



Australian
National
University

ANU Classics

OUR CASE FOR SUPPORT

ANU Centre for Classical Studies

A journey through human experience

What does it mean to be a good citizen? How should we remember problematic individuals? How do we model religious tolerance? How can we cope with overwhelming grief and loss? Is there such a thing as a just war? What values should we teach our children?

In our rapidly changing world, these are just some of the fundamental questions that individuals, communities and governments grapple with daily.

Classical Studies at ANU is much more than just a subject– it is a journey through the human experience. It is a way to explore the big ideas, and complex intellectual and philosophical questions that challenge us all as human beings.

Classical Studies is a gateway to realms of thought and imagination. It reveals storytelling of vivid beauty and extraordinary emotional power. It helps us to deeply understand the past, reflect on its salutary lessons for our contemporary times, and reminds us of the remarkable resilience of the human spirit.



About us

The ANU Centre for Classical Studies is one of Australia's leading institutions for the study of Ancient Greece and Rome. Our staff are award-winning, world-renowned teachers and scholars, with expertise spanning language, literature, history, art and culture.

Our contemporary Classics program is built on venerable foundations, taught consistently since 1930 when it was established by the University's predecessor, the Canberra University College. Our team has been recently invigorated with new academic talent in topical areas such as science and technology, politics, gender, slavery and the natural environment.

Our studies come alive in our Classics Museum, a rare public collection of over 600 objects from Classical antiquity– now leading the way on best practice for museum ethics and the international repatriation of antiquities. We place our students and their education at the heart of everything we do.

We must nurture the ability to recognise commonalities and differences across cultures, histories, languages and political systems.

Our vision for Classics at ANU is to secure the foundations of our program– teaching, research and public engagement– in perpetuity, to become the leading Australasian institution for the study of the Ancient Mediterranean.

We will expand the depth and breadth of our scholarship, making compelling contributions to global conversations on democracy, immigration, colonialisation, imperialism, gender roles, religious tolerance, and technological change. We must teach students a profound respect for the importance of principled decision-making and ethical leadership. Studying Classics can provide all of this, and more.

We will bring the joy, fascination and intellectual rewards of a Classics education to more diverse generations of students than ever before– in the warm, supportive and vibrant teaching environment we have become known for.

We invite you to join us in this vital work by including ANU Classics in your philanthropic plans.

Philanthropic opportunities

Endowed Lecturer in Classics and Museum Curator

Generously established by donations from the Friends of the Classics Museum, this is a pivotal role which has made proven contributions to teaching in Classics at all levels, drives the Centre's emerging expertise in museum ethics and repatriation, and engages with international embassies and antiquities agencies, primary and secondary schools, and the arts and cultural sector at large. Further funding is sought to secure this important role permanently, as we do not currently have the financial support to continue this position beyond July 2026.



Endowed Lectureships in Ancient Greek and Latin

Latin was spoken by Romans drinking in the tavern, watching games in the arena, and debating politics in the senate house. It is the language of graffiti scrawled on the walls in Pompeii, ribald love poetry, heroic epics, blistering courtroom speeches, and the fables of former slaves. It is integral to the origins of European history, law, oratory and science.

Greek is a living, breathing language spoken by more than 13 million people worldwide. At ANU we study its ancestor, Ancient Greek, the language spoken across the Mediterranean, from poetry by Homer and Sappho to the early Christian writers. It is a language of beauty and tragedy, philosophy and history. Only seven Australian universities currently teach both Greek and Latin from beginners to advanced levels. As Australia's national university, it is incumbent upon ANU to be a leader in this field. Endowed Lectureships will ensure dedicated academic leadership for both languages in perpetuity.

Endowed Professorship

The team of active, dynamic, highly regarded researchers are employed as early or mid-career academics, led by one Level E Professor. The creation of a further, endowed Level E professorship would secure a senior academic leadership position in perpetuity, creating a vital succession planning capability for the Centre. Level E academics are distinguished and renowned experts, elevating the endeavours of the discipline, and lending prestige and influence to its research, teaching and public engagement activities– thus extending the national and global reach of the Centre.

