What will I study?

In year 1 you will explore the key concepts and skills you need to study Anthropology from both biological and social perspectives.

In year 2 you’ll gain a solid grounding in theory and research methods in Anthropology whilst developing your interests along three broad pathways – emphasising social anthropology, biological anthropology and archaeology, or a combination of the two.

In your final year you will concentrate on specific areas or issues reflecting staff research interests before embarking on your own fieldwork and dissertation!

Our teaching team offers an excellent range of expertise, with specialists in contemporary Japan, Europe, Africa, the anthropology of art, primatology, prehistoric archaeology and human evolution, to name a few.

95% of Anthropology students were satisfied with the course

2016 National Student Survey.
Source: Unistats.
Anthropology in Oxford

The world famous Pitt Rivers and Natural History Museums are on your doorstep – as are the Ashmolean Museum and Bodleian Libraries, all invaluable resources that you’ll quickly become familiar with.

London is a short coach journey away with a stop right in front of Brookes’ Headington Campus. You’ll find it easy to get to London’s museums and attend talks at the Royal Anthropological Institute!
“The museums are a fantastic resource for anthropologists and there are opportunities to assist with collections. I felt incredibly privileged to be able to access the very inspiring Pitt Rivers Museum and Oxford University’s Bodleian Library.”

AMY, ANTHROPOLOGY GRADUATE
Specialist facilities and field trips

Whilst on the course you will have the opportunity to take part in an optional trip to Apenheul Primate Sanctuary in the Netherlands. This short trip is a highlight for many students and involves field-based observation of primates under the guidance of your tutors.

More modules on the anthropology of Japan are taught at Brookes than at any other university in the UK. The Japan Room is a unique resource for students, and is also a great location for tutorials.
Fieldwork and student research

A significant part of the study of anthropology is fieldwork, and most students choose to carry out their own as the basis for their dissertation.

You won’t be thrown in at the deep end - in years 1 and 2 you will learn the importance of fieldwork and how to carry it out, both on your own and in groups. You will cover topics including ethics and research skills, and learn about the experiences and practicalities that your lecturers face when they work in the field themselves.
“I went to Cameroon to conduct fieldwork on children’s homes and orphanages for my dissertation research. It was a really intensive lesson in putting what I’d learnt in the research methods class into practice, and turned out to be an unforgettable experience that has inspired me to follow a career in international development.”

ALICE NAMTVEDT, ANTHROPOLOGY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS GRADUATE
“At the end of my first year I went to Jordan to do archaeological fieldwork with one of my lecturers. It was an incredible experience and gave me a great insight into the practical side of anthropology and archaeology.”

KIZZY FERGUSON, ANTHROPOLOGY GRADUATE
Work experience and employment

Oxford has so many opportunities for gaining work experience in museums, NGOs and local charities. Undergraduates have held paid or voluntary positions at the Pitt Rivers Museum, the Children’s Radio Foundation, and Oxfam. Students are even able to work on research projects run by members of staff.

In the ‘Anthropology in Action’ module you will learn about the wide range of careers open to anthropology graduates. Past students have gone on to careers in environmental maintenance, education, international development, urban planning, and often engage in postgraduate study.
of research activity was judged of international significance, originality and rigour in the Government’s Research Excellence Framework.

92% of this was world leading for the units of reference in which anthropologists were submitted.

Source: REF 2014
Research and expertise

You will be taught by tutors who are active researchers with strong international reputations. They draw on their own research to create a programme that is stimulating and enjoyable.

Our current areas of staff research expertise include:

- Gender, kinship and care
- Anthropology of art
- Anthropology of the body
- Anthropology of contemporary Japan, Europe and West Africa
- Primatology and primate conservation
- Prehistoric archaeology
- Human evolution
- Environmental anthropology

We encourage you to become a researcher in your own right, and by designing and undertaking your own research you will develop excellent analytical and independent study skills, adding weight to your CV.
“The modular system in which the course is organised appealed to my eclectic tastes and allowed me to read subjects that were hugely diverse yet always related to anthropology.”

MARC BORJA, ANTHROPOLOGY AND GEOGRAPHY GRADUATE

95% of Anthropology students felt that the staff made the subject interesting.

Study abroad

Anthropology students can really benefit from time spent living in a culture that is different from their own, and studying abroad is a really popular option. Recent undergraduates have spent time studying at universities in Canada, Australia, Malta, and the Netherlands.

We have links with more than 100 partner universities around the world so if you’re interested in expanding your international experience you can choose to study abroad as part of your degree.
Combinations

You can choose to study Anthropology as a single or combined honours degree.

The flexible approach at Brookes also means that whether you’re studying single or combined honours Anthropology, you’ll be able to choose to study a module from outside of your course in the first year.
Department of Social Sciences

For more information about Anthropology:

www.brookes.ac.uk/anthro

brookes.socialsciences
@brookes_socsci
oxfordbrookeshss