MASTER OF ARTS
ANTHROPOLOGY

Amid social and environmental conditions that are constantly changing, anthropology offers new critical perspectives on the world by highlighting how local and global issues are interconnected. Ethnography, the discipline’s field research method, makes it possible to document in real time a host of complex phenomena pertaining to diverse topics such as medicine, the environment, minorities, the media and indigenousness. Anthropology students have the opportunity to gain first-hand experience, observing and understanding contemporary issues through field research taking place around the world.

The School of Sociological and Anthropological Studies offers a Master of Arts in anthropology program. This MA in anthropology is offered as a full-time and a part-time program, in French and in English. In English, the maximum number of annual admissions is fixed according to the procedure explained in the Admission Requirements section.

Two options are available for the master’s program: the MA with thesis and the MA with research paper. Admissible students may submit a request to add the co-op option to their program.

The program is governed by the general regulations in effect for graduate studies.

Admission Requirements

For the most accurate and up to date information on application deadlines, language tests and other admission requirements, please visit the specific requirements webpage.

Students who have a BA with honours or major in anthropology or in another equivalent discipline with a minimum average of 70% (B), calculated in accordance with graduate studies guidelines, may be admitted to the MA program.

Students who have an honours BA with a minimum average of 70% (B) in another discipline, calculated in accordance with graduate studies guidelines, but are considered to have an insufficient academic background may be accepted into a qualifying program, requiring them to complete a maximum of eight courses.

All applicants must be able to understand, speak, and write either English or French proficiently. Applicants whose first language is neither English nor French must provide proof of proficiency in one or the other. The list of acceptable tests is indicated in the “Admission” section of the general regulations in effect for graduate studies.

The maximum number of students admitted annually in the MA in anthropology in English is limited to the average of the students admitted to the French language program in the previous three years. The maximum number of admissions for the current year is available from the secretariat of the School of Anthropological and Sociological Studies.

Program Requirements

MA with Thesis

Compulsory Courses:
- ANT 5100 Contemporary Theory in Anthropology 3 Units
- ANT 6150 Methodology and Research Proposal in Anthropology 3 Units
- 9 elective course units in anthropology (ANT) at the graduate level 9 Units

Research Project:
- ANT 7990 Thesis Proposal

Thesis:
- THM 7999 Master’s Thesis

Note(s)

1. One three-unit graduate course from another program may be included as an elective in the master's program with thesis, subject to the approval of the coordinator of graduate studies in anthropology, and following consultation with the department responsible for the course.
2. Candidates must begin the process of selecting a thesis topic and a supervisor at the beginning of their program. The supervisor must be a member of the School of Sociological and Anthropological Studies.
3. The 9 elective course units in anthropology (ANT) at the graduate level can be followed as a microprogram in Graduate Studies.

MA with Research Paper

Requirements for this program have been modified. Please consult the 2022-2023 calendars for the previous requirements.

Compulsory Courses:
- ANT 5100 Contemporary Theory in Anthropology 3 Units
- ANT 6150 Methodology and Research Proposal in Anthropology 3 Units
- 15 elective course units in anthropology (ANT) at the graduate level 15 Units

Research Paper:
- MRP 6999 Major Research Paper

Note(s)

1. Up to two graduate courses (6 units) from another program may count as coursework for the master's program with research paper, subject to the approval of the coordinator of graduate studies in anthropology, and following consultation with the department responsible for the course concerned.
2. The elective course units in anthropology (ANT) at the graduate level can be followed as a microprogram in Graduate Studies.

Co-op Option

The MA in Anthropology, in collaboration with the University of Ottawa’s Co-op office, offers a co-op stream to a limited number of students. The co-op option gives selected students the opportunity to acquire practical work experience by completing two one-session (four months) work placements.
The option for the co-op stream is as follows. The first co-op placement will be in the summer of the first year and the second work placement will take place in the fall of the second year. Each work term is graded P (Pass) / F (Fail), based on the employer’s report and on a written report completed by the student. The student’s report must be 15 to 20 pages, including appendices. A Regular Professor from the Department will evaluate the student reports.

The units awarded for co-op terms may not be used to obtain equivalences for other courses. In other words, the co-op units are additional to the minimum requirements of the degree.

To remain enrolled in the co-op program, a student must:

- maintain full-time status;
- maintain a 7.0 grade point average; and
- obtain a passing grade for each co-op work term.

Research

Research Fields & Facilities

Located in the heart of Canada’s capital, a few steps away from Parliament Hill, the University of Ottawa is among Canada’s top 10 research universities.

Uottawa focuses research strengths and efforts in four Strategic Areas of Development in Research (SADRs):

- Canada and the World
- Health
- e-Society
- Molecular and Environmental Sciences

With cutting-edge research, our graduate students, researchers and educators strongly influence national and international priorities.

Research at the Faculty of Social Sciences

The Faculty of Social Sciences represents a place of excellence in knowledge creation, research and training. Driven by both disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives, research at the Faculty is rich, innovative and varied, contributing to the in-depth understanding and breadth of discussions on a variety of issues nationally and internationally. This research, whether it be fundamental, theoretical, applied or action-oriented, is generated by our renowned expertise, ultimately culminating in applications designed to influence individual communities and the betterment of society.

