



Durham
University

Anthropology

Postgraduate study opportunities 2012/13

World-class taught and research degrees to PhD

Ranked 2nd

for internationally excellent research*

*As ranked in the 2008 Research
Assessment Exercise.



Largest

Anthropology department in the UK, with 30 permanent members of staff.

Anthropology

Recognised internationally for quality and expertise in teaching and research, the Department of Anthropology is the largest in the UK with 30 permanent members of staff and a growing cohort of research fellows and postdoctoral researchers. We deliver the highest quality teaching at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. We also offer one of the most diverse and exciting research portfolios of any department in the country.

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

In the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise the Department was ranked second in the UK for the volume of research rated as world-leading (4*) or internationally excellent (3*). We submitted over 95% of our staff to the RAE and these results are a clear indication of the high-quality of our research at Durham.

We offer a broad range of research and teaching expertise including biological, medical, development and sociocultural anthropology. Together we carry out research on every inhabited continent, and our thematic coverage includes reproductive hormones to rhetoric culture and indigenous knowledge to internet technologies. The Department has a vibrant postgraduate community that integrates biological and socio-cultural anthropology.

MAIN AREAS OF RESEARCH

The Evolutionary Anthropology Research Group conducts research in the areas of: palaeoanthropology; primate evolution and behaviour, human behavioural ecology and evolutionary psychology; conservation; genetics; and cultural evolution.

The Anthropology in Development Group

comprises a number of staff using their disciplinary expertise and skills to contribute towards and analyse the consequences of development projects to enhance the lives of the global poor. The experience of the Group's members qualifies them particularly to assist in work on the environment, broadly defined, and new research projects are focusing on energy transition, climate change vulnerability, low carbon and low impact development. They contribute to research and development of sustainable livelihoods and health in comparative socio-cultural and ecological contexts.

The Medical Anthropology Research Group

comprises social and biological anthropology staff and postgraduates who develop cross-disciplinary research in five key areas: medicine and community; maternal, infant and child health; health interventions; early life influences on health; evolutionary approaches to health – and by engagement in public health, health promotion and policy-related health issues regionally and internationally.

The Public Culture Group

is dedicated to the study of publics and public institutions, their forms, their cultures and their influence on our history and our future. We pursue the theoretical understanding of publics via the fine grained ethnographic study of particular publics in a comparative perspective.

The Department offers various seminar series and workshops and postgraduate students participate fully in these groups. Relevant events include three senior



seminar series ('Becoming and Its Limits'; 'Evolutionary Anthropology' and 'Cross-species Interactions') involving external speakers with themes reflecting the interdisciplinary interest of the Department. Research-cluster seminars (including 'Evolutionary Anthropology Research Group'; 'Group for Bio-Social Arguments'; 'Cross-Species Interactions' and 'Network Theories') provide a forum for PGRs and staff to present papers, ideas and proposals. The Department also hosts 2–3 thematic workshops per year, which are task-focused leading to grant applications, publications and conference panels etc. This is in addition to hosting an annual postgraduate conference and editing DAJ, the *Durham Anthropology Journal*.

We provide research and taught postgraduates with office space and computer access all housed in new, state-of-the-art accommodation in the Dawson Building adjacent to the University Library. The Department offers several options for Masters and PhD level study by research, and six taught programmes at Masters level.

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH DEGREES

The following research degrees are currently offered:

- MSc in Biological Anthropology: A one year full-time course of supervised research, examined by thesis
- MA in Social Anthropology: A one year full-time course of supervised research, examined by thesis
- MPhil in Anthropology: A two year full-time course of supervised research examined by thesis
- PhD in Anthropology: A three year full-time course of supervised research examined by thesis. The first year of the PhD consists of preparation for data collection, and may involve attending taught courses where necessary. Typically, the second year is devoted to data collection and the third year to analysis and writing the thesis
- We also offer collaborative supervision with other departments such as Archaeology, Biological Sciences, Geography, Health, Sociology, Theology, Psychology, Maths and Education.

