



UNIVERSITY OF  
LIVERPOOL

BSc (Hons)

# Evolutionary Anthropology

UCAS code V4B1

## Entry requirements

A level: BBB

## Study mode

Full-time

## Duration

3 years

Apply by: **29 January 2025**

Starts on: **22 September 2025**

## About this course

Evolutionary Anthropology represents the deep time perspective of anthropology in the broadest sense. Anthropology encompasses the biological and social study of humans as complex organisms with the capacity for language, thought, and culture.

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## Introduction

This unique multidisciplinary programme is the only one of its kind available in the UK and offers an opportunity to study an in-depth programme that explores what it is to be human.

This is based on the study of three major areas of evolutionary anthropology: the archaeology of human evolution, palaeoanthropology, and primatology. You can choose to study all three elements or focus on two areas and add modules in life sciences and earth sciences.

You will be required to complete four weeks of fieldwork including two weeks on our department field school at the end of year one. In year two, many students work on overseas staff research excavations, currently these are based in Zambia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Jordan, Greece, Egypt as well as the UK.

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## What you'll learn

- A broad and integrated knowledge of the evolution of the human species, including principles of archaeology, evolutionary psychology, human anatomy and hominid palaeontology
- Ability to understand how human beings have been shaped by, and have interacted with their cultural, social and physical environments through time
- Appreciation of the inherent cultural and biological diversity of human beings
- Ability to analyse and evaluate relevant quantitative and qualitative data
- Critical awareness of the application of ethnographic models to the hominin behavioural record
- The ability to plan, undertake and present scholarly work that demonstrates an understanding of anthropological aims, methods and theoretical consideration

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# Course content

Discover what you'll learn, what you'll study, and how you'll be taught and assessed.

## Year one

Year one modules introduce the archaeology of human origins, archaeological techniques and methods, human anatomy, evolutionary psychology and human and animal behaviour.

Students take 45 credits of required modules and 30 credits of optional modules in semester 1. Students take 45 credits of required modules and 15 credits of optional in semester 2.

Students taking **LIFE** modules **must** have **A-level Biology**.

## Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u><a href="#">PRINCIPLES OF ARCHAEOLOGY (ALGY101)</a></u>	15
<u><a href="#">THE ORIGINS OF HUMANITY (ALGY105)</a></u>	15
<u><a href="#">INTRODUCTION TO BIOANTHROPOLOGY (ALGY119)</a></u>	15
<u><a href="#">ISSUES IN EVOLUTIONARY ANTHROPOLOGY (ALGY141)</a></u>	15
<u><a href="#">THE PRACTICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY (ALGY102)</a></u>	15
Optional modules	Credits
<u><a href="#">BRONZE AGE CIVILIZATIONS: MESOPOTAMIA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN (ALGY106)</a></u>	15

Optional modules	Credits
<u>LIVING WITH ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE (ENVS119)</u>	15
<u>ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION (ENVS157)</u>	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

## Year two

Year two advances on the topics covered in year one via core and optional modules in early technology, art and language, extinction and migration events and responses to climate change.

Students take 30 credits of required modules and 30 credits of optional modules in Semester ONE, and 30 credits of required modules and 30 credits of optional modules in semester two.

Students must complete 20 days of archaeological fieldwork training, normally during the summer vacation period at the end of year one and year two. The fieldwork is assessed on **ALGY248**.

**CLAH222** requires prior approval and is subject to a suitable placement being sourced. Students will not be able to register directly for this module.

Students taking **LIFE** modules must have A-level Biology.

**LIFE211** and **LIFE213** are only available on a case-by-case basis, in consultation with Life Sciences, and subject to previously undertaken suitable modules.

Students may take appropriate level 4 modules up to a total of 30 credits with prior approval from the subject lead.

Registration onto **HLAC220** is only for students planning to undertake a Work Placement Year.

## Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>WORKING WITH THE PAST (ALGY248)</u>	15

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>HUNTER/GATHERER SOCIETIES (ALGY228)</u>	15
<u>HUMAN OSTEOARCHAEOLOGY (ALGY266)</u>	15
<u>HUMAN ORIGINS: ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE MIDDLE AND LATER PLEISTOCENE (ALGY229)</u>	15
Optional modules	Credits
<u>BEYOND THE WALL: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF NOMADISM (ALGY223)</u>	15
<u>PLANTS AND PEOPLE IN THE PAST: AN INTRODUCTION TO ARCHAEOBOTANY (ALGY220)</u>	15
<u>THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE UPPER PALAEOLITHIC IN EUROPE (ALGY268)</u>	15
<u>THE AGE OF STONEHENGE: RETHINKING BRITISH PREHISTORY (ALGY283)</u>	15
<u>MAKING HERITAGE HAPPEN (HLAC205)</u>	15
<u>PLACEMENT YEAR PREPARATION (HLAC220)</u>	15
<u>EVOLUTION OF THE HUMAN MIND (ALGY240)</u>	15
<u>MUSEUMS AND MONUMENTS (HLAC206)</u>	15
<u>OLD WORLDS AND WORK FUTURES: PLACEMENTS IN ACE (CLAH222)</u>	15
<u>ARTEFACTS AND TECHNOLOGY (ALGY250)</u>	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

## Year three

In year three you will continue to develop your expertise through the detailed study of early human ancestors and evolution, and increase your breadth of knowledge through modules such as primate biology and African archaeology.

Students take 30 credits of required modules and 30 credits of optional modules in semester one. Students take 15 credits of required modules and 45 credits of optional modules in semester two.

**ALGY450** is a 'year-long' module and represents 15 credits in each semester.

Students wishing to take **LIFE322** must have taken **LIFE211** as a pre-requisite.

Students wishing to take **LIFE324** must have taken **LIFE213** as a pre-requisite.

**LIFE322**, **LIFE335**, and **LIFE364** are only available on a case-by-case basis, in consultation with Life Sciences and subject to previously undertaken suitable modules.

Students wishing to take **ALGY342** must have taken **ALGY106** in year one.

With the permission of the subject lead, it is also possible to choose 15 credits from those offered at level 5 so as to fit the themed pathway or support your dissertation.

Students may take 15 credits of optional cognate modules outside of their degree programme with permission from the subject lead.

## Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>DISSERTATION (ALGY450)</u>	30
<u>ARCHAEOLOGY AND HERITAGE IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY: ETHICAL AND POLITICAL ISSUES (ALGY399)</u>	15
<u>PALAEOLITHIC ART IN EUROPE (ALGY361)</u>	15

Optional modules	Credits
<u>ANALYTICAL METHODS IN ARCHAEOLOGY (ALGY397)</u>	15
<u>BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY (ALGY342)</u>	15
<u>AFRICAN ARCHAEOLOGY (AFTER 500,000 BP) (ALGY360)</u>	15
<u>IRON AGE EUROPE: BEYOND THE CELTS (ALGY358)</u>	15
<u>LIVING IN A MATERIAL WORLD: ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN PRACTICE (ALGY314)</u>	15
<u>PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE: GLOBAL QUESTIONS AND INSIGHTS FROM THE PAST (ALGY383)</u>	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

## Teaching and assessment

### How you'll learn

Modules are delivered by a mixture of lectures and seminars in year one, in year two the lecture element within modules is complemented by student led seminars. Finally, in year three, most modules are delivered by a short series of lectures with a focus on student-led seminars thereafter. Self-directed study is also expected through the course reading list and conducting research for your essays and projects. Academic staff are regularly available via their office hours for one-to-one feedback and support. Course material is available 24-hours a day on Canvas, our online learning platform, and study support is available from our dedicated student services team.

### How you're assessed

Evolutionary Anthropology is assessed in a variety of ways.

Examination: learning outcomes are demonstrated in student performance through preparation for and the sitting of an examination. Such examinations may cover essay-based work (usually by selection of a set number of questions), source analysis

(usually by selection of questions or a commentary on an ancient source) or language work (mostly translation and commentary of set passages).

