditation.

Degree examples: music, design computing, visual arts and economics.

The combined Bachelor of Advanced Studies

- Combine your three-year specialist, professional or liberal studies degree with the Bachelor of Advanced Studies and study for four years to graduate with two degrees.
- Study two disciplinary areas in depth and undertake interdisciplinary, problem-based learning. For example, if you're interested in art history and data science, you can major in these two areas within a Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Advanced Studies.
- Complete advanced coursework or experiences such as real-world projects and internships, or complete an honours year.

Not sure which degree is right for you?
Learn more about the types of degrees we offer:
sydney.edu.au/undergraduate



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Steps to planning your liberal studies or specialist degree

It's important to start planning your degree at the time of enrolment. When choosing what to study, consider your favourite subjects, hobbies and personal interests, whether you want to focus on a particular discipline or acquire knowledge across many subjects, and what you hope to gain from studying at university.

1

Decide if you want to combine your degree with the Bachelor of Advanced Studies

You can combine the Bachelor of Advanced Studies with a three-year liberal studies, professional or specialist degree. You will study for one additional year and graduate with two degrees.

If you'd like to combine the Bachelor of Advanced Studies with your degree, you will need to select this course when you are submitting your preferences with the Universities Admission Centre (UAC).*

2

Choose a primary major or program

Primary major

Your major will provide substantial disciplinary training in your chosen study area. It will consist of eight units of study (48 credit points), including first-year units of study and a project-based unit.

Program

Some degrees offer programs which provide even more depth in your chosen area of study. It usually consists of at least 10 units of study, including a major.

You will need to select your major or program when you complete your enrolment. You may be able to change your selection later on, but this may impact the length of your degree.

Find out more at

– sydney.edu.au/handbooks

3

Choose 12 credit points of Open Learning Environment units

It's best to decide on the timing for completing Open Learning Environment (OLE) units during your degree planning. We recommend they are taken during the first two years of your degree. There are more than 100 to choose from (see pages 5–6).

4

Choose your second major or a minor

You can also choose to take a second major or a minimum of one minor. A second major is required as part of a four-year degree, the Bachelor of Advanced Studies, and may be compulsory for some other degrees.

Shared pool of majors and minors

Most degrees allow you to take a minor from our shared pool. A minor consists of six units of study (36 credit points). You can select a minor that is closely related to your major field, supports your career goals or provides balance and variety to your studies.

If you're doing the combined Bachelor of Advanced Studies or a liberal studies degree, you have the option to choose a second major from the primary majors list (page 3) or shared pool of majors (page 4). Some professional and specialist degrees also give you the option to take a major or minor from the shared pool.

You need to choose your second major at the time of enrolment. You may be able to change this later, but it could impact the length of your degree.

* Not all courses can be combined with the Bachelor of Advanced Studies. To see which courses can be combined, visit sydney.edu.au/bachelor-advanced-studies

5

Choose your project-based units and international experience

Project-based units

Typically completed in your third year of study as a requirement of your major, project-based units give you the opportunity to work across cultural, disciplinary or professional boundaries.

Find out about some of our project-based units:

- sydney.edu.au/students/industry-and-community-projects

International experience

Typically taken in your second-last year, global opportunities include overseas field schools,

professional placements, and short-term, semester or year-long exchanges with more than 300 partner universities worldwide.

Find out more:

- sydney.edu.au/study/student-exchange

6

Choose advanced coursework or honours

If you are studying the combined Bachelor of Advanced Studies, in your fourth year you will undertake advanced coursework and projects, or apply to study a traditional honours program.

Honours offers an opportunity to conduct independent research and become a subject matter expert. It is an ideal pathway to a PhD.

What could your degree look like?

Think about where you would like to be in the future and create a degree tailored to your needs. Here are some examples of how you could structure your degree.

