

2 Unit Aboriginal Studies



What do other students say about Aboriginal Studies?

I found Aboriginal Studies to be the most challenging of all the courses I studied because there were no right or wrong answers. Every assessment task was a great challenge because I couldn't just regurgitate the content. I had to think of my own original responses to important issues.

Year 12 Aboriginal Studies student

I got a traineeship because of the work I did in my Major Project. The interviewer said that she was impressed with my research and consultation skills and that these would be invaluable to the company.

Year 12 Aboriginal Studies student

My daughter did Aboriginal Studies for the HSC. At first I wasn't sure, but she was so enthusiastic and enjoyed it so much that I was glad she did. The whole family was thrilled when her Major Project was selected for the annual display that travelled around the state.

Parent of Year 12 Aboriginal Studies student

For more information on
Aboriginal Studies contact

the Aboriginal Education Consultative Group

Tel: (02) 9550 5666

or

the Aboriginal Curriculum Unit

at the Office of the Board of Studies NSW

Tel: (02) 9367 8140

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- Q** Do students have to be Aboriginal to study this course?
- A** No. This course is for all students. It concentrates on social and political issues that affect all Australians. It does not require in-depth studies of cultural issues.
- Q** How does Aboriginal Studies assist with post-school options?
- A** Aboriginal Studies covers many topics that relate to courses at tertiary institutions and to a range of areas of employment. Project work is particularly good preparation for the types of tasks required in many university courses.
- Q** How is Aboriginal Studies scaled for the Universities Admission Index (UAI)?
- A** As a category A subject, Aboriginal Studies is treated the same way as all other HSC courses. A high performance in the course is likely to positively contribute to a student's UAI.
- Q** Is the course hard?
- A** Aboriginal Studies is similar to other 2 Unit subjects and is designed to make students think and come up with their own ideas about Australian society today. It gives students lots of skills whether they proceed directly to work or continue to study after school.
- Q** How does this subject fit in with other courses?
- A** The contemporary social and political issues analysed and discussed in Aboriginal Studies complement areas of study in other HSC courses such as Standard and Advanced English, Legal Studies, Studies of Religion, Geography, Society and Culture, Visual Arts and Community and Family Studies.

In Aboriginal Studies students learn a range of research and communication skills essential for further education, traineeships and a wide range of careers. As a Category A HSC course, Aboriginal Studies can be counted in the UAI for university entrance.



What do students learn about?

A broad range of contemporary social and political issues including:

- Local Aboriginal communities and other Indigenous communities in Australia
- Indigenous peoples in other countries
- Human rights and social justice issues
- Diversity of Aboriginal cultures
- Racism and prejudice in legal and political systems
- Land rights and Native Title
- Aboriginal heritage and identity
- Aboriginal relationships with land and water
- Current issues such as Treaty, Reconciliation and Stolen Generations
- The role the media plays in portraying Aboriginal people and Australia
- Protocols for consultation with Aboriginal communities
- The importance of families and communities for Aboriginal people

What will students be able to do?

- Analyse and discuss issues important to contemporary Australia
- Develop ethical research projects
- Consult with Aboriginal communities
- Effectively use information and communication technologies (ICT)
- Assess government policies and their impacts
- Evaluate media representation of Aboriginal people and cultures
- Interpret statistical data

JOBS FOR THE FUTURE

The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations has identified job growth in the following areas which are related to Aboriginal Studies. These careers can be studied at university, TAFE or many private colleges.

- Tourism
- Nursing
- Media Presenter/Producer
- Designers and Illustrators
- Child Care/Family Support
- Social Work
- Marketing
- Advertising

FURTHER EDUCATION

Studying Aboriginal Studies in Years 11 and 12 will provide background for tertiary study in many degree programs including:

- Bachelor of Arts
- Bachelor of Laws
- Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood, Special Education, Primary and Secondary)
- Bachelor of Communication
- Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery
- Bachelor of Nursing
- Bachelor of Social Science (Justice and Criminology)
- Bachelor of Social Work
- Bachelor of Psychology
- Bachelor of Health Sciences
- Bachelor of Environmental Tourism Management

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Some areas of employment related to Aboriginal Studies are:

Community Work – social work, welfare work, early childhood care, local government, legal practitioner

Health Services – nursing, dentistry, physiotherapy, medicine, occupational therapy, speech pathology, sports medicine and management, nutrition, leisure management

Business & Commerce – town planning, environmental impact studies, consulting to large corporations regarding environmental management and native title, broadcasting, journalism, law, communication, business policy, public service

Artistic Work – visual arts, graphics design, architecture, dance, music, fashion, food, events management

Education – primary teaching, secondary teaching, academia, staff training and development, consultancy, counselling.

“Aboriginal Studies is a unique experience for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students. Aboriginal students are provided with an opportunity for cultural affirmation... while non-Aboriginal students are able to ‘learn together’ with Aboriginal peoples and communities. All students are encouraged to take an active role in the process of Reconciliation.”

– Aboriginal Studies Stage 6 Syllabus

