

Mātai Tikanga Pūtaiao Undergraduate Anthropological Science



Do you want to develop a deep understanding of humankind, and our cultural and biological diversity? Studying Anthropological Science at the University of Auckland brings together the natural, human, and social sciences to help you develop this deep understanding of the human species.

What you will learn

Understanding humans in the past, present and future requires well-rounded scientists with highly developed problem-solving skills. Studying Anthropological Science offers you the chance to hone your scientific skills and apply emerging technologies, while learning about the species you belong to – what's more enticing than that?

New scientific methods and technologies in anthropological science include the analysis of DNA and ancient DNA, C-14 dating, stable isotope research, metallurgy, the analysis of live and fossil spores, the annual rings of trees, pollen grains, and human and animal remains, as well as the behavioural observation of humans and primates.

This major will give you the chance to apply more science to your studies in archaeology and biological anthropology. Other sciences complement the study of Anthropological Science, for example, Cell and Molecular Bioscience, Environmental Science, Earth Sciences or Geography.

Graduates gain an internationally accepted qualification, excellent research skills and the knowledge to work within some of the world's most rapidly advancing scientific fields.

If you're interested in studying Anthropological Science with us, it will be beneficial for you to have high school biology, chemistry and mathematics, although they're not essential. Subjects such as history, geography and English also provide useful, fundamental skills.

Choosing a subject

With so many options it's sometimes hard to choose what you want to study, but we've got you covered. You can study a double major with our Bachelor of Science to gain a broader base of skills and knowledge.

Complementary majors include:

- > Biodiversity, Ecology and Evolution
- > Cell and Molecular Bioscience
- > Chemistry
- > Earth Sciences
- > Geography
- > Psychology
- > Statistics



Career opportunities

A unique view of the world

This subject brings together studies in archaeology and biological anthropology with science disciplines to create graduates who are work-ready, or who may choose to continue with postgraduate study.

Majoring in Anthropological Science allows you to view the world through a scientific and human-centred lens – a perspective that many organisations and companies find valuable.

Your transferable skills may include problem-solving, critical and analytical thinking, oral and written communication, quantitative analysis, and an awareness of cultural diversity.

Such a breadth of abilities could lead you into a variety of career paths, including archaeological consultancy for organisations such as Heritage NZ, health and nutrition research or roles in museums, environmental consultancy and mining.

Our graduates have been employed in the following jobs:

- › Archaeologist, Rio Tinto
- › Geospatial analyst, Statistics New Zealand
- › Technician, International Archaeological Research Institute Inc
- › Customer relations representative, Scotiabank
- › Marine technician, Auckland War Memorial Museum
- › People and culture manager (APAC), Vend

- › Resource management monitoring officer, Waikato District Council
- › Analyst, New Zealand Police
- › Customer care coordinator, Sealed Air Corporation
- › Guest experience host, Kelly Tarlton's

What you can study

- › The practice of archaeology in Aotearoa New Zealand and the broader Pacific
- › Human palaeoecology
- › Heritage management
- › Human evolution
- › Analysis of human remains
- › Primate behaviour, ecology and conservation
- › Biosocial approaches to health



Find out more about how your degree will be structured and what courses you need to take at

auckland.ac.nz/anthropological-science

Applications close on 8 December.



Kuhua ki tō mātou hāpori, ā, Kimihia tōu Pūtaiao.
Join our community and find your Science.



Disclaimer: The information in this document is a general guide only for students and subject to alteration. All students enrolling at the University of Auckland must consult its official Calendar, to ensure that they are aware of and comply with all regulations, requirements and policies. [2026]

Have any questions?
Contact the Student Hub

auckland.ac.nz/student-hubs