



## Is this course for me?

While there are no specific subject requirements, you will be well suited to the course if you:

- ❖ Have an open and inquiring mind with the ability to engage with complex issues
- ❖ Are interested in combining perspectives from the arts and sciences
- ❖ Can develop arguments from evidence
- ❖ Have a passion for material culture of the past and present.

If you are a highly motivated student who is passionate about studying human diversity in the past and present, the University of Oxford offers an unrivalled environment in which to do so. The course will introduce topics that may be completely new to you and will allow you to specialize in the areas that interest you the most.

### What qualifications will I need?

You should have achieved, or be predicted to achieve, grades AAA at A-level or an overall score of 38 for the International Baccalaureate (or equivalent).

For more information, consult our website: <http://www.arch.ox.ac.uk/undergraduate-studies>



## What is the role of the college?

All students who come to Oxford University are members of an Oxford College. Each college has its own particular history, ethos and architecture but the quality of teaching you receive is identical. Oxford colleges also provide students with affordable accommodation for at least two (and often

for all three) years of the course and act as a social hub. The extracurricular opportunities to be found within colleges are almost limitless and whatever your interests – music, drama, sports, politics – there will be a society for you in Oxford.

## What are the tutors looking for?

Tutors will primarily be looking for an interest in, and enthusiasm for, the study of humans and their material culture, ideally from both humanities and science perspectives, combined with an ability to digest and assimilate significant quantities of data and to argue from evidence. No prior experience of archaeology or anthropology is required, but any fieldwork experience and general reading in the subject further demonstrates your interest and commitment. If you are shortlisted for interview you will normally be asked to talk about the relationship between the disciplines and to consider problems from

archaeological and anthropological points of view. You may also be given artefacts, maps or other material to interpret.

Our tutors will be looking for the following qualities at interview:

- ❖ An ability to think independently
- ❖ Potential and motivation for studying archaeology and anthropology
- ❖ Enthusiasm and interest in the combined disciplines
- ❖ Commitment to the requirements of the course.

## Open Days

The best way of making your mind up is to visit Oxford on one of the college, general or departmental open days, a full list of which will be found in the University prospectus. Open days give you a chance to meet students and tutors, and form a better impression of what undergraduate life at Oxford is like.

For more information on this please visit our website: [www.arch.ox.ac.uk/open-day](http://www.arch.ox.ac.uk/open-day)

### Admissions

For more information on applying to Oxford, please visit [www.admissions.ox.ac.uk](http://www.admissions.ox.ac.uk). The University's Admissions Information Centre (admissions i) at 55 Little Clarendon Street can help answer questions about applying to undergraduate or graduate degrees offered by Oxford. Please contact: +44 (0) 1865 288000 or [undergraduate.admissions@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:undergraduate.admissions@admin.ox.ac.uk)



## What can I do after I finish my degree?

Archaeology and Anthropology opens up a wide range of career opportunities to you. In part this is because the degree offers a unique perspective on how human societies operate and develop and on how people interact with each other. It is also due to the intellectually demanding requirements of an Oxford degree, and to its unique combination of personal learning, independent study and tutorial teaching. Putting these assets together, as a former Archaeology & Anthropology student you will be able to offer employers a set of skills that is welcomed and valued across the world.

While some Archaeology and Anthropology graduates go on to further study and research to become professional anthropologists and archaeologists, others will move into different areas. The Archaeology & Anthropology degree equips students with a set of transferable skills applicable to a wide range of careers. Graduates of this course have found opportunities in heritage management, museum curation and education, teaching, regional archaeological services, international development, the Civil Service, advertising, marketing, computing, energy supply, community relations, law, journalism and television.



## Get in touch...

Our website provides more information about the degree and advice about applying, as well as information about the Schools of Archaeology and Anthropology and their teaching and research. [www.arch.ox.ac.uk/undergraduate-studies](http://www.arch.ox.ac.uk/undergraduate-studies)

If you have any further questions about studying Archaeology & Anthropology, please email: [administrator@arch.ox.ac.uk](mailto:administrator@arch.ox.ac.uk)



[www.arch.ox.ac.uk/undergraduate-studies](http://www.arch.ox.ac.uk/undergraduate-studies)



Oxford offers a unique opportunity to study archaeology and anthropology together as complementary approaches to the study of human diversity, present and past.



# BA in Archaeology & Anthropology

[www.arch.ox.ac.uk](http://www.arch.ox.ac.uk)



Study of human cultures past and present is fundamental to gaining an understanding of who we are. Archaeology and anthropology together encompass the study of humankind from the origins of the human species to the present day. Both disciplines have a long history: archaeology grew from 18th-century antiquarianism, while anthropology began even earlier in the first days of colonial encounters. Today both subjects involve a range of sophisticated approaches shared with the arts, social sciences and physical sciences. Oxford archaeologists and anthropologists are conducting pioneering research on topics at the frontiers of academic scholarship. This wealth of research and expertise feeds through to specialist teaching that spans a vast geographical and chronological range.



