

What is Social Anthropology?

In its broadest sense, Social Anthropology is the study of what it means to be human. Social Anthropologists seek to describe and understand the huge variation in forms of human existence and the ways in which these forms change over time. Social anthropology is critical, comparative and reflexive. It is a foundation discipline within the social sciences and addresses the broadest possible range of social diversity.

What topics do Social Anthropologists study?

Social Anthropologists study what it means to be human in all cultures and societies around the world. Social Anthropologists are interested in social and cultural formations in a variety of different settings - from urban to rural, in 'developed' and 'developing' countries - both near and far from 'home' (wherever that may be). The range of topics studied is immense and includes politics, globalisation, inequality, cultures of resistance, human ecological relations, systems of healing, human rights, the creation of national identities, poetry, music and art, gender and sexuality, work, and religion, among others.

One of Social Anthropology's distinctive features is its main research method of participant-observation. Social Anthropologists become intimately involved in the lives of people they work with over an extended period of time through ethnographic fieldwork.



Possible Programme of Study

To complete a BA you will need 360 credits (i.e. 24 papers). A major in Social Anthropology consists of 135 credits including 146.101; at least 30 credits at 200-level, including 146.214; and at least 60 credits at 300-level, including 146.303. The major must include at least 105 credits from 146-prefix papers.

You can also complete a minor in Social Anthropology which comprises 75 credits; at least 45 credits must be above 100-level, with at least 15 credits at 300-level. The minor must include at least 60 credits from 146-prefix papers.

Your course of study might look like this:

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
146.101 Introductory Social Anthropology	146.213 Anthropological Enquiry	146.303 Practice of Fieldwork
145.102 Endangered Cultures	146.208 Political Anthropology	146.304 Culture, Biology and Racism
e.g. 131.121 Rich World, Poor World	146.209 Food and Eating	146.307 The Cultural Construction of Gender
e.g. 176.101 Introductory Sociology	146.210 Ritual and Belief	146.311 Medical Systems of China, India and the West
e.g. 176.102 New Zealand Sociology	146.211 Systems of Healing	146.313 Issues in South Pacific Anthropology
e.g. 179.102 Politics and Public Policy in New Zealand	146.214 Politics of Culture	146.316 Visual Anthropology: Film and Video Approaches
e.g. 145.111 Society, Environment and Place	e.g. 150.201 Treaty of Waitangi	146.318 Environmental Anthropology
e.g. 200.161 Introduction to Politics	e.g. 200.261 World Politics	e.g. 176.302 Advanced Social Research

You must take these papers

You must take at least 2 of these papers (but may take more)

You must take at least 4 of these papers.

These are examples of your elective papers.

Frequently Asked Questions

WHY SHOULD I STUDY SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY AT MASSEY UNIVERSITY?

Because we are staffed by enthusiastic academics who are deeply committed to the teaching and study of Social Anthropology. You will be a member of a close-knit Social Anthropology Programme in which you will have regular and close contact with your staff.

WILL IT GET ME A JOB?

Yes. Students who have taken our Social Anthropology papers are now employed in a wide variety of jobs in the public and private sector as social researchers, teachers, in immigration and migrant services.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE ME?

If you study full-time you can complete your Social Anthropology degree in three years. If you study part-time, it might take a little longer.

CAN I STUDY AT A DISTANCE?

Yes. You can study internally with the Social Anthropology Programme at Massey's Palmerston North campus, take some Social Anthropology papers at Albany, or study extramurally from anywhere in New Zealand (or the world!).

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

You can find fees information on the website at: <http://study.massey.ac.nz>

CAN I COMBINE SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY WITH OTHER SUBJECTS?

Yes. You can combine your major in Social Anthropology with either a second major, or a minor in subjects like Politics, Sociology, Women's Studies, Linguistics, Religion, History or Psychology.

HOW DO I ENROL?

Phone 0800 MASSEY and ask for an enrolment pack, or enrol online at <http://massey.ac.nz>

I DON'T THINK I TOOK THE RIGHT SUBJECTS AT SCHOOL

We don't mind what subjects you took at school. If you're interested in Social Anthropology, we're interested in you.

CAN I DO POSTGRADUATE STUDY AT MASSEY?

Yes. We offer a full slate of postgraduate courses, from an Honours year right through to a PhD programme.

STAFF PROFILES



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CONTACT

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Full details about papers in our undergraduate or postgraduate programmes can be found at:

<http://pep.massey.ac.nz>

SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY PROGRAMME



SCHOOL OF PEOPLE, ENVIRONMENT
AND PLANNING

MASSEY UNIVERSITY