RECENT THESIS TITLES

- "Leopard population dynamics, trophy hunting and conservation in the Soutpansberg Mountains, South Africa"
- "By the community, for the community: an investigation of participatory video with Karrayyu Oromo pastoralists in the Awash Valley, Ethiopia"
- "Crisis and Prosperity: Status, Accountability and Time in Central Greece"
- "The status and conservation potential of carnivores outside the national parks and reserves, Botswana – The Ghana farmlands: A case study"
- "Exploring the short sleep-obesity association in young children"
- "Geometric Morphometric analysis of the *Microtus M1* and its application to the Early Middle Pleistocene in the UK"
- "Facturing culture and discourse into an appraisal of the Neoliberal synthesis of wildlife conservation and rural development in Sub-Saharan Africa".

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH FACILITIES

The Department houses an extensive material culture collection, a skeletal and fossil cast collection, a sleep behaviour and physiology lab, a reproductive ecology lab with facilities for analyses of salivary hormones, a shape analysis lab equipped for both landmark and surface based analyses, equipment for anthropometry and for monitoring diet, physical activity and cardiovascular function, the electronic HRAF database, and an informatics lab.

The Department also has strong links and conducts interdisciplinary research with the Institute of Advanced Study, Durham Energy Institute and the Wolfson Research Institute.

TYPICAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR RESEARCH DEGREES

- MSc in Biological Anthropology, MA in Social Anthropology, MPhil in Anthropology: normally 2:1 degree in a relevant discipline
- PhD in Anthropology: normally MSc/MA in a relevant discipline.

We welcome applications from holders of international qualifications. For advice on the equivalency of international qualifications and

further information on English language requirements, please contact our International Office on international.office@durham.ac.uk or visit our website at www.durham.ac.uk/international

English language requirements for those who do not speak English as a first language and who have not previously been educated in English:

- IELTS of 6.5 or equivalent
- TOEFL IBT – overall score of 87 and 22 (reading), 21 (listening), 23 (speaking), 21 (writing).

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH STUDENTS

Anthropology students achieve regular success in obtaining Durham Doctoral Studentships and Overseas Research Student Awards. The Department has an annual allocation of ESRC Quota Awards and a good track record in obtaining three year and 1+3 ESRC/MRC, ESRC/NERC and ESRC CASE studentships and Welcome Studentships, Leverhulme awards, Wenner Gren dissertation grants, AXA scholarships and Commonwealth Scholarships. In some cases funding for postgraduate research studentships

may also be attached to staff grants. The Department also offers smaller scholarships and teaching bursaries and funding for attending conferences. Details of these funding opportunities can be found at www.durham.ac.uk/anthropology/postgraduate/pg_funding

The University also has a range of other funding opportunities for postgraduate students. To find out what support you could be eligible to receive see our online funding database at www.durham.ac.uk/postgraduate/finance/search

TAUGHT DEGREE PROGRAMMES MSc in Sustainability, Culture and Development Anthropology

Our MSc in Sustainability, Culture and Development Anthropology provides advanced subject coverage and research training in development anthropology, participatory methods and indigenous knowledge systems. In addition to promoting your subject knowledge, the course aims to develop critical, analytical, interpretative, integrative and presentation skills and to provide an opportunity, through the dissertation, to pursue and report on original research under expert supervision. The programme offers preparation for doctoral research



in development anthropology and/or a career in applied development anthropology, especially in international development contexts, energy transition, climate change vulnerability, low carbon and low impact development. Interdisciplinarity is a key strength of this MSc, which is the only development anthropology Masters course in the UK to be offered by an integrated anthropology department.

Teaching is delivered through seminars, lectures, practical classes, self-guided learning, tutorials and dissertation supervision.

