

# Anthropology and Archaeology



Undergraduate study

# Courses

## Single Honours

### **BA Anthropology**

three years XD49

### **BA Archaeology and Anthropology**

three years VL46

### **MArts Anthropology with Innovation**

four years XD50

## Why study anthropology and archaeology at Bristol?

Are you fascinated by human nature and cultural diversity, past or present? If so, then a degree in Anthropology or Archaeology and Anthropology could offer you a unique and absorbing route into many professional careers.

Anthropology is the study of humanity, society, and culture, incorporating many different scientific and theoretical approaches. Social anthropology examines contemporary societies, including their relationships, beliefs, identities, relations with nature and other cultures. Linguistic anthropology studies the uniquely human faculty of language and how language can shape cultural and social diversity and vice versa. Evolutionary anthropology investigates human beings as a species and includes the study of human evolution and behaviour, genetics, demography and health, as well as primate behaviour and forensic anthropology.

Archaeology is the study of past societies through their material remains and environmental context, including artefacts, buildings, burials and landscapes. Archaeology is not restricted in time and space and ranges from human origins to the present day, on a local, regional and even global scale. Archaeologists use excavations, surveys and artefact studies, as well as a range of scientific and theoretical approaches to investigate the past.

At Bristol we are proud to offer, uniquely in Britain, the four fields of archaeology, social anthropology, evolutionary anthropology and linguistic anthropology under one roof. We are based in an Arts and Crafts former Baptist college at the heart of the University. The building hosts lecture theatres, a seminar/computer room, chemistry and teaching laboratories and a cutting-edge AMS radiocarbon dating facility.

## What will you study?

All of our courses will introduce you to the practice, theory and history of your chosen discipline(s) and aim to equip you with the ability to handle complex data sets and concepts, and to interpret both material and written evidence.

Our course structures are modular. There are core units each year that comprise both theory and practice. Core units will depend on the course you choose but may include: Discovering the Past; Peoples, Culture and Language; Wellbeing and Society; Evolution and Human Behaviour; and Working in Cultural Heritage. These core units are combined with optional units in more specialised periods, themes or regions. We have a wide range of optional units to choose from, which have previously included: Britain B.C.; Population Health and Development; Stimulating Anthropology; Drugs and Society; Introduction to Forensic Anthropology; The Mediterranean Past; Sociolinguistic Anthropology; Early Human Origins; and Gender, Sexuality and the Body.

There is the opportunity to study abroad for one teaching block during the second year. Recent students have spent time studying at institutions in North America, Asia and Australasia.

In your final year, you write a dissertation on an original topic of your choice. Our ethos is to help give you skills and experiences to take you wherever you want to go – hence many of our students take the opportunity to develop specific skills or areas of expertise by the selection of particular units, dissertation topics or fieldwork opportunities.

Our teaching is research-led and our staff members are experts in their fields. The subjects you study will give you the opportunity to learn from their first-hand knowledge and experience, and to participate in their research projects around the world. Specific research areas currently include material culture anthropology; linguistic anthropology; applied anthropology; human demography and health; human evolution and biomechanics; evolution of human behaviour; European pre- and proto-history; medieval and historical archaeology; ancient human diet and mobility; landscape archaeology; and archaeological science.

Currently, members of staff are conducting fieldwork and research in Britain and across the globe, including Turkey, Peru, Ethiopia, Kenya, Vietnam, Amazonia, Finland, Tibet, Hungary and the South Pacific.

### Teaching methods

We use a wide variety of teaching methods, such as lectures, small-group tutorials, student-led seminars, one-to-one meetings with tutors and practical classes, which may be in the laboratory, or out in the field. Discussion groups or seminars may be held on a weekly basis for individual units, and field trips and outings also feature within the curriculum.

### Assessment

Assessment is similarly varied and includes essays, class tests, laboratory notebooks, oral and poster presentations, team projects and formal exams.



‘Studying at Bristol has opened my eyes and given me the ambition to stay in academia for longer. I plan to do a master’s in anthropology, then go on to do fieldwork in other countries, learning about different communities and cultures.’

Lily (BA Archaeology and Anthropology)



## Careers and graduate destinations

The skills that arts students traditionally bring to the workplace are valued in every part of the employment market. The study of a humanities-based subject tends to result in a broad international outlook and a heightened sense of cultural awareness, all of which are valuable traits for any employer. Consequently, our graduates have successfully entered professions in media, management, law, international development, social work, advertising and marketing, human resources, medical and health professions, the armed forces and the civil service.

Through the study of anthropology and/or archaeology, you will have the opportunity to develop transferable skills that are highly sought after by employers. These include intellectual versatility, written and oral communication skills, critical analysis, independent thought, use of IT, self-directed learning, data handling and interpretation, and the experience of teamworking. You will also have the opportunity to develop a range of specific skill sets, from use of databases and statistics to social media and community engagement.

Many of our graduates undertake further research in anthropology, archaeology or related disciplines. Others have gone on to pursue careers in museums, heritage, policy, development, health and business.

The Bristol Skills Framework enables our students to recognise their development in academic writing, problem solving, group work and individual and group presenting. We will equip you with the tools to market your skills, your achievement and your potential in whatever career path you choose to pursue after you graduate.

**The University of Bristol has one of the best employment records in the UK. We are rated sixth in the UK in the QS Graduate Employability Rankings 2018 and are the fourth most targeted university by top UK graduate employers (High Fliers Research 2018).**

## Making your application

### Typical offer for BA Archaeology and Anthropology\*

Visit [bristol.ac.uk/ug19-archanth](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug19-archanth) for other qualifications.

**A-levels** AAB (contextual BBB<sup>†</sup>).

**IB Diploma** 34 overall (contextual 31<sup>†</sup>) to include 17 points at Higher Level (contextual 15<sup>†</sup>).

**English Language profile** B<sup>††</sup>

**GCSEs** No specific subjects required.

<sup>†</sup>For information on contextual offers, visit [bristol.ac.uk/contextual-offers](http://bristol.ac.uk/contextual-offers).

<sup>††</sup>For details of English language profiles, visit [bristol.ac.uk/ug-language-requirements](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug-language-requirements).

**Selection** UCAS or Common Application.

\*The typical offer is indicative only and the University accepts a wide range of qualifications. The information is correct at the time of printing (June 2018); however, we recommend you check the University's website for the most up-to-date information: [bristol.ac.uk/ug-study](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug-study).

We look for a committed interest in archaeology, anthropology and their related disciplines. Therefore, in your personal statement, we would encourage you to discuss experiences such as participation in related fieldwork, relevant work experience, independent travel or appropriate academic reading. Membership in a relevant society or subscription to a relevant journal or periodical is also advantageous. We are interested to hear about your extracurricular activities, especially involving collaborative engagement with the wider community. Our courses require independent work, so your application should show that you are self-motivated and work hard.

Mature students are particularly welcome, as are students from Access, BTEC, HND, FdSc or FdA or similar courses, irrespective of specialisation, as well as applicants with international qualifications. Such applicants may be invited to interview.

### Further information

Find out more about the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology: [bristol.ac.uk/archanth](http://bristol.ac.uk/archanth).



# Contact us

## Enquiries Team

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If you have any questions about courses, applications or any aspect of being a UK or international student at Bristol please contact the Enquiries Team.

## Accommodation Office

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## Disability Services

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[bristol.ac.uk/disability-services](http://bristol.ac.uk/disability-services)

University guide to the city of Bristol

[bristol.ac.uk/citybristol](http://bristol.ac.uk/citybristol)

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## Photography

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