We have identified five research themes which collectively represent a large proportion of the research undertaken at the Faculty of Social Sciences:

- International Studies
- Francophonie
- Public Policy
- Health, Well-Being
- Justice, Society

Facilities, Research Centres and Institutes at the Faculty of Social Sciences


For more information, refer to the list of faculty members and their research fields on Uniweb.

IMPORTANT: Candidates and students looking for professors to supervise their thesis or research project can also consult the website of the faculty or department (https://www.uottawa.ca/graduate-studies/students/academic-unit-contact-information/) of their program of choice. Uniweb does not list all professors authorized to supervise research projects at the University of Ottawa.

Courses

Not all of the courses listed are given each year. The course is offered in the language in which it is described.

ANT 5100 Contemporary Theory in Anthropology (3 units)
In-depth examination of the main theoretical currents in social and cultural anthropology. Focus on the development and the points of convergence and divergence of these currents, through examples and topical issues.

Course Component: Seminar

ANT 5101 Multimodal Anthropology (3 units)
Examination of the modalities and practices of research in anthropology: the manner through which research has unfolded, been felt, expressed or undertaken. Speech, gesture, smell, and gaze, as well as sound, touch, movement and images taken up as both topic and method. Addressing the implications of anthropological works and practices that are essentially mediated by forms of actual experiences.

Course Component: Seminar

ANT 5500 Théories contemporaines en anthropologie (3 crédits)
Examen approfondi des principaux courants théoriques contemporains en anthropologie sociale et culturelle. Développement de ces courants et leurs points de convergence et de divergence à l’aide d’exemples et de thématiques actuelles.

Volet : Séminaire

ANT 5501 Anthropologie multimodale (3 crédits)
Examen des modalités de pratiques et de recherche en anthropologie: manière à travers laquelle la recherche s’est passée ou a été ressentie, exprimée ou faite. La parole, les gestes et le regard, ainsi que le sonore, le touché, le mouvement et l’image tant comme thème que comme méthode. Exploration des œuvres et pratiques anthropologiques qui sont pratiquement et essentiellement médiiées par des formes d’expériences véritables, que cela implique des technologies ou des corps ou les deux.

Volet : Séminaire

ANT 6101 Anthropology of the Political, Rights and Power (3 units)
Combining theoretical reflections and ethnographic research, an examination of recent reconfigurations in global political processes: the emergence of new political spaces, forms and conflicts, critique of inequalities, political and religious movements, political authority and resistance, and postcolonial perspectives.
Course Component: Seminar

ANT 6102 Globalization and Capitalist Imaginaries (3 units)
Understanding how forces, connections, flux and dynamics of globalization articulate, transform and condition representations of the economy, of the political, of the social and of everyday life in a capitalist context. Critical debate of theories of power, imaginations and practices in the links between the local and the global.
Course Component: Seminar

ANT 6103 The "Culture" Question in Anthropology (3 units)
Historical and critical in-depth analysis of the contributions and limitations of the notion of 'culture' in anthropology revolving around major issues in the discipline: identity transformations; decolonization; socio-economic upheavals and migration; global dynamics and problems of pluralism; multiculturalism and interculturalism.
Course Component: Lecture

ANT 6104 Indigeneities (3 units)
In-depth examination of global indigenous resurgence, including the revitalization of legal orders, governance systems, spiritualities and language. Anthropological studies of such subjects as colonialism, post-colonialism, decolonization and coexistence; resistance and resilience; healing, reconciliation and reparation; multiculturalism and cultural appropriation; ecologies.
Course Component: Lecture

ANT 6112 Medical Anthropology (3 units)
Epistemologies and practices of health, wellbeing, illness and disease. It will touch upon the encompassing issues of suffering, embodiment, new medical technologies, Western and non-Western medical traditions, alternative health practices, wellness movements, mental health, and the cultural construction of biomedical scientific knowledge.
Course Component: Lecture

ANT 6122 Environmental Anthropology (3 units)
In-depth analysis of research problems understood as environmental, underlining important questions of shared milieus in which humans and non-humans are entangled. Studies, grounded in ethnographic research, of different ecological and territorial issues.
Course Component: Lecture

ANT 6150 Methodology and Research Proposal in Anthropology (3 units)
In-depth reflection on how to conceptualize and shape a research proposal, providing students with the tools required to design a research project. From envisioned fieldwork, the seminar exploration of the inseparability of method and research problem.
Course Component: Seminar

ANT 6380 Selected topics (3 units)
Selected research topic in anthropology.
Course Component: Seminar

ANT 6501 Anthropology du politique, droits et pouvoir (3 crédits)
Appréhender les reconfigurations récentes dans les processus politiques globaux à partir de réflexions théoriques et de terrains singuliers: émergence de nouveaux lieux politique, formes inédites de conflictualité, revendications de droits, critique des inégalités, mouvements politiques et religieux, l'autorité politique et résistance, et les perspectives postcoloniales.
Volet : Séminaire

