School of
Arts and
Social Sciences
2016
Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities in a nutshell

Arts and Social Sciences (including the Humanities) is a broad category that combines a range of disciplines aimed at understanding society, human behavior and the human condition in general. The term Arts during the Middle Ages implied skills, and was related, among other things, to the skill of thinking that emphasizes logical and critical thinking. It is in this context that the word is used today for an academic discipline.

Social Sciences involve disciplines whose main objective is to build social competence. Subject areas include political science, communication, anthropology, sociology, gender studies and others, which often (but not exclusively) use empirical methods to investigate their focus of enquiry.

Closely related to the Social Sciences, the Humanities encompasses disciplines like history, philosophy, literature, film studies, religion and so forth, and uses mainly methods that are interpretative, or speculative, to comprehend how we make sense of our existence by asking questions like what is happiness, why we fear death, what is morality, what makes a good painting, and more. In short, the premise of the Arts and Social Sciences is to promote critical thinking about the human condition so that we become more socially competent and are able to make sense of who we are and of the world we live in.

Ranking and recognition

**#1**
in Australia for Communications and Media Studies

**#44**
in the world for Arts and Humanities

**#24**
in the world for Communications and Media Studies

**#61**
in the world for Social Sciences

*QS World University Rankings by Subject 2015

Programs offered at the School of Arts and Social Sciences are accredited by Monash University and recognised by the following organisations:

- Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA), Australia
- Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA)
- Public Services Department of Malaysia (JPA)

Studying Arts at Monash Malaysia

As we live in an increasingly complicated environment whose rapid changes can be confusing and even overwhelming, now more than ever must we have the ability to negotiate with the complexity of everyday life with competence and confidence. For this, you need a strong foundation in an area of knowledge, emotional intelligence, and various fundamental soft skills such as critical, creative and ethical thinking, making informed argumentation, persuasive and tactical writing, reading for nuances, and others.

The School of Arts and Social Sciences at Monash University Malaysia is committed to providing you with such knowledge and skills, and helping you develop qualities that will prepare you for tomorrow.

With a dynamic learning environment, state-of-the-art media laboratories for specialized subjects, access to both a physical and virtual storehouse of up-to-date and cutting edge studies in all disciplines, internship opportunities and extra-curricular activities that supplement your classroom learning, and most of all, academics who are internationally recognized for their research and contributions to their disciplines, you can be assured of an educational experience that will not only change the way you view the world, but possibly transform you as well.
The value of an Arts graduate, and why employers are seeking them

Core qualities that many Arts graduates exhibit are, among others, flexibility, adaptability, emotional maturity, the ability to work alone or as part of a team, and sensitivity to the changing sociocultural environment. These are important traits that will attract any potential employer, for the job market today is no longer interested in graduates who just know how to do their jobs, but graduates who also know how to work creatively and in an optimum manner, are critically minded, and are able to work independently as a team-player – all with an eye for the future.

These qualities are, in part, related to the skills that Arts graduates acquire over the course of their studies. In addition to the critical thinking skills that play a central role in teaching and learning, the School of Arts and Social Sciences at Monash Malaysia has prioritized the development of problem solving, communication, and teamwork skills through the progression of subjects that students must undertake for their degrees. Whichever area of studies (or major) a student chooses to pursue, s/he must complete a series of assignments that build competence in key areas related to the major.

By undertaking a sequence of carefully coordinated subjects aimed at consolidating learning, the student, upon completing his or her studies with us, will have developed a specific area of expertise and will be ready to join the workforce with strong problem solving, team working, communication, critical thinking, leadership, and interpersonal skills.

The example below demonstrates the kinds of learning and assessment for the Global Studies major that take place in the classroom:

**SKILL DEVELOPMENT: Global Studies**

After establishing a broad base of knowledge in their first year, students enrolled in our Global Studies major must complete a team-based research project in their second year. Working face-to-face and using the latest collaborative online technologies, teams must work together to identify topics, divide workloads, ensure that all members are doing their share, and edit drafts until a coherent report is produced. Thus, at an early stage, students are given instruction on effective teamwork and communication strategies and feedback on their collaborative efforts.