MSc in Evolutionary Anthropology

This course is an advanced investigation of the biological and social evolution of primates (human and non-human). You will develop skills and understanding in evolutionary theory, behavioural ecology, comparative methods, evolutionary psychology, cultural evolution and palaeoanthropology.

Taught by an active, interdisciplinary research group involved in cutting-edge work on primate and human behaviour, morphology, and evolution, this MSc provides the theoretical background, subject-specific knowledge, and practical skills that generate both an advanced

understanding of primate (including human) evolution adaptation and behaviour. It provides the perfect foundation for those interested in pursuing PhD-level research and many of our former students have gone on to do PhDs, both here in Durham and elsewhere. It also provides advanced training for those wishing to improve the knowledge and skills gained in their undergraduate degree, for those returning to university as a mature student, and for subsequent employment in fields where a sophisticated understanding of human behaviour is required.

MSc in Medical Anthropology

This advanced course is designed for students with an undergraduate degree in Anthropology or a related discipline who would like to prepare for a career in health-related fields, including medical anthropology, and/or to provide a new perspective for those already engaged in a health profession. This is the only Masters degree in Medical Anthropology within the UK to be offered by an integrated anthropology department, in which biological and sociocultural anthropologists work together. This diversity is reflected in the broad but rich programme of course options.

You may specialise in the socio-cultural aspects of medical anthropology; in biological/evolutionary aspects, and/or in applied aspects, including issues related to public health and community medicine. Teaching takes place via lectures, seminars, tutorials and fieldwork, and a dissertation.

MSc in Evolutionary Medicine

This advanced course is the only Masters degree in this topic anywhere in the world. It is designed for students with an undergraduate degree in Anthropology or a related discipline who would like to prepare for a career in science (for example, anthropology and biology) or in health professions including advanced entry to medical school. While based within the Department of Anthropology, the programme also incorporates teaching and supervision from staff in Biological Sciences, Psychology, and the School for Medicine and Health, as well as invited specialists from other universities.

The programme provides students with an integrated, inter-disciplinary and comprehensive training in various topics relevant to evolutionary medicine, for example, mismatch between the environment in which humans evolved





and the contemporary environment (e.g. risks for obesity and other metabolic disorders, reproductive function, sleep disorders, mother-infant interactions), co-evolution of host and pathogen (infectious diseases), and modelling of cultural behaviours that impact health. Teaching takes place via lectures, seminars, tutorials, and laboratory projects or fieldwork leading to a dissertation.

MA in Research Methods (Anthropology)

This programme has been approved by the ESRC (Economic and Social Research Council) as appropriate research training leading to PhD study in Anthropology. It aims to provide a rigorous training in anthropological research methods – both quantitative and qualitative – and offers you the opportunity to work on an extended analysis of one or more research methods in writing your dissertation.

The programme has three pathways:

Socio-cultural/Medical/Development.

The Socio-cultural Anthropology pathway comprises two modules: Advanced Theory in Social Anthropology which directly addresses the relationship between theory, data and analysis in

ethnographic research. Anthropology of Religion and Conflict is a topical issues module. A Research Dissertation (60 credits) allows students to implement their practical and theoretical skills in anthropological research methods.

The Medical Anthropology pathway is based on modules from the MSc in Medical Anthropology: Theory, Methods & Principles in Medical Anthropology is a weekly seminar course providing students with historical background and current literature in medical anthropology; and using methodological issues in participatory applied anthropology. Advanced Theory in Medical Anthropology aims to train students to develop the analytical skills to recognise and critique different theories, and apply them within their own research. A Research Dissertation (60 credits) allows students to implement their practical and theoretical skills in anthropological research methods.

The **Development Anthropology** pathway is based upon modules from the MSc in Development Anthropology: Theory, Methods and Principles in Development Anthropology is an intensive seminar based course on understanding historical background and current

literature in development anthropology; and using methodological issues in participatory applied anthropology;. Society, Energy & Environment engages students with methods employed in the analysis of social change. A Research Dissertation (60 credits) allows students to implement their practical and theoretical skills in anthropological research methods.

