Anthropology BSc /

This programme looks at the biological, cultural, social and material culture aspects of human beings as well as their evolution. It will help you gain a broad set of skills including: critical reasoning; the ability to search, analyse and synthesise various materials; collaborative group work; and oral and written communication.

Key information

Programme starts
September 2021

Location
London, Bloomsbury

Degree benefits

// UCL Anthropology is one of the few departments in the country that combines social anthropology, biological anthropology, material culture and medical anthropology to give you a truly broad-based anthropology degree.

// You will also be studying at one of the world’s top universities for the subject (ranked 5th in the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2019).

// During your studies you can learn practically by engaging with objects, photographs and films in the UCL Ethnography Collections, hominin and primate specimens in the Biological Anthropology Collection as well as writing for our in-house print magazine and student-run blog, the Anthropolitan.

// Your teaching will draw on our staff’s cutting edge research, examining topics such as the cultural consequences of new digital media, social and environmental sustainability, how people and things interact on NASA space missions, and many more.

Degree structure

In each year of your degree you will take a number of individual modules, normally valued at 15 or 30 credits, adding up to a total of 120 credits for the year. Modules are assessed in the academic year in which they are taken. The balance of compulsory and optional modules varies from programme to programme and year to year. A 30-credit module is considered equivalent to 15 credits in the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).

In the first year, you take compulsory modules covering the three branches of the programme; biological anthropology, social anthropology and material culture. Biological anthropology focuses on contemporary human-environment interactions and human evolution. Social anthropology explores social and cultural differences and their determinants, from indigenous groups to modern western economies. Material culture studies human, social and environmental relationships through the evidence of people’s construction of their material world. Your first year also includes a three-day field trip to discover ethnographic research and participant observation in ritual, landscape, and techniques.

Your second year includes both compulsory and optional modules. In the third year, you select five optional modules from a wide range alongside a dissertation.

Upon successful completion of 360 credits, you will be awarded a BSc (Hons) in Anthropology.

Please note that the list of modules given here is indicative. This information is published a long time in advance of enrolment and module content and availability is subject to change.

YEAR ONE

Compulsory module(s)

// Introduction to Biological Anthropology
// Introduction to Material and Visual Culture
// Introductory Social Anthropology
// Methods and Techniques in Biological Anthropology
// Researching the Social World

Optional modules

// All first-year modules are compulsory.

YEAR TWO

Compulsory module(s)

// Theoretical Perspectives in Social Anthropology and Material Culture
// Being Human

Optional modules

// You will select a minimum of 75 and a maximum of 90 credits from Anthropology, optional modules which must include choices in biological, social, material culture and medical anthropology. The following list is indicative and module topics may include the following but may be subject to change.
// Anthropology of the Body
// Art in the Public Sphere
// Ethnography of Forest People
// Linguistic Anthropology
// Medical Anthropology
// Palaeoanthropology
// Primate Behaviour and Ecology
// The Anthropology of Social Media

// You may take up to a maximum of 15 credits from other undergraduate elective modules outside the department.
FINAL YEAR

Compulsory module(s)

- Individual Studies in Anthropology. This is the dissertation project which can involve field/library based research.

Optional modules

- You will select a minimum of 60 and a maximum of 75 credits from all final-year Anthropology options. The following list is indicative and module topics may include the following but may be subject to change.
- Ethnographic and Documentary Film Making
- Evolution and Human Behaviour
- Reproduction, Fertility and Sex
- Ritual Healing and Therapeutic Emplotment
- The Anthropology of Music and Performance
- The Anthropology of the Mediterranean
- Anthropology of Technology
- You may take up to a maximum of 15 credits from other undergraduate elective modules outside the department.

Your learning

Our teaching comprises lectures, tutorials, seminars and laboratory classes. Small-group tutorials, group work and student-led activities are an important element of many modules. Ongoing feedback is given to help you improve your written work.

Fieldwork

Your first year also includes a three-day field trip, paid for by the department, to discover ethnographic research and participant observation in ritual, landscape, and techniques.

Assessment

Your modules may be assessed by written coursework, by examination, presentations, journals, lab books, multimedia tasks, quizzes and dissertation research projects. Examinations are normally unseen and their formats vary according to the module.

Accessibility

Details of the accessibility of UCL buildings can be obtained from AccessAble. Further information can also be obtained from the UCL Student Support & Wellbeing team.