Indicative course structure: three-year degree

Year	Semester	Units of study			
1	1	Major 1	Core/elective	Core/elective	Major 2 or minor
	2	Major 1	Core/elective	Core/elective	OLE
2	1	Major 1	Elective	Elective	Major 2 or minor
	2	Major 1	OLE	Major 2 or minor	Major 2 or minor
3	1	Major 1	Major 1	Major 2 or elective	Major 2 or minor
	2	Major 1	Major 1	Major 2 or elective	Major 2 or minor

Indicative course structure: combined three-year degree and Bachelor of Advanced Studies

Year	Semester	Units of study			
1	1	Major 1	Core/elective	Core/elective	Major 2
	2	Major 1	Core/elective	Core/elective	OLE
2	1	Major 1	Elective	Major 2	Major 2
	2	Major 1	OLE	Elective	Major 2
3	1	Major 1	Major 1	Major 2	Major 2
	2	Major 1	Major 1	Major 2	Major 2
4	1	Advanced coursework including a research, community, industry or entrepreneurship project or honours coursework and honours project			
	2				

- Major 1
- Major 2
- Core/elective
- Elective
- Open Learning Environment (OLE)
- Advanced coursework (4000-level units and above)

Please note: all of the course structures in this guide are indicative only and subject to change.

Choose your primary major

If you are studying a Bachelor of Arts, Commerce or Science, you will need to select a primary major from the relevant lists below.

Bachelor of Arts

Most of the majors on this list can also be taken as minors. In addition, you can study minors in Celtic Studies, Diversity Studies, Sanskrit, Social Policy and Writing Studies.

- American Studies
- Ancient Greek
- Ancient History
- Anthropology
- Arabic Language and Cultures
- Archaeology
- Art History
- Asian Studies
- Biblical Studies and Classical Hebrew
- Chinese Studies
- Criminology
- Cultural Studies
- Digital Cultures
- Economic Policy
- Economics
- Econometrics
- English
- Environmental, Agriculture and Resource Economics
- European Studies
- Film Studies
- Financial Economics
- French and Francophone Studies
- Gender Studies
- Germanic Studies
- Hebrew (Modern)
- History
- Indigenous Studies
- Indonesian Studies
- International and Comparative Literary Studies
- International Relations
- Italian Studies
- Japanese Studies
- Jewish Civilisation, Thought and Culture
- Korean Studies
- Latin
- Linguistics
- Modern Greek Studies
- Music
- Philosophy
- Political Economy
- Politics
- Socio-Legal Studies
- Sociology
- Spanish and Latin American Studies
- Studies in Religion
- Theatre and Performance Studies
- Visual Arts

Bachelor of Commerce

Most of the majors listed below can also be taken as minors.

- Accounting
- Banking
- Business Analytics
- Business Information Systems
- Business Law
- Finance
- Industrial Relations and HR Management
- International Business
- Management
- Marketing

Bachelor of Science

Most of the majors on this list can also be taken as minors. In addition, you can study minors in Immunology, Pathology, Plant Science, Virology and Wildlife Conservation.

- Anatomy and Histology
- Animal Health, Disease and Welfare
- Animal Production
- Applied Medical Science
- Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
- Biology
- Cell and Developmental Biology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Data Science
- Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
- Environmental Studies
- Financial Mathematics and Statistics
- Food Science
- Genetics and Genomics
- Geography
- Geology and Geophysics
- History and Philosophy of Science
- Immunology and Pathology
- Infectious Diseases
- Information Systems
- Marine Science
- Mathematics
- Medicinal Chemistry
- Microbiology
- Neuroscience
- Nutrition Science
- Pharmacology
- Physics
- Physiology
- Plant Production
- Psychological Science
- Quantitative Life Sciences
- Software Development
- Soil Science and Hydrology
- Statistics

Choose your second major or a minor

The shared pool of majors and minors allows you to choose subjects from a variety of disciplines outside your home faculty or school.

Architecture, design and planning

- Biological Design
- Design

Arts and social sciences

- American Studies
- Ancient Greek
- Ancient History
- Anthropology
- Arabic Language and Cultures
- Archaeology
- Art History
- Asian Studies
- Biblical Studies and Classical Hebrew
- Celtic Studies*
- Chinese Studies
- Criminology
- Cultural Studies
- Digital Cultures
- Diversity Studies*
- Economic Policy^
- Economics
- Econometrics
- English
- Environmental, Agriculture and Resource Economics
- European Studies
- Film Studies
- Financial Economics
- French and Francophone Studies
- Gender Studies
- Germanic Studies
- Hebrew (Modern)
- History
- Indigenous Studies
- Indonesian Studies
- International and Comparative Literary Studies
- International Relations
- Italian Studies
- Japanese Studies
- Jewish Civilisation, Thought and Culture
- Korean Studies
- Latin