We build on this foundation in our multidisciplinary final year capstone class, A World in Crisis. This class, which simulates a real-world crisis, requires students not only to apply the theories they’ve learned in the course of their studies, but to demonstrate initiative, leadership, effective communication and team working skills. Students in this class have the opportunity to experience first-hand the interconnections between different theories, approaches, and disciplines. For example, Global Studies majors serving as political strategists in the simulation have to work closely with Communications majors serving as press officers in order to decide on the best way to garner public support for a policy change that could resolve the crisis.
The Arts graduate in an ever-changing job market

With qualities that are high in demand and skills that are relevant, transferable and essential, the Arts graduate is able to fit into a broad range of careers and industries. Industries especially related to, among others, media, communication, the creative arts, education, journalism, publishing, publicity and public relations, environmental conservation, tourism; and organizations (government and non-government) that deal, for example, with activism, community service, social policy, welfare, diplomacy and foreign affairs, and urban planning, are some of the obvious job destinations for an Arts graduate.

In truth, however, Arts graduates can also be found in a wide spectrum of industries unrelated to their areas of study. This is because of today’s increasingly competitive environment, and the survival of any industry is no longer dependent on just what it does, but more importantly its communication effectiveness, its sensitivity to local and international circumstances, its commitment to upholding ethical practices and so forth – all of which requires the expertise and skills of an Arts graduate. With so many opportunities, including further studies, and an endless array of careers to choose from, it is unquestionable that for Arts graduates, the world is indeed their oyster.

The world as your classroom

While studying for an Arts degree at Monash Malaysia, you will also have the opportunity to undertake an exchange program whereby you can choose to pursue part of studies for a short period of time at Monash Australia or one of its teaching locations in South Africa and Italy, or at any one of the 100 universities over 30 countries. Alternatively, you can also opt to transfer to Monash Australia to complete the rest of your studies. Whichever you choose, you can be certain of an educational experience that is global, enriching and rewarding.

Learning that is relevant, current and transformative

At the School of Arts and Social Sciences in Monash Malaysia, we believe that learning should not only be confined to the classroom setting, but should be taken and applied to the real world in order to test hypotheses, demonstrate the value and extent of our knowledge and competence, verify our learning, and identify areas of its limitation as well as how we can address them. To this end, the School has developed an array of programs and extra-curricular activities such as:

- **Local and regional study trips**: study trips within and outside of Malaysia provide our student travelers the opportunities to learn about the diverse and complex socio-cultural and political realities affecting the places visited and hone their observational, interviewing, documentation, and organizational skills. Through these encounters, student-travelers learn to interrogate the knowledge gathered in classroom settings and compare it to what is known in the “real world”.

- **Internship**: there are also opportunities for students to pursue credit-bearing internships with various industries related to their areas of study. Internships are voluntary for most majors, and normally undertaken during the long semester break at the end of the student’s second academic year. For students pursuing a major in Gender Studies and the specialist degree in Communication and Media Studies (see below under Deciding on a Course), internship is compulsory.

- **Nasi Bungkus Cinema**: Nasi Bungkus Cinema (“nasi bungkus” is roughly equivalent to “takeaway”) provides a platform for local and international experimental and independent filmmakers to discuss their films or the state of the industry, screen works-in-progress to get critical feedback from an informed audience, or showcase their recent works. Students have the opportunity to meet both local and international practitioners in the film industry, learn more about the filmmaking craft, and develop and understanding of the issues and complications related to its practice and the industry as a whole.

- **Media workshops**: throughout the year, the School runs various practical media workshops that are opened to any student on campus. These workshop deal primarily with practical aspects related to the media industry such as scriptwriting, directing, using film equipment, editing, and others.

