



Anthropology FAQs

1. What courses I will be taking in first year?

All Anthropology students take the following courses in first year:

First term: [AT1003: Introduction to Anthropology: Peoples of the World](#)

Second term: [AT1502: Introduction to Anthropology: Questions of Diversity](#)

We understand that hardly any of our students will have taken Anthropology courses before. Each year we welcome new cohorts into the subject with lectures and tutorials suitable for all.

2. Can I take optional courses? Are there any restrictions to what I can take?

In third and fourth year, you'll have the opportunity to choose from a wide range of optional courses. These cover the major fields of social anthropology and the areas of expertise of our staff. A list of courses for the current year can be found [here](#).

Single honours students receive a training in anthropological methods that allow them to carry out their own fieldwork for their dissertations, with the possibility of financial support from the University. Joint honours students are able to carry out library and online-based dissertations. All dissertation students receive individual supervision from a lecturing member of the Department.

3. What will my timetable in first year look like? How much contact time will I have with lecturers?

The first year anthropology courses currently comprise of two lectures and one tutorial per week. Combined with other courses, your total teaching contact time is normally around twelve hours a week. Each student also has a Personal Tutor who is also available for support and contact.

4. What are the typical first year class sizes like?

First year lecture sizes can be in the hundreds, and these take place in large, comfortable lecture theatres with full audio-visual facilities. They are also recorded for viewing later.

You will also take part in tutorial groups of around 12 students. We are proud that all Anthropology tutorials are taken by the core lecturing staff, which provides the highest quality introduction to the subject.

5. Will there be field trips in my classes?

Field trips are a key feature of a number of courses in third and fourth year Anthropology. We'll take you to museums and art galleries in the city of Aberdeen. Courses on the anthropology of landscape and nature also visit the beautiful surroundings of north east Scotland and the communities that live there.



6. Will there be any group work/group projects?

From first year onwards, you'll be encouraged to work collaboratively with your class mates to prepare materials for tutorials. In later years certain courses have opportunities for group projects, although your final marks are always determined by the work that you alone do.

7. How are my courses assessed?

We use a variety of methods of assessment in Anthropology. Coursework may include essays, reviews and projects. Credit may also be given for presentations in tutorials and group work.

Many courses, including at first year, also have an exam in which you are asked to select questions to answer from a given list. Advice and support on revision and exam technique is provided by course lecturers.

8. Is there an opportunity to study languages alongside my degree?

Students may take a language in first and second year to go with their Anthropology courses, and language skills can be very useful in Anthropology. Joint honours students may continue a language into third and fourth year. The University's Language Centre is also open to all who wish to study a language alongside their studies.

9. Should I be preparing for first year by reading anything specific? Do you have any suggestions?

There are a number of great introductory books that will help you get started. We recommend Tim Ingold's 'Anthropology: Why It Matters' and Joy Hendry's 'An Introduction to Social Anthropology'.

You can also look at the Royal Anthropological Institute's [Discover Anthropology](#) website.

10. Are there any societies which would be good to join?

Find out about the [University's student Anthropology Society](#) on Facebook!

You can also say hello to us via the [Department of Anthropology's](#) own Facebook page.

11. Can I study abroad with this degree? Where can I go?

If you wish to study abroad, you're encouraged to go during your second year of study. Our students spend time at universities all over the world. Look out for information about studying abroad during your first year.