- Linguistics
- Modern Greek Studies
- Philosophy
- Political Economy
- Politics
- Sanskrit*
- Social Policy*
- Socio-legal Studies
- Sociology
- Spanish and Latin American Studies
- Studies in Religion
- Theatre and Performance Studies
- Visual Arts
- Writing Studies*

Business

- Accounting
- Banking**
- Business Analytics
- Business Information Systems
- Business Law
- Finance**
- Industrial Relations and Human Resource Management
- International Business
- Management
- Marketing

Education and social work

- Education

Engineering and computer science

- Computer Science
- Information Systems
- Project Management
- Software Development

Medicine and health

- Anatomy and Histology
- Applied Medical Science
- Disability and Participation
- Health
- Hearing and Speech
- Immunology and Pathology**
- Immunology*

- Infectious Diseases
- Neuroscience
- Pathology*
- Pharmacology
- Physical Activity and Health
- Physiology

Music

- Music

Science

- Animal Health, Disease and Welfare
- Animal Production
- Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
- Biology
- Cell and Developmental Biology
- Chemistry
- Data Science
- Ecology and Evolutionary Biology**
- Environmental Studies
- Financial Mathematics and Statistics
- Food Science
- Genetics and Genomics
- Geography
- Geology and Geophysics
- History and Philosophy of Science
- Marine Science
- Mathematics
- Medicinal Chemistry
- Microbiology
- Nutrition Science
- Physics
- Plant Production
- Plant Science*
- Psychological Science
- Quantitative Life Sciences
- Soil Sciences and Hydrology
- Statistics
- Virology*
- Wildlife Conservation*

* Available as a minor only

** Available as a major only

^ Not available for Bachelor of Economics students

Choose your Open Learning Environment (OLE) units

These units have been designed to give you the opportunity to gain new skills, knowledge, and abilities outside of your chosen majors, minors or degree program.

You may decide to complement an arts degree with an OLE on programming language or data management, a science major with OLEs on presentation or writing skills, or explore an interest in astronomy or music theory.

Any of the OLEs below can be completed to make up your 12-credit-point requirement. Most are worth two credit points.

Communication skills

- Communication in STEM
- Digital Communication: Sound
- Digital Influence through Social Media
- Origins of Mathematics
- Presentation Skills: Public Speaking
- Presentation Skills: Speaking in Class
- Presentation Skills: Speaking in Public
- Music Theory and Notation Essentials
- Reading and Writing Mathematics
- Telling True Stories
- Wiki Writing for the Web
- Writing about Music
- Writing for the Digital World

Data analysis and numerical skills

- Beginner Programming for Data Analysis
- Complexity: Agent-based Modelling
- Data Science in Astronomy: Algorithms
- Data Science in Astronomy: Analysis
- GIS: Geographic Information Systems
- GIS: Problem Solving
- GIS: Thinking Spatially
- How to Estimate Anything
- Managing and Analysing Data with SQL
- Shark bites and other data stories
- Social Network Analysis Principles (0 cp)

Developing research skills

- Ethnographic Research Methods
- Research Data Management

Economics, entrepreneurial and design thinking

- Business Entrepreneurship: Bootstrap Finance
- Business Entrepreneurship: Business Models
- Business Entrepreneurship: Guerrilla Tactics
- Cryptocurrency Markets & Investments
- Economic Strategy and Negotiation
- Economics of the Everyday
- How Economic Policy Remade Australia
- The Global Economy in Australia
- Understanding Creativity

Ethics, contemporary debates and critical thinking

- Australian Perspectives: Rugby League
- Business Ethics: Interactive Cases
- Culture and Urban Environmental Design
- Drug Wars
- Global Ethics: Migration and Nation
- Global Ethics: Philosophy
- Global Ethics: The Great Barrier Reef
- (Im)Politeness in Global Society
- Modern Alchemy: Lotions & Potions
- Music & Australian Indigenous Identities
- Power and Identity in a Global Era
- Pseudoscientific Thinking
- Surviving Australia's Deadly Animals
- Theory and Practice of Mindfulness
- Thinking Critically
- Understanding Europe
- Understanding the Arab World
- Understanding the USA
- Understanding Animal Welfare
- US Violence: Terror, Guns, Punishment
- World Cultural Heritage

