



Anthropology and Sociology

Anthropology asks fundamental questions about what it is to be human in a complex and changing world. We explore the great variety of beliefs and practices that exist around the world, critically questioning our own assumptions, and creatively thinking about how to address global problems.

Anthropology is a discipline that fosters curiosity about the world. Bridging the humanities and social sciences, we seek to understand cultural differences, political dynamics, social conflict, and human creativity. Students at SOAS can draw on the exceptional regional expertise of our Asian, African, and Middle Eastern languages and societies academics.

Students and scholars in Anthropology have an impact on the world outside of academia—on law and government, in the arts and on public media. Our programmes in Social and Cultural Anthropology are amongst the most respected in the UK. Students find a warm, often jolly, but always challenging scholarly home studying Anthropology at SOAS.

This course is suited for people who are interested in developing intellectual and practical skills and are passionate about understanding human culture and behaviour.

Structure and assessment

Students take taught modules to the value of 120 credits per year – unless stated otherwise

Minimum entry requirements

A-Levels: AAB-ABB (from three A-levels excluding General Studies)

IB: 35 points with 6/6/5 at Higher level

See p160 for more on entry requirements, application assessment, Widening Participation and joint degrees.

Duration

Three years, or four years combined with an intensive language.

Skills gained

Studying Anthropology will give you the skills required to work within a variety of fields where an understanding of the world, other peoples' ways of life, and

social and political dynamics is needed. Anthropology graduates go on to work in media, information and technology sectors, international development, government service, education, and tourism, to name but a few areas. Anthropology graduates learn how to:

- think critically, analyse, and solve problems
- synthesise and evaluate information from a variety of sources
- communicate with clarity and fluency, verbally and in writing

What do Anthropology graduates do?

Dance therapists
 Film editors
 Teachers
 Gender violence outreach workers
 Television producers
 International development workers
 Journalists
 Analysts
 Radio producers
 Web developers

Employers include

A range of NGOs, charitable organisations, media companies, and voluntary sector organisations, including:

Action on Hearing Loss
 British Council
 Deloitte
 Hackney Migrant Centre
 IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development)
 The New York Times
 Social Mobility Foundation

Many of our graduates have their own successful start-ups.



Taught Programmes

- BA Social Anthropology
- BA Social Anthropology and...



More Information

www.soas.ac.uk/anthropology



What I enjoy most about studying at SOAS is the people. I've found myself talking to all types of people from students to staff, which ends up creating this fantastically open, diverse environment that just buzzes. I'm already having conversations that challenge me and I love that.

Social Anthropology encompasses so much. The more I learn, not just about specific research or anthropological ideas but also about their critiques, the more I question how I see the world. As a subject, it just seems to have no boundaries, there is so much room to explore.

Imogen Kropf
BA Social Anthropology, 1st year student



BA Social Anthropology

UCAS code: L600

Social Anthropology is an academic discipline that uses experiences and observations of real-life situations to generate theories about why people think and behave as they do. It straddles the social sciences and humanities, contributing to such disciplines as philosophy, linguistics and literature, as well as sociology and history.

BA Social Anthropology teaches theory and ethnography – which is both the method and the outcome of social investigation. Students have a great deal of scope to tailor their programmes of study according to their own interests, both by region and by thematic speciality.

The modules and options offered represent the varied interests of the academic staff and their concerns. Modules often tie into SOAS regional or thematic centres for research, such as the Gender Studies Centre, the Food Centre and the Migration and Diaspora Studies Centre. These modules may be combined with other subjects providing a complementary emphasis. There is also scope for taking optional modules from outside of anthropology. The Independent Study Project, which can be taken in Year 3, gives students the opportunity to conduct their own research project either abroad or in the UK.

