Bioethics

“Studying Bioethics has enabled me to hone my skills in analytic philosophy whilst exploring ethical issues raised by recent and potential advances in medicine and biotechnology. Bioethics has provided me with opportunities to combine my interest in philosophy with other engaging areas of study in the humanities and sciences. It is very satisfying to work in a field that has such broad and practical relevance to contemporary moral questions, and is able to challenge and shape how we think about them.”

Michael Smyth
Current student

About Bioethics
Bioethics draws on philosophy, science, sociology, history, economics, law, and other disciplines in the attempt to answer some of society’s most interesting and difficult questions regarding healthcare, life sciences, and biotechnology. Among other fascinating topics, it questions the ethical acceptability of things like:

- Human cloning
- Human enhancement
- Human lifespan extension
- Genetic discrimination
- Stem cell research
- The buying and selling human organs
- Coercive epidemic control measures such as quarantine
- Publication of dangerous scientific research discoveries
- International migration of health professional
- Patenting of pharmaceuticals

Why study Bioethics?
Bioethics is concerned with controversial topics that have profound implications for the future of humanity and society. It is a general interest field of study that is relevant and important to everyone—and it will promote development of all-purpose skills in reading, writing, oral expression, and critical thinking.

The Monash Centre for Human Bioethics is widely acknowledged to be a world leader in bioethics research and teaching. It has been officially designated as a World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre for Bioethics. That makes it one of seven such centres worldwide, and part of a global network. As part of this collaborative relationship, Centre staff regularly provide expert advice to WHO on matters such as Ebola and Zika virus.

Complementary areas of study
You can choose from a range of areas to enhance your course with a minor in Bioethics. Some areas of study which complement Bioethics are:

- Philosophy
- Medicine/Nursing
- Human rights
- Biomedical sciences
- Sociology
- Anthropology
- Media and communications
- Law
- Journalism
- Biology

What are some of the units Bioethics explores?
Examples of units you could study include:

- Bioethics: Current controversies
- Bioethics, justice and the law
- Global bioethics
- The moral psychology of evil
- Philosophical issues in applied ethics

Note: Units may change from year to year.