Health challenges and medical science

- Anxiety and its Disorders
- Cancer Survivorship
- Global Challenges: Planetary Health
- Health Challenges: Allergy/Autoimmunity
- Health Challenges: Cardiovascular Disease
- Health Challenges: Diabetes
- Health Challenges: Evolution, health and disease
- Health Challenges: Oral Health
- Health Challenges: Pain and Society
- Health Challenges: Physical Inactivity
- Health Challenges: Sleep
- Health Challenges: Weight Regulation
- Medical Frontiers: Assisted Reproduction
- Medical Frontiers: Stem Cell Therapies
- Radiological Interpretation: the Chest
- The Science of Health and Wellbeing
- Toxicological evaluation

Higher Degree by Research

- Basics of Quantitative Research Design
- Computational Analysis for Omics Data
- Data Wrangling
- Experimental Design for Life Sciences
- Fieldwork Ethics
- Health Literacy for Better Lives
- History of Human Research Ethics
- Linear Modelling
- Multivariate Data Analysis
- Pharma Insights: Medicines Life Cycle
- Presenting your research
- Qualitative Research for Law & Policy
- Understanding & Using ABS Data

Personal, interpersonal and intercultural skills

- Aboriginal Sydney
- Community Engagement for Change
- Cultural Competence: Fundamentals
- Cultural Competence in Natural Science
- Cultures of Food: Europe
- Developing your Emotional intelligence
- Disability Awareness and Inclusivity
- Ethnopharmacology
- Experience China
- Experience Germany
- Experience Indonesia
- Experience Italy
- Experience Japan
- Experience Korea
- Experience the Arab World
- Experience the French-speaking World
- Experience the Spanish-speaking World
- How We Make Decisions
- Indigenous Histories
- Professionalism in the Workplace
- Psychology of Faith
- Sacred Feasts: Ritual Food and Drink
- Student Leadership: Community Engagement
- Student Leadership: Peer Mentoring
- Student Leadership: Representation
- The Science of Sexuality
- Understanding Critical Reflection

Programming skills

- Analysing and Plotting Data: Python
- Analysing and Plotting Data: R
- Coding Literacy
- Foundations of Quantum Computing
- Interactive Web Pages with JavaScript
- Numbers and Numerics
- Understanding Web Skeletons and Skins
- Writing with LaTeX

Project management

- Managing Your Project

STEM literacy

- Astronomy: from Big Bang to Darkness
- Astronomy: from Earth to Exoplanets
- Astronomy: from Stars to Black Holes
- Psychology of Crime
- Symmetry

My degree plan

I am enrolling in a Bachelor of

I enjoy (subjects, hobbies etc)

.....

.....

When I graduate, I would most like to

.....

My major or program will be

My minor or second major will be

I will complete OLE units in these areas

.....

I will complete these electives

.....

I will complete project-based or advanced coursework units in

.....

.....

Create your own degree plan using the template on page 8.

Learn more

For further information, visit

– sydney.edu.au/plan-your-degree

Degree planning template

Year	Semester	Units of study							
1	1								
	2								
2	1								
	2								
3	1								
	2								
4	1								
	2								
5	1								
	2								



Glossary

Advanced coursework

Taken in the fourth year of a combined Bachelor of Advanced Studies, advanced coursework provides you with further experience and knowledge of your field.

Combined degree

A program in which you complete two degrees during the same period of enrolment. You can complete two degrees in less time than if you studied the two degrees separately.

Core unit

A compulsory unit of study you need to complete to be awarded a particular degree.

Degree

A bachelor's, honours, master's or PhD qualification (does not include graduate diploma or graduate certificate).

Double degrees

A program in which you complete two separate but consecutive qualifications.

Electives

Non-compulsory units of study taken outside of a major or minor.

Honours

Honours differs depending on the course. It usually involves the completion of a large project and some advanced-level coursework or research.

Major

A defined sequence of units of study (normally eight units/48 credit points) that deepens your experience in a field of study.

Minor

A defined sequence of units of study (normally six units/36 credit points) that develops your expertise in a field of study.

Open Learning Environment (OLE) units

The Open Learning Environment provides online modules and workshop-supported units of study.

Program

A program involves a larger volume of study than a typical 48-credit-point major. It is a combination of units of study that develop your expertise across several disciplines or a professional or specialist field.

Project-based unit

A unit of study offered as part of your major that provides you with the opportunity to work on a real-world industry, community or research project.

Unit of study

An individual subject that you study as part of your degree.

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