Other extra-curricular activities include the Film-maker in Residence program and the annual NGO Fair.
If you want a broad based, comprehensive course whose structure exposes you to several Arts and Social Sciences (and Humanities) areas of study, this option is for you. Here, you can choose to pursue an area of study, or major, in one of the 5 that is offered AND have the option to do a second major (see course structure). The majors include:

- Communication
- Global studies
- Psychology
- Writing
- Gender studies

Additionally, you are required to take a minor area of study to complement your major. As with the major, you can also choose to do a second minor (see course structure). The majors listed above can also double up as minors (if you did not choose them as your majors), or you can opt to do the following additional minors offered by the School:

- Screen studies (minor)
- Journalism studies (minor)

Course structure

The course is made up of twenty-four units of study, eight for each academic year. These units are divided up as follows:

- The major – 8 units from the same area of study
- The minor – 4 units from the same area of study (and must be different from your major).
- Electives from Arts – 4 units from any area of study in Arts.
- Free electives – 8 units from the same area of study or from different areas. The free electives allow you to structure your course in such a way that you can add either another major area of study, or 2 minor areas of study, or a combination of 1 other minor plus electives. Alternatively, you can also take units from other faculties.
If you want to specialize in the area of communication and media studies, the Bachelor of Communication and Media Studies degree is for you. Here, you will develop a theoretical and critical understanding of how mediated communication, both traditional and contemporary, operates within, and affects, society. You will learn, among other things, the media’s role in shaping local and global trends, the relationship between media and sociocultural structures, the complex link between media producer and audience and the consequences arising from this link, as well as the promises and dangers of mediated communication in the coming future.

In addition, to complement your major, you will also develop skills and knowledge in another related field of study. This is achieved by undertaking units either in global studies or screen studies. Finally, there are three more units to be taken in order for you to complete your degree; known as the capstone units, they are specially designed to help you consolidate the course’s diverse points of learning.

Areas of study

- Communication (main area of specialization)
- Global studies (complementary specialist studies)
- Screen studies (complementary specialist studies)

Course structure

The course develops through two themes: (a) core communication and media and (b) complementary specialist studies. These themes come together in three capstone units that emphasize the intertwining of communication, media and society in various forms. The course is made up of 24 units of study, eight units for each academic year. These are divided up as follows:

- 8 units in the core stream ‘Communication and Media studies’.
- 5 units in the complementary specialist studies stream from either the Global studies focus or the Screen studies focus, according to your interests.
- 3 capstone units, which address policy issues and the impact of social media, and offer a cross-disciplinary approach to crisis management.
- 8 elective units, which can be taken from Arts or another faculty.
Going beyond the undergraduate degree

After completing undergraduate studies, some students who desire to pursue an academic career, or wish to take their learning to the next level, may apply for further studies. Here are some options for continuing education.

**Bachelor of Arts (Honours)**

The prestigious Honours degree is a one-year program that is additional to the Bachelor degree. Students from the School of Arts & Social Sciences with an excellent academic record can select a topic of their own choice, and undertake a detailed research project with the aid of a supervisor. It is a unique opportunity for undergraduate students to pursue their passion for their selected area of study, and build upon their learning from the three years of the Bachelor degree.

An Honours degree is a recognised pathway for entry into a PhD program. For those who are not intending to pursue a PhD, completion of an Honours course provides prospective employers with proof of their advanced research, analytical and communication skills, and their ability to complete an independent and in-depth project over a sustained period of time. Honours graduates are well placed to demonstrate advanced capacities as potential managers and leaders in industry.

**Course Structure**

Honours students complete four units in total (48 points). Each semester they undertake one taught interdisciplinary unit that enhances their methodological, analytical, as well as theoretical skills, and a second research unit undertaken with their supervisor.