## Why study Archaeology & Anthropology at Oxford?



Oxford is a leading centre for research and teaching in archaeology and anthropology. The Oxford degree is unique in the way it combines archaeology and anthropology throughout the course, offering an unusually broad perspective on human societies from earliest prehistory to the present. Six institutions specialise in these subjects: the Institutes of Archaeology and of Social

and Cultural Anthropology, the Ashmolean Museum, the Pitt Rivers Museum, the Oxford University Museum of Natural History, and the Research Laboratory for Archaeology and the History of Art. All play a key role in the degree, are supported by world-class libraries and are well equipped with laboratories and computing resources.

Drawing on well over a century of experience in teaching and research, outstanding museum and library resources, and the cumulative knowledge of literally dozens of academics, Oxford's Archaeology & Anthropology course offers a comprehensive guide to the richness and diversity of human cultural experience throughout space and time. By choosing to study here you will be able to:

- ❖ Explore how humans evolved
- ❖ Investigate major transformational processes in human history such as the development of farming, the emergence of towns and trading systems and the spread of world religions
- ❖ Assess the interplay of social factors and the wider ecology for understanding the development of cultural landscapes
- ❖ Learn why societies structure their families, economies and political systems in the ways that they do
- ❖ Investigate how material culture represents and reproduces beliefs and ideologies
- ❖ Explore how humankind has given meaning to a host of different concepts, from colour, to time, space, history, memory, power, art and aesthetics, the body and much more.

Archaeology and Anthropology students take part in an archaeological excavation and have the opportunity of participating in other archaeological or anthropological projects anywhere in the world with financial support. During their second and third years students explore particular regions and methodological approaches in depth, choosing from a wide range of archaeological and anthropological topics. Third-year students complete a dissertation based on their own original research.



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## How is the course structured?

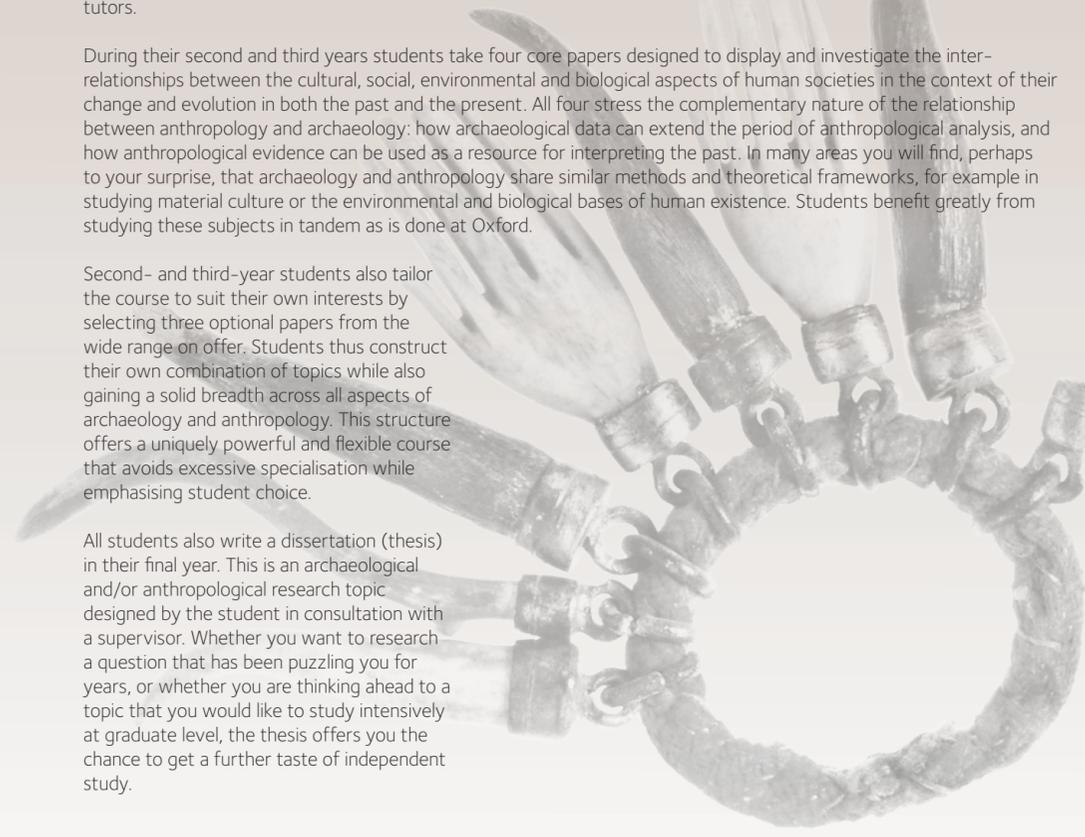
In the first year, Archaeology & Anthropology students take four papers that together provide a general background in archaeology and anthropology. These introductory papers aim to familiarise students with the main techniques and methodologies that archaeologists and anthropologists employ and the principal theoretical perspectives they use. Lectures and tutorials are complemented by a series of practical classes on topics including human and animal remains, scientific dating techniques and particular forms of material culture such as pottery and stone tools.

