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

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

In year 2 you’ll gain a solid grounding in theory and research methods in Social Anthropology whilst developing your own interests with support from the diverse research expertise of academic staff.

In your final year you’ll concentrate further on those specific areas or issues, and embark on your own fieldwork and dissertation!
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 and unique 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.
“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
The Japan Room

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.

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 (or your other subject if you choose to combine) and all lecturers have scheduled office hours where you’ll be encouraged to talk outside of the classroom to discuss your work and ideas.
Fieldwork and student research

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

You won’t be thrown in at the deep end though - 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
“My research was about amateur performance and open mic nights. That meant my interviews and observations were mainly done in the pub! Having the chance to carry out my own fieldwork to support my reading was important to me, and my dissertation supervisor made sure that I was as prepared as possible. I was nervous in my first interview but by the end of the project it had become second nature to me.”

LIZZIE DUNTHORNE, ANTHROPOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGY GRADUATE
Oxford also offers many opportunities for gaining work experience in museums, NGOs and local charities. Recently, 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.

If you take the ‘Anthropology in Action’ module you will learn about the wide range of careers open to anthropology graduates.
Brookes anthropology graduates have gone on to careers in environmental maintenance, education, international development, recruitment and urban planning. Our graduates often engage in postgraduate study or begin research careers.

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

2016 National Student Survey.
Source: Unistats.
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:

- Gender, kinship and care
- Politics, ritual and religion
- Anthropology of the body
- Anthropology of art
- Anthropology of Japan, Europe and West Africa

92% of research activity was judged of international significance, originality and rigour in the Government’s Research Excellence Framework.

7% of this was world leading for the units of reference in which anthropologists were submitted.

Source: REF 2014
We encourage you to become a researcher in your own right in your time at Brookes, and by designing and undertaking your own research you will develop excellent analytical and independent study skills, adding weight to your CV.

95% of Anthropology students were satisfied with the course. 2016 National Student Survey. Source: Unistats.
“There is always fascinating research coming out of the anthropology department. I keep having to put down my current reading to find out more about what my lecturers are doing!”

SEAN O’DONNELL, ANTHROPOLOGY GRADUATE
Anthropology students can really benefit from time spent living in a culture different from their own, and studying abroad is a very 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.