**Areas of study**

- Anthropology
- Asian studies
- Communication and media studies
- Creative writing and critical theory
- Gender studies and women studies
- History and politics
- Human rights theory
- International relations and international studies
- Internet studies
- Journalism studies
- Political science
- Psychology
- Screen studies
- Sociology
- Sustainability, environment and society
- Writing, comparative literature and cultural studies

For the degree, students must complete the following 12-point core units:

- Arts Honours Dissertation Part 1 (12 points)
- Arts Honours Dissertation Part 2 (12 points)
- Research issues and methodologies (12 points)
- Readings in social, political, and cultural theory (12 points)
Master of Communications and Media Studies

**DURATION**
- 1.5 Years (Full-time)
- 3 Years (Part-time)

**INTAKE**
February

The Master of Communications and Media Studies aims to develop graduates who are able to take initiative and leadership in this rapidly changing environment, whether in business, politics, public administration, non-government organizations or everyday life. The program is structured to meet the unprecedented change in communications and media content, forms, technology and policy. It specifically caters to the increasing challenges posed by digital media, globalization and cross-cultural exchange. The program examines history and development, and seeks to further students’ understanding of communications and media systems both locally and globally. Contemporary policy debates in various nations are studied as responses to changing processes of mediation and consumption.

**Areas of study:**

Primarily focused on communications and media studies, students undertaking the course learn skills necessary for the participation in and management of sophisticated communicative processes in regional, urban, national and international contexts. These include critical thinking, cultural sensitivity, advanced reading and communication skills (both written and verbal), and advanced analytical skills. More widely, the degree aims to develop skills in communications and media research. This methodological training will enable students to move from undergraduate to research-based study smoothly and prepare them well for today’s competitive workplaces.

**Course Structure:**

The coursework units which students have to complete in the first two semesters include:

1. **Communication Research Methods**
2. **Communication Theories and Practices**
3. **Global Digital Media: Issues in International and Transnational Communication**
4. **Contemporary Issues in Asia**

These studies draw on best practices within the broad realm of communications and media studies practice and research to further your understanding of communications and media systems both locally and globally. Studies focus on the challenges posed by the emergence of digital media, globalization and increasing levels of cross-cultural exchange.

In the final semester, students progress into advanced expertise and the focus of these studies in either professional or scholarly work that can contribute to a portfolio of professional development. There are two pathways offered to you:

**Pathway 1** is a program of Coursework Study consisting of 2 units, which includes an internship. The internship will present students with the opportunity to tackle contemporary issues facing industry with the expectation that student will put into practice what they have learnt. The options are:

- Communication Research Project

**Pathway 2** is a Research Thesis which will challenge students to contribute to the existing body of knowledge utilizing the skills and knowledge base obtained from the coursework component of the program. The thesis option is recommended for those interested in pursuing a PhD in the future. The areas of research are not just limited to communication but also other disciplines that utilize approaches from the social sciences tradition. Note that this pathway is only available to students who achieve a higher grade point average (usually distinction and above) in the first two semesters.

- Media Practices in Southeast Asia; or
- Celebrity, Fashion, Publicity; or
- Communications Industry Internship
Course outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate a sound knowledge of diverse aspects of communications and media including policy, content and technology change, over time.
- Articulate and apply an understanding of the world view of communications and media as it applies to politics, public administration, business and the everyday.
- Demonstrate a critical appreciation of the secondary literature in the field of study and apply a critical familiarity with the key texts and cultural products pertaining to communication and media.
- Apply advanced reading, communication and analytical skills, both written and verbal.
- Demonstrate a thorough understanding of research methodology and ethics, and an ability to undertake a small, independent research project.