Structure

(Typical course content)

Year 1

- Social Theory (30 credits)
- Introduction to Social Anthropology (30 credits)
- Voice and Place (30 credits)
- An Open Option in a language or other discipline

Year 2

- Theory in Anthropology (30 credits)

PLUS two of the following ethnography modules

- Ethnography of China (15 credits)
- Ethnography of Japan (15 credits)
- Ethnography of South Asia (15 credits)
- Ethnography of South East Asia (15 credits)
- Ethnography of the Near and Middle East (15 credits)
- Ethnography of East Africa (15 credits)
- Ethnography of West Africa (15 credits)

PLUS

- 60 credits (or four 15 credit modules) from Year 2 optional modules list

OR

- 30 credits from Year 2 optional modules list

AND

- an Open Option (30 credits) in a language or other discipline

Year 3

- Contemporary Trends in the Study of Society (45 credits)

PLUS

- 75 credits from the Year 3 Optional Modules List (30 credits may be an Independent Study Project)

OR

- 45 credits and one Open Option from another department

Optional modules

Year 1

The student can elect any open module in a subject or language other than those named in the student's chosen degree title

Year 2

- African and Asian Cultures in the Diaspora (15 credits)
- Anthropology and Film (15 credits)
- Anthropology of Gender (15 credits)
- Anthropology of Globalisation (15 credits)
- Anthropology of Human Rights (15 credits)
- Mind, Culture and Psychiatry (15 credits)
- New Media and Society (15 credits)
- New Religious Movements in Africa, Asia and the Middle East (15 credits)
- Ethnography in Practice (15 credits)

Year 3

Students take Anthropology options to the value of 75 credits or 45 credits and one open option from another department.

- Advanced Ethnographic Study (15 credits)
- African and Asian Cultures in the Diaspora (15 credits)
- Anthropology and Film (15 credits)
- Anthropology of Gender (15 credits)
- Anthropology of Globalisation (15 credits)
- Anthropology of Human Rights (15 credits)
- Independent Study Project in Social Anthropology (30 credits)
- Mind, Culture and Psychiatry (15 credits)
- New Media and Society (15 credits)
- New Religious Movements in Africa, Asia and the Middle East (15 credits)
- Ethnography in Practice (15 credits)

BA Social Anthropology and...

May be combined with

African Studies	TL56
Arabic+	LT66
Chinese+	LT61
Development Studies	LL96
Economics	LL16
History	LV61
History of Art/Archaeology	VL36
International Relations	LL26S09
Japanese+	LT62
Korean+	LTPL
Law	LM61
Linguistics	LQ61
Middle Eastern Studies	TL66
Music	LW63
Politics	LL62
South Asian Studies (3 years)	TL3Q
South Asian Studies++ (4 years)	TLH6
South East Asian Studies	TLHP
Religions	LV66
World Philosophies	L610

+4-year degree with (compulsory) 1 year abroad

+3- or 4-year degree with option of 1 year abroad

Structure

(Typical course content)

Most two-subject degrees take three years, but degrees including Arabic, Chinese, Hebrew, Japanese, Korean, Turkish and some South East Asian languages are taken over four years, with the first and second years mainly devoted to language study.

Two-subject degree students must take a minimum of 150 credits in Anthropology.

Core modules

Year 1

- Introduction to Social Anthropology (30 credits)
- Social Theory (30 credits)

Year 2

- Theory in Anthropology (30 credits)

PLUS two of the following ethnography modules

- Ethnography of China (15 credits)
- Ethnography of Japan (15 credits)
- Ethnography of South Asia (15 credits)
- Ethnography of South East Asia (15 credits)
- Ethnography of the Near and Middle East (15 credits)
- Ethnography of East Africa (15 credits)
- Ethnography of West Africa (15 credits)

Year 3

(Recommended but not compulsory)

- Contemporary Trends in the Study of Society (45 credits)

Optional modules

Year 1

The student takes 60 credits in a subject or language other than those named in the student's chosen degree title

Year 2

The student takes 60 credits in a subject or language other than those named in the student's chosen degree title

Year 3

Students may choose modules from the list of anthropology options, or take modules from their other subject, subject to completing at least 150 credits in anthropology overall.

- Advanced Ethnographic Study (15 credits)
- African and Asian Cultures in the Diaspora (15 credits)
- Anthropology and Film (15 credits)
- Anthropology of Gender (15 credits)
- Anthropology of Globalisation (15 credits)
- Anthropology of Human Rights (15 credits)
- Independent Study Project in Social Anthropology (30 credits)
- Mind, Culture and Psychiatry (15 credits)
- New Media and Society (15 credits)
- New Religious Movements in Africa, Asia and the Middle East (15 credits)
- Ethnography in Practice (15 credits)