Your career

The broad range of methodological skills and analytical perspectives offered by the UCL Anthropology programme gives our graduates an unusually wide range of career possibilities, many of them directly related to the discipline’s cross-cultural focus and to our blending of the social and biological sciences.

Former graduates work in diverse fields, such as journalism, film-making, TV, law, museums, social work, international development, NGOs and the voluntary sector, police, probation, refugee work, user experience research, advertising, design, PR, marketing, music industry, accountancy, local government, HR, teaching, and as cultural advisors for multinationals.

Your application

Application for admission should be made through UCAS (the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service). Applicants currently at school or college will be provided with advice on the process; however, applicants who have left school or who are based outside the United Kingdom may obtain information directly from UCAS.

Given our broad-based degree candidates whose academic studies have encompassed arts/humanities and science (preferably biology or human biology) will be well equipped to manage all aspects of the degree.
Entry requirements

A LEVELS
Standard Offer: AAB. No specific subjects. At least two A level subjects should be taken from UCL’s list of preferred A level subjects.
GCSE: English Language and Mathematics at grade C or 5, plus Science or Biology at grade B or 6. For UK-based students, a grade C or 5 or equivalent in a foreign language (other than Ancient Greek, Biblical Hebrew or Latin) is required. UCL provides opportunities to meet the foreign language requirement following enrolment, further details at: www.ucl.ac.uk/ug-reqs.

Contextual Offer: BBB. No specific subjects. At least two A level subjects should be taken from UCL’s list of preferred A level subjects.
GCSE: English Language and Mathematics at grade C or 5, plus Science or Biology at grade B or 6. For UK-based students, a grade C or 5 or equivalent in a foreign language (other than Ancient Greek, Biblical Hebrew or Latin) is required. UCL provides opportunities to meet the foreign language requirement following enrolment, further details at: www.ucl.ac.uk/ug-reqs.

IB DIPLOMA
Standard Offer: 36 points. A total of 17 points in three higher level subjects, with no score below 5.

Contextual Offer: 32 points. A total of 15 points in three higher level subjects, with no score below 5.

CONTEXTUAL OFFERS – ACCESS UCL SCHEME
As part of our commitment to increasing participation from underrepresented groups, students may be eligible for a contextual offer as part of the Access UCL scheme. For more information see www.ucl.ac.uk/prospectus.

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS
UCL considers a wide range of UK and international qualifications for entry into its undergraduate programmes. Full details are given at: www.ucl.ac.uk/otherquals.

UNDERGRADUATE PREPARATORY CERTIFICATES
(International foundation courses)
UCL Undergraduate Preparatory Certificates (UPCs) are intensive one-year foundation courses for international students of high academic potential who are aiming to gain access to undergraduate degree programmes at UCL and other top UK universities.

Typical UPC students will be high achievers in a 12-year school system which does not meet the standard required for direct entry to UCL.

For more information see: www.ucl.ac.uk/upc.

TUITION FEES
The fees indicated are for undergraduate entry in the 2021/22 academic year. The UK fees shown are for the first year of the programme at UCL only. Fees for future years may be subject to an inflationary increase. The Overseas fees shown are the fees that will be charged to 2021/22 entrants for each year of study on the programme, unless otherwise indicated below.

// UK: £9,250 (2021/22)
// Overseas: £31,200 (2021/22)

Full details of UCL’s tuition fees, tuition fee policy and potential increases to fees can be found on the UCL Students website.

ADDITIONAL COSTS
The optional module ‘ANTH0032 Atapuerca and Human Evolution in Europe’ includes fieldwork in Burgos, Spain; where students need an additional Visa to travel to Spain, its cost will be covered by the student.

A guide including rough estimates for these and other living expenses is included on the UCL Fees and funding pages. If you are concerned by potential additional costs for books, equipment, etc., please get in touch with the relevant departmental contact (details given on this page).

FUNDING
Various funding options are available, including student loans, scholarships and bursaries. UK students whose household income falls below a certain level may also be eligible for a non-repayable bursary or for certain scholarships. Please see the Fees and funding pages for more details.

CONTACT
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UK withdrawal from the EU
For up-to-date information relating to specific key questions following the UK’s withdrawal from the EU, please refer to: www.ucl.ac.uk/brexit.