THE LITTLE BOOK OF
BILOGICAL
ANTHROPOLOGY
AT BROOKES
**What will I study?**

You will study human evolutionary history, our responses to environmental challenges, our relationship to the other primates and the importance of preserving them. There are also modules available in animal biology, psychology, geography and conservation management.

*In year 1* you will explore the key concepts and skills you need to study Biological Anthropology as well as Social Anthropology. This integration means that you’ll cover essential disciplinary knowledge and skills for advanced modules in the following two years.

*In year 2* you’ll gain a solid grounding in theory and research methods in Biological Anthropology whilst developing your interests around three themes – Human Origins and Archaeology, Primate Evolution, Behaviour and Conservation, and Human-Environment Interactions.

*In your final year* you will have the opportunity to concentrate on specific areas or issues reflecting the research interests and expertise of staff, and to embark on your own research project!

Our teaching team offers an excellent range of expertise, with specialists in primatology, prehistoric archaeology, environmental anthropology and human evolution, to name a few.
Anthropology in Oxford

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

London is a short coach journey away with a stop in front of Brookes’ Headington Campus, so it’s easy to get to London’s museums and attend talks at the Royal Anthropological Institute.
Our friendly, close-knit team will help you get the most out of the course. You will have your own academic advisor from within the Anthropology team. All lecturers have scheduled office hours where you’ll be encouraged to talk outside of the classroom and discuss your work and ideas.
Specialist facilities and field trips

Whilst on the course you 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.

You will have access to laboratory facilities for analysis of bones and archaeological samples, as well as take part in stone tool workshops and explore our collection of replica skulls.
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.

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’ll cover topics like ethics and research skills, and discover the experiences and practicalities that your lecturers face when they work in the field.

Pictured: student on biological anthropology fieldwork
“I went to Jordan to do archaeological fieldwork. It was an incredible experience and gave me a great insight into the practical side of anthropology and archaeology. It also provided a solid foundation for a lot of what I learnt later in my degree, and I wrote my dissertation on a site that I visited during the trip!”

KIZZY FERGUSON, ANTHROPOLOGY GRADUATE
“My dissertation was on the origins and evolution of the language faculty in the human species. I really felt I had a chance to explore a variety of different fields with amazing access to information and resources at Brookes.”

RYAN LEAHY, ANTHROPOLOGY AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION GRADUATE
Work experience and employment

Oxford has many opportunities for gaining work experience in museums, NGOs and local charities. Recently, undergraduates have held paid and voluntary positions at the Pitt Rivers Museum, the Children’s Radio Foundation and Oxfam. Students have also worked on research projects run by members of staff.

Brookes anthropology graduates have gone on to careers in research, environmental maintenance, education, international development, recruitment, and urban planning.
“Brookes offers you a lot of freedom to shape your degree around your particular interests, and you can personalise modules to fit your area of enthusiasm. There are lots of hands-on opportunities, such as field trips and museum visits, as well as lab-based work.”

LUCIE COX, ANTHROPOLOGY GRADUATE
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.

Areas of staff research expertise include:

- Primatology and primate conservation
- Human evolution and paleo-anthropology
- Environmental anthropology
- Prehistoric archaeology

We encourage you to become a researcher in your own right at Brookes, and will support you with modules such as ‘Becoming Independent Researchers’. By designing and undertaking your own research you will develop excellent analytical and independent study skills, adding weight to your CV.

Winner of the Queen’s Anniversary Prize for Excellence in Higher Education. MSc in Primate Conservation
“One of my favourite aspects of anthropology lectures were the opportunities to share information, ideas, and points of view with the staff and my fellow students.”

ALICE NAMTVEDT, ANTHROPOLOGY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS GRADUATE

95%

of Anthropology students were satisfied with the course

2016 National Student Survey.
Source: Unistats.
Anthropology students can really benefit from time spent living in a culture that is different from their own, and studying abroad is a very popular option. Recent undergraduates have spent time studying at universities in Canada, Australia, 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.
“I like being taught by experts in their fields, many of whom are involved in research, as consultants on BBC programmes and contributing to up-to-date, popular publications.”

AMY, ANTHROPOLOGY GRADUATE

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

2016 National Student Survey.
Source: Unistats.

Pictured: Professor Anna Nekaris on location for the BBC’s ‘Natural World’ 2012
Department of Social Sciences

For more information about Biological Anthropology:

www.brookes.ac.uk/bioanth