Assessed coursework, including essays, commentaries, posters, and projects: learning outcomes are demonstrated in student performance through the preparation and delivery of a piece of work as an act of self-directed learning with full access to all the relevant learning and research tools and supports.

Portfolio: a critical summary of seminars presented by students reflecting on the material discussed in seminars and subsequently researched and presented as a discussion of the topic or theme.

Class tests, primarily in language modules: learning outcomes are demonstrated with regards to understanding, analysing and applying structures and concepts of grammar and syntax.

Oral presentations: modules assess presentation skills and several modules require the use of Microsoft PowerPoint.

## Liverpool Hallmarks

We have a distinctive approach to education, the Liverpool Curriculum Framework, which focuses on research-connected teaching, active learning, and authentic assessment to ensure our students graduate as digitally fluent and confident global citizens.

The Liverpool Curriculum framework sets out our distinctive approach to education. Our teaching staff support our students to develop academic knowledge, skills, and understanding alongside our **graduate attributes**:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three **Liverpool Hallmarks**:

- Research-connected teaching
- Active learning
- Authentic assessment

All this is underpinned by our core value of **inclusivity** and commitment to providing a curriculum that is accessible to all students.





# Careers and employability

Students who graduate from Evolutionary Anthropology are equipped with skills required for employment or advanced study in archaeology or anthropology. In addition to the subject-specific career pathways, graduates have also gone on to careers in a range of public service and private industry, for example the police, science journalism or financial services. Many past students have progressed through doctoral studies.

Recent employers include:

- The National Trust
- English Heritage
- Civil Service
- Archaeology South East
- Police Service
- Apple.

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# Fees and funding

Your tuition fees, funding your studies, and other costs to consider.

## Tuition fees

### UK fees (applies to Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland)

Full-time place, per year – £9,535

Year abroad fee – £1,430 (applies to year in China)

### International fees

Full-time place, per year – £24,100

Year abroad fee – £12,050 (applies to year in China)

The tuition fees shown are correct for 2025/26 entry. Please note that the year abroad fee also applies to the year in China.

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support. [Learn more about paying for your studies.](#)

## Additional costs

We understand that budgeting for your time at university is important, and we want to make sure you understand any course-related costs that are not covered by your tuition fee. This includes specialist equipment and fieldwork costs.

Students will be required to cover the costs listed below for year one compulsory fieldwork– two weeks in Penycloddiau, North Wales:

- Approved 4-inch WHS Spear and Jackson wood-handled trowel, such as [this one](#). Students can buy a trowel for around £10–14. Please note that gardening trowels are not appropriate.
- Students will pay a sustenance contribution for food during the trip. This was £100 in 2017.

In year two, those who must complete a further two weeks of fieldwork have several options with varying costs. Some options are based in the UK and have no additional costs, others are based abroad. For those choosing to join a site abroad, students will be expected to pay for their own flights, accommodation, and sustenance. The costs for this vary from site to site.

[Find out more about additional study costs.](#)

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# Entry requirements

The qualifications and exam results you'll need to apply for this course.

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## A levels

BBB

Applicants with the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) are eligible for a reduction in grade requirements. For this course, the offer is **BBB** with **B** in the EPQ.

You may automatically qualify for reduced entry requirements through our contextual offers scheme. Based on your personal circumstances, you may automatically qualify for up to a two-grade reduction in the entry requirements needed for this course. When you apply, we consider a range of factors – such as where you live – to assess if you're eligible for a grade reduction. You don't have to make an application for a grade reduction – we'll do all the work.

Find out more about [how we make reduced grade offers](#).

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## T levels

T levels considered in a relevant subject.

Applicants should contact us by [completing the enquiry form on our website](#) to discuss specific requirements in the core components and the occupational specialism.

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## GCSE

4/C in English and 4/C in Mathematics

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## BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma

BTEC applications are encouraged. We evaluate each BTEC application on its merits.