Integrating industry and staying relevant

The last decade has seen unprecedented changes in communications and media content, forms, technology and policy with wide-ranging implications for business, politics, public administration and everyday life. Our program is led by teachers with substantial industry experience in journalism, radio, public relations and film, in addition to their academic qualifications. Our teachers will introduce you to the latest developments and research in communications and media, with a view to ‘real world’ application. Classroom teaching in the program is complemented by experiential learning. A number of subjects include excursions and/or visits by guest lecturers. Students may also take organized visits to communication and media companies and institutions, where they will learn from leading industry practitioners.
A research degree is a postgraduate degree comprising 100% research. The research is presented and assessed as a thesis. The aim of a research degree is to produce an original work of scholarship that will contribute substantially to knowledge of the subject matter.

Master of Arts (MA)

The Master of Arts degree enables students to undertake substantial independent research (30,000 to 40,000 words) on a chosen topic while under the supervision of an expert academic.

Admission requirements

Either:

- a four year Australian or New Zealand bachelor’s degree with an overall result of upper H2B (Second Class Honours Division B, mark of 65-69) or above (normally with a research component in the fourth year), or
- an Australian or New Zealand master’s preliminary qualification with a significant research component and with an overall result of upper H2B (mark of 65-69) or above, or
- an Australian or New Zealand coursework master’s degree with a significant research component graded at Distinction or above, and an overall result of H2A or above, or
- an Australian or New Zealand research master’s degree with an overall result of H2A or above, or
- a qualification considered equivalent to one of the above and evidence that the candidate meets the University's English language requirements.

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

The PhD program enables candidates to complete extensive, independent research (maximum 100,000 words) under the supervision of an expert academic. When completed, this research must make a valuable and original contribution to the current body of knowledge on their chosen topic.

Admission requirements

Either:

- a four year Australian or New Zealand bachelor’s degree with an overall result of H2A (Second Class Honours Division A) or above (normally with a research component in the fourth year), or
- an Australian or New Zealand master’s preliminary qualification with a significant research component and an overall result of H2A or above, or
- an Australian or New Zealand coursework master’s degree with a significant research component graded at Distinction or above, and an overall result of H2A or above, or
- an Australian or New Zealand research master’s degree with an overall result of H2A or above, or
- a qualification considered equivalent to one of the above and evidence that the candidate meets the University's English language requirements.
How to apply

Now that you have decided on your course, there are a few steps to follow before you can enroll in an undergraduate or postgraduate by coursework program at the Monash Malaysia campus:

1. Complete the Application Form:
   http://www.monash.edu.my/study/apply/application-form/

2. Submit your application:
   http://www.monash.edu.my/study/apply/submit/

3. Find out the result of your application:
   http://www.monash.edu.my/study/apply/result/

4. Accept an offer:
   http://www.monash.edu.my/study/apply/accept/ or
   defer/reject an offer:
   http://www.monash.edu.my/study/apply/defer-reject/

Research degree students apply through the Monash University Institute of Graduate Research, via a different route: http://www.monash.edu.my/graduate-research. Please contact the relevant Research Degree Office for information.

Other Programs

The School also hosts and manages a variety of programs related to English language proficiency and academic proficiency that are designed to help you in your academic endeavor. These include:

- **The Monash English Bridging (MEB) Program** – for those who do not meet the language requirement for enrolment in an undergraduate course, or who need extra English language coaching.
  http://www.monash.edu.my/study/entry-requirements/english/bridging-program

- **The Diploma of Higher Education Studies (DHES)** – an alternative pathway into a Monash undergraduate program, subjected to criteria.
  http://www.monash.edu.my/study/undergraduate/diploma-higher-education-studies

- **The Graduate Certificate of Higher Education (GCHE)** – this is a professional development program for academics already working in the higher education industry.
  http://www.monash.edu.my/study/postgraduate-and-research/graduate-certificate-higher-education
Contact us

Business hours: Mondays to Fridays 8.30am – 6pm
Counselling hours for course enquiries: Mondays to Fridays 8.30am – 6pm and Saturdays 9am – 12.30pm
Closed on Sundays and Public Holidays

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Produced by Marketing and Future Students, Monash University Malaysia
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February 2016