MA in Socio-cultural Anthropology

This course provides advanced subject coverage and thorough research training for those whose first degree is not Anthropology. You will be introduced to both classical and contemporary writing and research in the discipline. There is equal emphasis on theoretical and methodological questions, and plenty of opportunity to apply this new knowledge to issues of pressing social concern.

In addition to enhancing your subject knowledge, the course aims to develop critical, analytical, interpretive, integrative and presentation skills and to provide an opportunity, particularly through the dissertation, for you to pursue and report on original research undertaken under expert supervision.



Teaching is via small classes and you will prepare a dissertation based on fieldwork.

TYPICAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR TAUGHT PROGRAMMES

- MA Research Methods: Normally a 2:1 (or equivalent) in Anthropology
- MA Socio-cultural Anthropology: The equivalent of a 2:1 degree in any subject. Serious consideration will also be given to applications from those with non-standard qualifications
- MSc Medical Anthropology: 2:1 degree or equivalent in Anthropology, health or a related discipline
- MSc Evolutionary Anthropology: 2:1 degree in a related discipline or the equivalent
- MSc Sustainability, Culture and Development: 2:1 in a related discipline or the equivalent
- MSc Evolutionary Medicine: 2:1 in Anthropology or related discipline.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

- IELTS of 6.5 or equivalent (with no element below 6.0)
- TOEFL IBT – overall score of 87 and 22 (reading), 21 (listening), 23 (speaking), 21 (writing).

We welcome applications from holders of international qualifications. For advice on the equivalency of international qualifications and further information on English language requirements, please contact our International Office on international.office@durham.ac.uk or visit our website at www.durham.ac.uk/international

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR POSTGRADUATE TAUGHT STUDENTS

Anthropology students achieve regular success in obtaining funding for one year Masters students through the Shared Commonwealth Scholarship Scheme and Santander Scholarships.

CAREERS AND EMPLOYABILITY

Students with a postgraduate qualification in Anthropology pursue a diverse array of careers in areas such as conservation, tourism, public health, health research and management, captive primate care and zoological research and management, local government research and management, education (secondary, further and higher), social care, social research, in addition to academia.

For further information on career options and employability, including the results of the Destination of Leavers survey, student and employer testimonials and details of work experience and study abroad opportunities, please visit www.durham.ac.uk/anthropology/postgraduate/employability

KEY INFORMATION

Approximately 120 postgraduate students (50 taught and 70 research) and 800 undergraduate students are currently registered in the Department, which currently has 40 lecturing and research staff.



Name:
Victoria McGowan

Home Country:
UK

Postgraduate Course:
MA Research Methods
(Anthropology)

I first heard about the Masters programmes at Durham during my undergraduate years. I graduated with BSc Medical Anthropology and was successful in receiving funding study towards my MA and PhD.

Being part of such an encouraging and enriching environment, everyone is so supportive and genuinely want you to succeed. Staff in the Department of Anthropology are very approachable, their dedication to the students is astounding.

The MA Research Methods has provided me with a solid understanding of how to undertake a large research project in preparation for my PhD. The small teaching groups enable great discussion and have allowed me to gain a deeper understanding of the theory that underlies all research projects and how they affect the outcome. During my time at Durham I have presented my work at conferences in Chicago, Albuquerque, Spain and in various places in the UK, as well as gained experience in organising a conference.

Once I have completed my studies I hope to work within academia. I feel the Department has encouraged me to succeed and I want to be able to do the same for others. During my time at Durham I have worked as a mentor to other mature students and this has given me the opportunity to help support others. I have been inspired by the Department of Anthropology and I hope to go on to inspire others to reach their potential. If I can study at postgraduate level then anyone can do it. I just hope I can show others that it really is possible.



Contact details

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