World-class facilities
Our department is home to a cutting-edge radiocarbon accelerator – one of only five in the UK – as well as computer rooms and chemistry laboratories.

Unique subject breadth
Bristol is the only department in the UK to offer the four fields of archaeology, social anthropology, evolutionary anthropology and linguistic anthropology under one roof.

Subject specialists
You’ll learn alongside expert academics with a broad range of research interests, currently including material culture, human demography and health, and the anthropology of childhood and education.
Why study anthropology and archaeology at Bristol?

Are you fascinated by human nature and cultural diversity, past or present? Our courses provide a broad training in key theories, methods and practices of anthropology and archaeology, from our earliest human ancestors to complex societies, and from Bristol to the South Pacific.

Anthropology is the study of humanity, society and culture, incorporating many different scientific and theoretical approaches. You can combine this with archaeology: the study of past societies through their material remains and environmental context, including artefacts, buildings, burials and landscapes. You also have the opportunity to study anthropology alongside innovation.

All our courses include practice, theory and history, equipping you with the ability to handle complex data sets and concepts, and to interpret both material and written evidence. You’ll learn first-hand from the knowledge and experience of our expert staff, and get the chance to participate in their research projects around the world.

You’ll have exciting opportunities for excavation and anthropological fieldwork as part of your course. Other teaching methods include lectures, small-group tutorials, student-led seminars, discussion groups, one-to-one meetings with tutors, and practical classes – both in the laboratory and out in the field.

Core units each year cover key elements of theory and practice. These are combined with optional units in more specialised periods, themes or regions, and there is the opportunity to study abroad for one teaching block during the second year. In your final year, you will write a dissertation on an original topic of your choice.

Sample units may include:
- Anthropology of Contemporary Capitalism
- Lives on the Move: Migration and Mobility from a Global Perspective
- Museums and Heritage: Critical Perspectives
- Visions: Experiments in Creative Anthropology

Find out more
Entry requirements, course structure and units
bristol.ac.uk/ug2021-archanth

‘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)

Bristol’s rich history offers a multitude of social and cultural groups to study. The city is home to many award-winning museums, and boasts an extraordinary range of archaeological sites nearby, including Roman sites, prehistoric landscapes and castles.

Anthropology and archaeology students develop transferable skills that are highly sought after by a wide range of employers. Many graduates undertake further research in anthropology, archaeology or related disciplines; others pursue careers in museums, heritage, policy, development, health and business.

93% of students find BA Archaeology and Anthropology intellectually stimulating (NSS 2020).

You’ll study in our early 20th-century Arts and Crafts building, a former Baptist college, at the centre of the University campus. The department is currently home to the bones of over 600 skeletons, excavated in the South West, which will be examined before being reburied.
Courses

BA Anthropology
BA Archaeology and Anthropology
MArts Anthropology with Innovation

Connect with the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology

@BristolAnthArch

Photography
James Vybiral, Chris Bahn, Nick Smith
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This leaflet contains information for students planning to start university in autumn 2021. We have made every effort to ensure all details are correct at the time of going to press (May 2020). 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. Any sample units listed are indicative and offerings may change due to developments in the relevant academic field. Unit availability varies depending on staffing, student choice and timetabling constraints.