

ANTHROPOLOGY

WHY STUDY ANTHROPOLOGY?

What makes us human?

Uncover the complexities and diversity of cultures and human history by discovering biological and social anthropologies, and the archaeological and ethnomusicological connections that have shaped our past and present. How have we adapted to different environments? Why do we communicate and socialise in the ways we do? How have we evolved? Anthropology bridges the natural sciences, human sciences and humanities.

CAREER POSSIBILITIES

Anthropology develops skills in communication and analysis, as well as an awareness of culture, ethnicity and society. Perhaps you are interested in archaeology? Or health, social and environmental research? Work in aid and development agencies, in the tourism industry, and with iwi authorities, museums and local or central government.

“Anthropology gave me a grounding in the study of culture first and foremost, the ability to think critically and laterally about my own society and culture and to ask questions and examine evidence about others. Never forget that heritage requires people to value it – make sure your work is value-aligned and outcome-focused.”



Edward Ashby
Heritage consultant and board member, Te Kawerau Iwi Tiaki Trust

Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Anthropology + Art History
Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Anthropology
Master of Arts in Anthropology



“We address current issues in culture and society that incorporate anthropological theories and methods and draw on Mātauranga Māori, ethnography, gender debates, research of infectious disease, intellectual property and data sovereignty.”

Marama Muru-Lanning
Associate Professor



WHAT CAN I STUDY?

Explore human nature by diving into evolution, the development of culture and by analysing modern society. How have we evolved and how do we continue to respond to changing circumstances? What is the social function of music in different cultures and societies? You will look at past human behaviour and culture, tribal communities and postmodern societies.

Get excited about your course options:



Stage 1 Course*

ANTHRO 108 - Being Human

Explores the cultural reality of being human, as well as the distinct evolutionary journey (within the Order Primates) to become human. Humans are simultaneously biological, cultural and historical. We are biocultural beings who are immersed in social and ecological entanglements which are shaped by, and act as shaping factors of, our bodies, actions and knowledges (including mātauranga Māori).

Stage 2 Course*

ANTHRO 227: Future Generations Anthropology

This course acknowledges the colonial history of anthropology and imagines an anthropology that is relevant now and for the future, with Aotearoa-New Zealand not as just a site of study but an active producer of anthropological knowledge. Explores anthropological concepts via contemporary settings and Mātauranga Māori to demonstrate the usefulness of anthropology in addressing fundamental local and global issues.

Stage 3 Course*

ANTHRO 321 Equality and Inequality

Examines conceptualisations, realities and consequences of equality and inequality cross-culturally. Considers whether there are egalitarian societies and whether inequality is inevitable. Covers types and systems of inequality such as slavery, gender inequality, caste and class, as well as differences between economic and political inequality, and between equality of opportunity and equality of results.

Courses you could study*

Music & Identity in World Music Cultures

Anthropology of the Body

Culture and Creativity

Complementary majors include:

Anthropology



Art History

Classical Studies & Ancient History

Māori Studies

Pacific Studies

Psychology



“The Department of Anthropology has a strong cohort which is very lively. We are well connected with employers around New Zealand and have a strong student culture. ArchSoc and the department host regular seminars from professionals, who come from all over New Zealand and overseas and create funding opportunities for students to attend conferences, as well as offering career advice.”

Patricia Pillay

Doctoral candidate, Faculty of Arts
Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Anthropology
Master of Arts in Anthropology

*Course availability may be subject to change. For a full list of courses and up-to-date information visit the Arts website. Published August 2023

For enrolment information email:

studentinfo@auckland.ac.nz



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