



Anthropology

BA

Bachelor of Arts major

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.

“My role allows me to look after the artefacts and taonga in the care of the museum. This involves ensuring they are described, catalogued, and housed appropriately, and working with iwi and community groups to host visits to the collection, and facilitating access for researchers.

“One of the most valuable parts of my study was learning how to think critically, to not only learn information but question why we know it, why we think of it that way, and what the implications of that are.”



JOSH EMMITT
Curator Archaeology, Auckland War
Memorial Museum, Tāmaki Paenga Hira

Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Anthropology
+ Ancient History*
Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Anthropology
Master of Arts in Anthropology
PhD 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

**Classical Studies and Ancient History has replaced Ancient History as a major in the BA.*



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.

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

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.



Get excited about your course options:



- Anthropology of the Body
- Culture and Creativity
- Human Evolution
- Music and Identity in World Music Cultures

**Course availability may be subject to change. For a full list of courses and up-to-date information visit our website. Published June 2025.*



Complementary majors include:

Anthropology
+
Art History
Classical Studies and Ancient History
Māori Studies
Pacific Studies
Psychology

“Anthropology has enabled me to pursue my interest in heritage, as well as learning about all the interconnected aspects of human culture that surround it. The holistic view of heritage that my study has offered has further driven my interest in it.”

CHLOE LIM

Student: Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Anthropology / Bachelor of Fine Arts conjoint

