



Module Handbook

[Modules are available to students coming on the following incoming programmes:
non-European exchange; European exchange; full-year fee-paying study abroad]

Incoming Students

2026/2027

Anthropology

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A: THE DEPARTMENT

The Anthropology Department at Durham [<http://www.dur.ac.uk/anthropology>] provides a vigorous and intellectually exciting environment for learning and research in all areas of the discipline. It is one of the very few anthropology departments in the UK that deals with both biological and social areas of the subject; with more than 30 permanent members of academic staff we are also one of the UK's largest. We are particularly interested in interdisciplinary teaching and research that connects across the bio-social boundary. Examples include the evolution of humans, culture and cognition, medical anthropology, and the socio-cultural contexts of development and conservation.

The Department of Anthropology is located on "the science site" in the recently refurbished Dawson Building, which is next to the main library and the Palatine Centre, the newly-built central services building.

The department's contact details are:

Department of Anthropology
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Dawson Building
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Durham DH1 3LE
Tel: +44 (0) 191 334 1612
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Email: anthropology@durham.ac.uk

Further information for European Exchange Programme students can be found via the university's International Office link:

[Incoming Opportunities - Durham University](#)

We look forward to welcoming you to the Department!

A1: Exchange Coordinator

Exchange Coordinator:

Professor Helen Ball
Department of Anthropology
Durham University
Dawson Building, Room 335a
South Road
Durham
DH1 3LE
Email: H.L.Ball@durham.ac.uk

Other useful contacts:

Department Administration:

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Additional administrative staff may be able to assist you. See:

<https://www.dur.ac.uk/anthropology/staff/administrativeandtechnicalstaff/>

B: DEGREE STRUCTURE

All undergraduate degrees at Durham have a *modular* structure, consisting of six different modules each academic year for three years. Modules are usually studied over all three terms of the teaching year. The terms at Durham are: **Michaelmas** from October to mid-December (10 weeks of teaching), **Epiphany** from mid-January to mid-March (9 weeks of teaching), and **Easter** from the end of April to mid-May (3-4 weeks of teaching).

Modules are examined or assessed in the year in which they are taught, during the year and/or during a dedicated exam period that takes place from the end of May to the middle of June. At the end of the first year there are preliminary examinations that do not contribute to the final degree class, which is determined by the assessments and examinations taken only in the second and third year of study.

Incoming European Exchange Programme students often wish to study at Durham only during the Michaelmas term, but in this case it is impossible for the university to provide housing, so we do not encourage this. It is far more beneficial to study with us for a period of at least two terms. Assessments for modules will sometimes be modified from those given to our full-year students to suit the shorter length of your programme of study. However, you will always have some form of assessment, and the marks will be passed on to your home university a few months after you leave.

Students opting to study at Durham for a full academic year are expected to submit the same assessments as those pursuing their full degrees at Durham, and to sit exams in May-June, like other full-time Durham students. These marks will be conveyed back to your home institution after the Board of Examiners meets in the middle of June. The marks will be processed first by the department and then the university's central administration, after which they will be sent to your university (approximately 1-2 months later). Unfortunately, we cannot speed up the process on your behalf, so please make sure your home institution is aware of the timeline that we must adhere to under these circumstances.

C: REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS

This section contains important information for setting up your academic programme at Durham University.

Please read through this section carefully before considering your modules and filling in the Learning Agreement!

C1: General

Choice of Modules

At Durham University European agreements are signed by individual university departments and are not university-wide agreements. This means that, in general, students will have to choose modules (courses) within the Durham University department through which the European agreement with their home university has been signed (students should check with the Exchange Coordinator in their university if they are not sure which department this is). Modules offered by other departments are subject to availability and can only be taken with prior consent from the relevant department. *Incoming students must take at least 50% of their modules in the host department and can take modules outside in no more than two additional departments.* Certain restrictions may also apply to courses in some departments and students need to follow the advice below carefully before completing their application form.

Please clearly indicate the modules you wish to take in the application form for approval by the respective department(s). Before completing your application form, it is very important that you read carefully the relevant departmental section(s) of the Module Handbook to check which modules are available to you and any restrictions which may apply. It is imperative that a properly completed application form is submitted. Only complete applications can be processed.

Section *D: Module Details* provides a list of modules available for European students in the department where the agreement has been established (receiving department) as well as a list of modules available for students coming in through other departments (external departments). Please choose from these modules only!

To find out about the details for each module (teaching methods and contact hours, prerequisite academic background, method of assessment, content, etc.) please refer to the Faculty Handbook online under:

<http://www.dur.ac.uk/faculty.handbook/>

C2: Departmental Requirements and Restrictions

The Department has no specific requirements for incoming European Exchange Programme students, but we will assess every application individually.

When choosing modules, you should be aware that some have evolutionary anthropology content and some have social anthropology content. Also, when wishing to study 2nd or 3rd year modules, you will need to have knowledge of the relevant anthropology at the introductory (1st year) level. If you lack previous background in either of these areas, you are welcome to contact the Exchange Coordinator for advice on whether particular modules are suitable.

If the Exchange Coordinator has concerns about the modules you choose to study at Durham, you might be contacted directly to discuss your choices. New choices can be made upon your arrival, but it is preferable to avoid this, if at all possible. However, it does happen and we can accommodate new choices if your interests have changed or you find timetabling conflicts.