ANT 6502 Mondialisation et imaginaires capitalistes (3 crédits)
Comprendre comment les forces et les connexions, les flux et les dynamiques de la mondialisation articulent, transforment et affectent les représentations de l'économie, du politique, du social et de la vie quotidienne dans un contexte capitaliste. Débat critique sur les théories qui portent sur le pouvoir, les imaginaires et les pratiques dans la relation entre le local et le global.
Volet : Séminaire

ANT 6503 Questions autour de la notion de «culture» en anthropologie (3 crédits)
Analyse historique et critique approfondie des apports et limites de la notion de « culture » en anthropologie autour de laquelle se concentrent les enjeux majeurs de la discipline : transformations identitaires, (dé)colonisation, bouleversements socio-économiques et migrations, dynamiques mondiales et problématiques du pluralisme, du multiculturalisme et de l'interculturalisme.
Volet : Cours magistral

ANT 6504 Autochtonies (3 crédits)
Examen approfondi de la resurgence autochtone dans le monde, y compris la revitalisation d’ordres juridiques, systèmes de gouvernance, spiritualité ou langue. Études anthropologiques de sujets tels que le colonialisme, post-colonialisme, décolonisation et coexistence; résistance et résilience; guérison, réconciliation et réparation; multiculturalisme et appropriation culturelle; écologies.
Volet : Cours magistral

ANT 6512 Anthropologie de la santé (3 crédits)
Épistémologies et pratiques de la santé, du bien-être et de la maladie. Questions concernant la souffrance, la corpérité, les nouvelles technologies, les traditions médicales occidentales et non-occidentales, les pratiques alternatives, les mouvements du bien-être, santé mentale et construction culturelle des savoirs scientifiques biomédicaux.
Volet : Cours magistral

ANT 6522 Anthropologie de l’environnement (3 crédits)
Analyse approfondie de problématiques dites environnementales qui soulèvent l’importante question des milieux partagés, humains et autre qu’humains. Études, à partir de recherches ethnographiques, de différents enjeux écologiques et territoriaux.
Volet : Cours magistral

ANT 6550 Méthodologie et problématique (3 crédits)
Réflexion approfondie sur la conception et la mise en forme d’une problématique de recherche afin de permettre aux étudiant-es de concevoir un projet de recherche. À partir des recherches de terrain envisagées, exploration de l’indissociabilité de la méthodes et de la problématique.
Volet : Séminaire

ANT 6780 Thèmes choisis (3 crédits)
Thème de recherche choisi en anthropologie.
Volet : Séminaire
ANT 6932 Lectures dirigées en anthropologie / Directed Readings in Anthropology (3 crédits / 3 units)
Cours individuel ayant pour objectif d'approfondir les connaissances de l'étudiant dans un domaine particulier ou de lui permettre de se familiariser avec un nouveau domaine. / Individual course aimed at deepening a student's knowledge of a particular area or at gaining knowledge of a new area.
Volet / Course Component: Cours magistral / Lecture
Prerequisite: Individual course aimed at deepening a student's knowledge of a particular area or at gaining knowledge of a new area. The topic is selected and developed in consultation with departmental guidelines.

ANT 6933 Laboratoire expérientiel / Experiential laboratory (3 crédits / 3 units)
Participation active aux activités de recherche d'un des laboratoires de l'ÉÉSA sous la supervision d'un professeur. Cours individuel ayant pour objectif d'approfondir les connaissances de l'étudiant dans un domaine particulier ou de lui permettre de se familiariser avec un nouveau domaine. / Active participation in the research activities of one of the ÉÉSA laboratories under the supervision of a professor. Individual course using a research-based approach, aimed at deepening student's knowledge in a particular field or at exposing them to a new field.
Volet / Course Component: Laboratoire / Laboratory

ANT 7990 Projet de thèse / Thesis Proposal
Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research

ANT 7998 Mémoire / Research Paper
Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research

ANT 8500 Séminaire de doctorat (3 crédits)
Appréhender de façon détaillée à partir de plusieurs thématiques anthropologiques contemporaines les enjeux théoriques et épistémologiques reliés à la discipline.
Volet : Séminaire

ANT 8501 Séminaire avancé de recherche en anthropologie (3 crédits)
Développement de la problématique de recherche en anthropologie. Analyse approfondie des préoccupations fondamentales de la discipline, dont le raisonnement anthropologique et les méthodes de travail essentielles, l'éthnographie, pour mener à bien des recherches doctorales.
Volet : Séminaire

ANT 9101 Comprehensive Exercise
Preparation of an annotated course syllabus; includes oral examination. Graded S (Satisfactory) / NS (Not satisfactory).
Course Component: Research

ANT 9102 Thesis Proposal (6 units)
Preparation, overseen by thesis supervisor, which must be approved by thesis advisory committee. Graded S (Satisfactory) / NS (Not satisfactory).
Course Component: Research

ANT 9500 Séminaire de développement professionnel en anthropologie (3 crédits)
Témoin des possibilités d'emplois en anthropologie. Analyse des compétences transférables et préparation vers la transition au marché de l'emploi. Noté S (satisfaisant) ou NS (non satisfaisant).
Volet : Séminaire