Endowed Lectureship in Ancient Egypt and the Near East

An appointment in this field would complement our current focus on Ancient Greece and Rome, enabling expansion into new areas of teaching and research, particularly those which connect to current staff expertise in ancient systems of government, science, slavery, and the environment– all areas pertinent to contemporary public debates.

Endowed Fellowships

The humanities as a field suffers from a leaky talent pipeline. Many promising Australian scholars leave the field after their PhD, unable to obtain postdoctoral fellowships or teaching positions. A rotating 3-year Career Development Fellowship for young scholars (academic Level A) would help fill this gap, mentoring candidates in teaching and research, supporting their career progression and positioning them competitively for Australian government Fellowships and research grants.



Honours Scholarships

In challenging financial times, it is difficult to encourage students to remain at university for an additional year to undertake Honours in Classical Studies– many need to start paid work as soon as possible. To make Honours a compelling option for talented candidates, we need to offer competitive scholarships that contribute substantially to their living costs while they focus on the intensely rewarding intellectual challenge of an Honours year.



Scholarship for PhD candidates at the British Schools in Rome or Athens

Comparable Australian university Classics programs are currently offering competitive 3 or 6-month scholarships for their PhD candidates to reside at these significant overseas institutions. Here they undertake archival research, fieldwork at sites and in museum collections, and network with overseas scholars. To attract the best PhD candidates, ANU needs to offer international opportunities commensurate with its status as a national leader.

Support for Undergraduate Study Tours in the Mediterranean

We are currently unable to offer Summer Study Tour courses for undergraduates due to limited numbers of academic staff. To provide the invaluable international experience of courses on-site in Greece or Italy, we need additional funding to support staff time and resources.

Post-Completion Fellowships for PhD candidates

ANU Classics would be a progressive and world-leading institution if it offered all PhD candidates a one-year post-completion fellowship to enable them to transform their thesis into a monograph.

Annual Visiting Professor

Funding to invite a prestigious international scholar to spend 2-4 weeks at ANU on an annual basis would enable them to deliver a public lecture, participate in a research colloquium with current staff, and give an Honours research seminar– all boosting the global network of this discipline, and providing ANU staff and students with opportunities to participate in scholarship and debate with international profile.

Matched funding for external ARC, DECRA and Future Fellowship applicants

Universities are required to provide significant financial support to ARC grant applications. Having dedicated funds for this important purpose would be a powerful way to elevate the capacity of the discipline at ANU, and to leverage existing talent and research capabilities. It would be a significant drawcard to attract outstanding early and mid-career scholars to ANU.



Teaching Fellowships for all PhD candidates

Attracting the very best PhD students to ANU Classics requires funding at a level that is competitive with leading programs globally. Ideally, we must offer Teaching Fellowship support equivalent to top-ranked programs in the United States, where all PhD students are guaranteed teaching opportunities in Latin, Ancient Greek or Classical Studies courses in every year of their degree.



Why ANU?

We bring talented people with diverse perspectives together, equipping and encouraging them to address the most complex of tomorrow's problems. We educate critical thinkers and critical doers. Our ambition is to unearth and share knowledge with which the world can build more wisely.

Our vision for the future is one of hope and imagination. We are working towards a more just, equitable and sustainable world. To achieve that future, we must intervene in the present.

We must be continually engaged in making and remaking our world—whether that is through medical research, green energy transition, economic transformation, Indigenous reconciliation, or pursuing vital ideas about truth, democracy, freedom and what it means to be human.

We invite you to join us in this endeavour. We invite you to challenge us, as we continually challenge ourselves, by asking— How can we intervene in the present to create a better tomorrow?

We welcome conversations about how ANU can help drive change that is meaningful to you, your families, your communities, and the future of our nation and our world.

Would you like to know more?

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