During the summer vacation students take part in fieldwork. This consists of two parts, the first of which is a two-week training excavation run by members of the School of Archaeology. Thereafter, students must undertake at least three further weeks of fieldwork – anthropological or archaeological – anywhere in the world. Fieldwork can take place in field settings, in the laboratory or in the museum, and the choice of fieldwork project is decided in consultation with college tutors.

During their second and third years students take four core papers designed to display and investigate the inter-relationships between the cultural, social, environmental and biological aspects of human societies in the context of their change and evolution in both the past and the present. All four stress the complementary nature of the relationship between anthropology and archaeology: how archaeological data can extend the period of anthropological analysis, and how anthropological evidence can be used as a resource for interpreting the past. In many areas you will find, perhaps to your surprise, that archaeology and anthropology share similar methods and theoretical frameworks, for example in studying material culture or the environmental and biological bases of human existence. Students benefit greatly from studying these subjects in tandem as is done at Oxford.

Second- and third-year students also tailor the course to suit their own interests by selecting three optional papers from the wide range on offer. Students thus construct their own combination of topics while also gaining a solid breadth across all aspects of archaeology and anthropology. This structure offers a uniquely powerful and flexible course that avoids excessive specialisation while emphasising student choice.

All students also write a dissertation (thesis) in their final year. This is an archaeological and/or anthropological research topic designed by the student in consultation with a supervisor. Whether you want to research a question that has been puzzling you for years, or whether you are thinking ahead to a topic that you would like to study intensively at graduate level, the thesis offers you the chance to get a further taste of independent study.



"Choosing Archaeology and Anthropology, for me, was about the amazing breadth of the subject. I had always favoured history and the biological sciences in school, and this degree offers ways to not only combine the two, but also to look at both history and science from a completely new angle. Now that I'm in my second year, I can't imagine having chosen a different subject."

Erin, 2nd year



## Core papers for BA in Archaeology & Anthropology

First Year	Second & Third Years
<p><b>Papers</b></p> <p>Four core papers are taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Introduction to world archaeology</li> <li>❖ Introduction to anthropological theory</li> <li>❖ Perspectives on human evolution</li> <li>❖ The nature of archaeological enquiry</li> </ul> <p>Practical classes Fieldwork</p>	<p><b>Papers</b></p> <p>Four core papers are taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Social analysis &amp; interpretation</li> <li>❖ Cultural representations, beliefs &amp; practices</li> <li>❖ Landscape &amp; ecology</li> <li>❖ Urbanisation &amp; change in complex societies</li> </ul> <p>Options Practical classes Thesis</p>
<p><b>Assessment</b></p> <p>First University examinations: Four written papers</p>	<p><b>Assessment</b></p> <p>Final University examinations: Seven written papers; thesis</p>

## Teaching at Oxford University

Oxford University's greatest asset is the 'Tutorial System'. This means that you will receive much more personal tuition and greater pastoral support than most other universities can offer.

A tutorial normally consists of a one hour meeting, once a week, between the tutor and one or two students. During this time, a piece of written work (an essay) prepared by the student forms the basis of a discussion that often branches out beyond the original topic. At the end of the tutorial, the tutor assigns a mandatory topic of study for the following week and suggests readings. Apart from tutorials, our lectures are designed to tell you about the important issues, theories and empirical research in Archaeology and Anthropology, and to stimulate further thought and discussion about each research area with further discussion taking place in tutorials and practical classes.

## Library Resources

Library provision is excellent. Oxford's Archaeology & Anthropology students are fortunate in having access to five major sources of books. College libraries usually stock at least the more commonly used books for the core papers, and often their collections are very rich indeed. The Sackler library offers one of the best archaeology/ancient world collections in the UK. Anthropology is supported by the excellent holdings of the Balfour and Tylor libraries. Finally, the Bodleian, with its eleven million volumes, is one of the major research libraries of the world. It is also possible to make use of other more specialist libraries across the University.