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## International Baccalaureate

30 points, with no score less than 4

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## Irish Leaving Certificate

H2, H2, H2, H3, H3, H3

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### **Scottish Higher/Advanced Higher**

BBB in Advanced Highers, combinations of Advanced Highers and Scottish Highers are welcome

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### **Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced**

Accepted including BB at A level

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### **Access**

30 Level 3 credits at Distinction and 15 Level 3 credits at Merit in a Humanities/Social Science based Access Diploma

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### **International qualifications**

Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.

If you hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent, but don't meet our entry requirements, you could be eligible for a Pre-Master's course. This is offered on campus at the [University of Liverpool International College](#), in partnership with Kaplan International Pathways. It's a specialist preparation course for postgraduate study, and when you pass the Pre-Master's at the required level with good attendance, you're guaranteed entry to a University of Liverpool master's degree.

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## **English language requirements**

You'll need to demonstrate competence in the use of English language, unless you're from a [majority English speaking country](#).

We accept a variety of [international language tests](#) and [country-specific qualifications](#).

International applicants who do not meet the minimum required standard of English language can complete one of our [Pre-Sessional English courses](#) to achieve the required level.

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### **IELTS**

6.5 overall, with no component below 5.5

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### **TOEFL iBT**

88 overall, with minimum scores of listening 17, writing 17, reading 17 and speaking 19. TOEFL Home Edition not accepted.

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### **TOEFL Paper**

Grade 7 at Standard Level or grade 6 at Higher Level

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### **Duolingo English Test**

125 overall, with speaking, reading and writing not less than 105, and listening not below 100

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### **Pearson PTE Academic**

61 overall, with no component below 59

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### **LanguageCert Academic**

70 overall, with no skill below 60

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### **Cambridge IGCSE First Language English 0500**

Grade C overall, with a minimum of grade 2 in speaking and listening. Speaking and listening must be separately endorsed on the certificate.

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### **Cambridge IGCSE First Language English 0990**

Grade 4 overall, with Merit in speaking and listening

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### **Cambridge IGCSE Second Language English 0510/0511**

0510: Grade B overall, with a minimum of grade 2 in speaking. Speaking must be separately endorsed on the certificate. 0511: Grade B overall.

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### Cambridge IGCSE Second Language English 0993/0991

0993: Grade 6 overall, with a minimum of grade 2 in speaking. Speaking must be separately endorsed on the certificate. 0991: Grade 6 overall.

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### Cambridge ESOL Level 2/3 Advanced

176 overall, with no paper below 162

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### LanguageCert

Grade 5 at Standard Level or grade 5 at Higher Level

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## Pre-sessional English

Do you need to complete a Pre-sessional English course to meet the English language requirements for this course?

The length of Pre-sessional English course you'll need to take depends on your current level of English language ability.

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### Pre-sessional English in detail

If you don't meet our English language requirements, we can use your most recent IELTS score, or [the equivalent score in selected other English language tests](#), to determine the length of Pre-sessional English course you require.

Use the table below to check the course length you're likely to require for your current English language ability and see whether the course is available on campus or online.



Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
6.0 overall, with no component below 5.5	6 weeks	On campus
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.5	10 weeks	On campus and online options available
5.5 overall, with no more than one component below 5.5, and no component below 5.0	12 weeks	On campus and online options available
5.5 overall, with no component below 4.5	20 weeks	On campus
5.0 overall, with no component below 4.5	30 weeks	On campus
4.5 overall, with no more than one component below 4.5, and no component below 4.0	40 weeks	On campus

If you've completed an alternative English language test to IELTS, we may be able to use this to assess your English language ability and determine the Pre-sessional English course length you require.

Please see our guide to [Pre-sessional English entry requirements](#) for IELTS 6.5 overall, with no component below 5.5, for further details.

## Alternative entry requirements

- If your qualification isn't listed here, or you're taking a combination of qualifications, [contact us](#) for advice
- If you are returning to learning, have had a disrupted education or are switching career pathways, the one-year [Go Higher diploma](#) qualifies you to apply for University of Liverpool arts, humanities and social sciences programmes
- [Applications from mature students](#) are welcome.

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