D: MODULE DETAILS

This section contains a list of modules that European Exchange Programme students can choose from. Please only select from the modules listed in sections D1 or D2 in this Module Handbook! To find further details for each module (teaching methods and contact hours, prerequisite academic background, method of assessment, content, etc.) please refer to the Faculty Handbook online under: <http://www.dur.ac.uk/faculty.handbook/>

D1: Modules available to European students coming on a departmental link

YEAR 2

MODULE CODE	MODULE TITLE	TERM	SUBJECT AREA	ECTS CREDITS
ANTH2257	Anthropology of the Body	2	H/S	5
ANTH2267	Critical Global Health	1	H/S	5
ANTH2277	Health and Inequality	1	H	5
ANTH2287	Markets and Exchange	2	S	5
ANTH2297	Mind and Culture	2	E	5
ANTH2307	Palaeoanthropology: The Story of Human Evolution	2	E	5
ANTH2317	Power and Inequality	1	S	5
ANTH2327	Primate Societies	1	E	5
ANTH2337	Reading the Skeleton	1	E	5
ANTH2347	Relations and Belonging	1	S	5
ANTH2357	Ritual, Religion and Belief	2	S	5
ANTH2367	Sex, Reproduction and Health	2	H/E	5

ANTH2387	The Anthropocene and Multispecies Anthropology	1	S	5
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E = evolutionary anthropology; S = social anthropology; H = health anthropology

YEAR 3

Level 3 modules are **advanced courses** in different subject areas of evolutionary, medical, and social anthropology. Each module runs over the course of a **single term** (either Michaelmas or Epiphany). In most cases these modules require at least two years' prior study of the relevant sub-discipline (social, evolutionary, or health anthropology). Below is an indicative list of modules running for 2024/25 – but please note these are subject to change:

MODULE CODE	MODULE TITLE	TERM	SUBJECT AREA	ECTS CREDITS
ANTH30C7	Decolonising Anthropology	1	S	5
ANTH30G7	Mediterranean Connections	1	S	5
ANTH30N7	Anthropologies of Knowledge	2	S	5
ANTH30P7	Social Movements in Interdisciplinary Perspectives	1	S/H	5
ANTH30S7	Political Ecologies of Health	2	H	5
ANTH30U7	People and Nature	1	E	5
ANTH3247	Violence and Memory	1	S	5
ANTH3297	Evolutionary Medicine of Maternal & Infant Health	2	H/E	5
ANTH3307	The Social Anthropology of Hormones	1	S/H	5
ANTH3317	Technical Primates	1	E	5
ANTH3797	Physical Activity for Health: Anthropological / Critical Perspectives	1	H	5
ANTH3877	Evolution of Cooperation	1	E	5
ANTH3887	Forensic Anthropology	2	E	5
ANTH3897	Paleoanthropology & Paleoecology	2	E	5
ANTH3927	The Anthropology of Ethics & Morality	2	S	5
ANTH3937	Anthropology of Art & Experience	2	S	5
ANTH3957	The Anthropology of Sport	1	S	5

E = evolutionary anthropology; S = social anthropology; H = health anthropology

Suitably qualified students, usually those at postgraduate level, may also be able to select modules offered to MA/MSc Anthropology students at Durham. More details of our postgraduate programmes and modules can be found at:

<http://www.dur.ac.uk/anthropology/postgraduate/taught/>

Please contact the Exchange Coordinator if you wish to be considered for this option, to determine if you have the appropriate background knowledge.

D2: Modules for European students coming on an external link (through a different department)

For students with **no prior knowledge** of Anthropology, there are three Year 1 modules available. They may also be suitable for students coming through a direct link.

Students who already possess a background in Anthropology should refer to section D1 (above) for a more appropriate choice of modules. Although the Year 1 modules below can also be made available to students with some prior experience of Anthropology, this is ordinarily only where the subject area (e.g. evolutionary anthropology) is not taught at the student's home institution.

YEAR 1

MODULE CODE	MODULE TITLE	SUBJECT AREA	ECTS (FULL YEAR/ HALF YEAR)	AVAILABLE TO 1 OR 2 TERM STUDENTS*
ANTH1091	Human Evolution and Diversity	E	10/5	YES
ANTH1041	Health, Illness and Society	S/H	10/5	YES
ANTH1061	People and Cultures	S	10/5	YES

* This means that these modules may be taken by students coming to Durham for one or two terms (rather than the full year), even if the module runs over the full year. Alternative assessments will be offered for these modules. Official grades will, however, not be given on the official Durham transcript but on an additional document produced for home universities.

PLEASE NOTE that if you take a full-year module for only one term (e.g. Michaelmas or Epiphany only), you will receive half the credits listed for the full year. E.g. if taking ANTH1061 for Epiphany only, you will receive 5 ECTS (see numbers in red). **NB: 1 ECTS credit = 2 Durham credits.**

Please note there is a large number of modules in the Faculty Handbook that are NOT available to exchange students

Modules not available to exchange students include the following

MODULE CODE	MODULE TITLE	SUBJECT AREA	DURHAM CREDITS	AVAILABLE TO 1 OR 2 TERM STUDENTS
ANTH 1111	BEING HUMAN	EVO/SOC	20	N

ANTH 1101	DOING ANTHROPOLOGICAL RESEARCH	EVO /SOC	20	N
ANTH 2131	ANTHROPOLOGY FIELD COURSE	EVO/SOC	20	N

The modules in the above table, and any others that are listed as being “**tied**” to the degrees L601 Anthropology, L602 Anthropology, B991 Health and Human Sciences or combined honours degrees (e.g. Archaeology and Anthropology, Anthropology and Sociology) are available only to students studying for the full three- or four-year degree at Durham.