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If you have any questions about courses, applications or student life at Bristol, please contact the Enquiries Team.

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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

This leaflet contains information for students planning to start university in autumn 2020. We have made every effort to ensure all details are correct at the time of going to press (May 2019). However, since this information is subject to change, you are advised to check the University's website, bristol.ac.uk/ug-study, for the latest updates.

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 and 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 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.

- Our anthropology course was ranked in the top 10 in the *Guardian University Guide 2019*.
- Facilities include a radiocarbon accelerator – one of only five in the UK.
- Bristol's rich history offers a multitude of social and cultural groups to study.

What will you study?

All of our courses will introduce you to the practice, theory and history of your chosen discipline(s). We 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: Peoples, Culture and Language; Big Ideas in Anthropology; Kin, Friends, Lovers, Others; 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: Visions: Experiments in Creative Anthropology; Stimulating Anthropology: Drugs and Society; The Mediterranean Past; Anthropology of Contemporary Capitalism; Introduction to Forensic Anthropology; Lives on the Move: Migration and Mobility from a Global Perspective; Sociolinguistic Anthropology; and Early Human Origins.

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 will 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 first-hand from their knowledge and experience, and to participate in their research projects around the world. Specific research areas currently include material culture anthropology; anthropology and animation; linguistic anthropology; landscape archaeology; human demography and health; political and

economic anthropology; the anthropology of migration; evolution of human behaviour; ancient human diet and mobility; the anthropology of childhood and education; the anthropology of drugs; European pre- and proto-history; and archaeological science.

Currently, members of staff are conducting fieldwork and research in Britain and across the globe, including in 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.

The department is currently home to the bones of more than 600 skeletons, excavated in the South West, which will be examined before being reburied.



'The course offers a huge variety of modules and incorporates numerous disciplines. The University is a multicultural and exciting place for students to feel they are a part of the community.'

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.

Bristol is the second most targeted university by top UK employers.

High Fliers Research 2019



Graduate employers
NFU Mutual
Dartmouth Partners
TRIBE Foundation
James Howes and Co
Analytica



Career destinations
Prospecting Agent
Recruitment Consultant
Charity Consultant
Trainee Accountant
Social Media Analyst

Source: Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education survey 2016/17. Data is for students of Archaeology. Find out more at bristol.ac.uk/careers/be-inspired.

Making your application

Visit bristol.ac.uk/ug20-archanth for more information about our courses.

Typical offer for BA Archaeology and Anthropology

A-levels AAB (contextual BBB).

IB Diploma 34 points overall (contextual 31) with 17 at Higher Level (contextual 15).

Our contextual offer is a grade reduction of up to two grades below the standard entry requirements, made to applicants from under-represented groups. Find out more at bristol.ac.uk/contextual-offers.

GCSEs No specific subjects required.

Selection process UCAS.

For other accepted qualifications, and for our English language requirements, visit bristol.ac.uk/ug20-archanth.

Application advice for archaeology and anthropology courses

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 may also be 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.

We particularly welcome applications from mature students; students from Access, BTEC, HND, FdSc, FdA or similar courses, irrespective of specialisation; and 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.

This information is correct at the time of printing (May 2019), but we recommend you check the University website for the latest information: bristol.ac.uk/ug20-archanth.



Read more about how we support you when you are here:

bristol.ac.uk/students