



# Your Programme

## MRes in Social Anthropology, Ethnology and Cultural History

12 months full-time or 24 months part-time

### Aims

The Research and Graduate Programme in Social Anthropology, Ethnology and Cultural History (SAnECH) was launched in autumn 2000. It provides an innovative and lively forum for staff and postgraduates that is unique to the University of Aberdeen. The anthropology group, with its distinctive northern focus, received a 'flagged' 5\* rating in the 2001 Research Assessment Exercise, and achieved separate Departmental status in 2002. The University's Elphinstone Institute has a considerable public profile in the study of ethnology and folklore, and is the only research centre specialising in the vigorous vernacular culture of the North and North-East of Scotland. Cultural History at Aberdeen is a thriving research area, crosscutting the Departments of History and Anthropology. The distinctive Graduate Programme, which builds on the synergy between these three disciplines, offers an excellent research environment in which to study for the Master of Research (MRes), MPhil and PhD.

### Entrance Requirements

Students should have a good first degree or its equivalent in Anthropology, History or a related discipline.

### Syllabus

- **The School of Social Science Postgraduate Training Programme provides foundation training in generic skills of social research through four modules (Methods and Methodology, Research Skills Workshop, Approaches to Analysis and Research Seminar)**
- **Advanced, discipline-specific training is provided through two modules – Philosophy and Methods of Research in Social Anthropology, Ethnology and Cultural History 1 and 2**
- **A supervised dissertation of 12,000 words is undertaken on an agreed topic (for potential PhD students this usually takes the form of a proposal for their intended project of doctoral research)**

### Assessment

The course modules that constitute the MRes programme are assessed on the basis of coursework, assignments (essays, presentations, projects, etc) and the dissertation.

## Progression

- Completion of the four generic modules of the School Postgraduate Training Programme merits the **Certificate in Research Methods**.
- Completion of the additional two discipline-specific modules leads to the **Diploma in Social Anthropology, Ethnology and Cultural History**.
- Candidates who complete all the above modules, as well as the dissertation, are eligible for **MRes in Social Anthropology, Ethnology and Cultural History**.

## Graduate Research

Full-time research students in the fields of social anthropology, ethnology and cultural history, unless they have already received equivalent research training at a postgraduate level, normally register in the first instance for the MRes in Social Anthropology, Ethnology and Cultural History before embarking upon a doctoral programme, to which they may transfer at the end of one year. The MRes programme is recognised by the UK Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) as a preparation for doctoral study. In addition to taught courses, postgraduates attend and contribute to the SAnECH seminar series, to which visiting speakers are invited.

## Resources

All graduate students are provided with personal computers, office space and the facilities and support of the University's excellent central computing services, well-stocked library and e-resources.

## Sources of Funding

The Programme is recognised by the ESRC as an outlet for research training at both masters and doctoral level. Accordingly, graduate students may apply for UK research council studentships (subject to eligibility). Overseas students (who are ineligible for ESRC funding) may apply for grants to cover a proportion of their fees under the ORS (Overseas Research Studentships) scheme. Limited funding for studentships is also available from the University's College of Arts and Social Sciences. Prospective students who would need to apply for funding are strongly advised to contact the Programme Coordinator as early as possible. There are additional opportunities for hourly paid work as tutorial teaching assistants.

## Research in Social Anthropology, Ethnology and Cultural History

The SAnECH Programme includes a dynamic community of scholars, principally but not exclusively located in the Department of Anthropology. Though supervision can be offered in most areas of social anthropology, ethnology and cultural history, the research agenda of the Programme is concentrated in the following areas:

**Scotland and the North** (the anthropology of the North; culture and traditions of the North and North-East Scotland; Scottish diaspora, emigration and immigration; comparative anthropology in the post-Soviet era); **Politics and Identity** (Aboriginal rights in global context; morality, community and the construction of the state; culture, dance and the expression of identity); **The Environment** (society, nature and environment; environmental knowledge, practice and enskilment; landscape, movement and placemaking); **History, Memory and Materiality** (death, memory and material culture; relational histories and museum artefacts; historical anthropology of the body); **Culture, Creativity and Perception** (art, architecture and anthropology; language in culture and society; indigenous media and self-representation).

The Department of Anthropology has been highly rated for its research and teaching quality, and has benefited from the selective investment strategy of the University. A substantial number of new appointments have been made in recent years. Listings of staff research interests, specialisms and publications can be found on the Department's web pages at [www.abdn.ac.uk/anthropology/](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/anthropology/)

## For Further Information Contact

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