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BSc (Hons)

Evolutionary Anthropology

UCAS code V4B1

Entry requirements

A level: BBB

Study mode

Full-time

Duration

3 years

Apply by: **30 June 2026**

Starts on: **28 September 2026**

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.

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.

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**.

Students taking a programme with the following modules will have the opportunity to qualify with a Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) accreditation. To qualify, students must have taken **ALGY101, ALGY102, ALGY248, ALGY250, ALGY399, ALGY450, ACE Archaeological Field School assessed in ALGY248**, and a further 10 days of fieldwork/employability experience.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
PRINCIPLES OF ARCHAEOLOGY (ALGY101)	15
THE ORIGINS OF HUMANITY (ALGY105)	15
THE PRACTICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY (ALGY102)	15
INTRODUCTION TO BIOANTHROPOLOGY (ALGY119)	15
ISSUES IN EVOLUTIONARY ANTHROPOLOGY (ALGY141)	15

Optional modules	Credits
EMPIRES AND CITIZENS: THE CLASSICAL MEDITERRANEAN AND THE NEAR EAST (ALGY131)	15
FROM INDIVIDUALS TO ECOSYSTEM (BIOS104)	15
VISUAL CULTURE (CLAH114)	15
ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION (ENVS157)	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change. As part of our commitment to continuous improvement, we are currently reviewing all of our programmes. This may include refining study pathways, strengthening links with employers, integrating generative AI, developing students' research skills, and enhancing alignment with our research strengths. The course content currently shown on this page reflects the programme as it is running in September 2026. This page will be updated for students beginning in September 2027 by 1 September 2026 at the latest.

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 1.

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

BIOS modules usually require A-level Biology. Registration for these modules requires prior consultation with the Evolutionary Anthropology Subject Lead and approval from the module convenor in Biological Sciences.

Students taking a programme with the following modules will have the opportunity to qualify with a Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) accreditation. To qualify, students must have taken **ALGY101, ALGY102, ALGY248, ALGY250, ALGY399, ALGY450, ACE Archaeological Field School assessed in ALGY248**, and a further 10 days of fieldwork/employability experience.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
EVOLUTION OF THE HUMAN MIND (ALGY240)	15
WORKING WITH THE PAST (ALGY248)	15
THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE UPPER PALAEOLITHIC IN EUROPE (ALGY268)	15
HUMAN OSTEOARCHAEOLOGY (ALGY266)	15
HUMAN ORIGINS: ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE EARLY AND MIDDLE PLEISTOCENE (ALGY229)	15

Optional modules	Credits
PLANTS AND PEOPLE IN THE PAST: METHOD AND PRACTICE OF ARCHAEOBOTANY (ALGY220)	15
NOMADS: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF EURASIA (ALGY223)	15
ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR (BIOS207)	15
CHANGING ENVIRONMENTS (ENVS214)	15
PLACEMENT YEAR PREPARATION (HLAC220)	15
DEATH AND MORTUARY PRACTICES (ALGY224)	15
ARTEFACTS AND TECHNOLOGY (ALGY250)	15

Optional modules

Credits

ACE WORK PLACEMENT (CLAH222)

15

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

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

LIFE322, LIFE335 and LIFE364 are only available on a case-by-case basis, in consultation with Life Sciences and subject to having undertaken suitable modules previously. (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). **These modules will not be available from 2026/27.**

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 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.

Students taking a programme with the following modules will have the opportunity to qualify with a Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) accreditation. To qualify, students must have taken **ALGY101, ALGY102, ALGY248, ALGY250, ALGY399, ALGY450, ACE**

Archaeological Field School assessed in ALGY248, and a further 10 days of fieldwork/employability experience.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
DISSERTATION (ALGY450)	30
ARCHAEOLOGY AND HERITAGE IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY: ETHICAL AND POLITICAL ISSUES (ALGY399)	15
PALAEOLITHIC ART IN EUROPE (ALGY361)	15
Optional modules	Credits
THE ORIGINS OF AGRICULTURE AND SEDENTISM IN THE NEAR EAST (ALGY356)	15
ARCHAEOLOGICAL MATERIALS: ANALYTICAL METHODS AND PRACTICAL ANALYSIS (ALGY397)	15
THE BODY IN MOTION: MUSCULOSKELETAL FUNCTIONING IN HEALTH, PERFORMANCE AND DISEASE (LIFE335)	15
BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY (ALGY342)	15
THE CELTS (IRON AGE EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN) (ALGY358)	15
ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE ANTHROPOCENE (ALGY362)	15
PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE: GLOBAL QUESTIONS AND INSIGHTS FROM THE PAST (ALGY383)	15
CURRENT TOPICS IN ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR (LIFE322)	15

BECOMING HUMAN (LIFE364)

15

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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 Learning Framework

At Liverpool, we take a distinctive approach to education through the Liverpool Learning Framework. This means teaching that is engaging, inclusive and designed to help you succeed during your studies and beyond.

You'll develop specialist subject knowledge alongside the skills employers value most, including:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three Liverpool Hallmarks:

- Research-connected teaching – learning informed by the latest ideas and discoveries
- Active learning – taking part, applying knowledge and learning by doing
- Authentic assessment – assessments designed around real-world tasks and challenges

We also embed key priorities across our curriculum, including AI literacy, employability, and sustainability, helping you prepare for the future and make a positive impact in the world.

We're committed to creating a supportive and inclusive learning environment where every student can thrive.

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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 - £9,790

Year in industry fee - £1,955

Year abroad fee - £1,465 (applies to year in China)

International fees

Full-time place, per year - £27,000

Year in industry fee - £1,955

Year abroad fee - £13,500 (applies to year in China)

The fees shown are for the academic year 2026/27. Please be advised that tuition fees may increase each year for both UK and international students. For UK students, this will be subject to the government's regulated fee limits.

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.

A levels

BBB

Applicants with the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) are eligible for a reduction in grade requirements. For this course, the offer is **BBC** from A levels, 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](#).

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.

GCSE

4/C in English and 4/C in Mathematics

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma

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

International Baccalaureate

30 points overall with no score less than 4 or pass the IB Diploma plus 5,5,5 in 3 HL subjects.

Irish Leaving Certificate

H2, H2, H2, H3, H3, H3

Scottish Higher/Advanced Higher

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

Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced

B in the Welsh Baccalaureate, plus BB at A level.

Access

Pass relevant Access to HE Diploma(Humanities/Social Science) with 45 Level 3 credits with 30 at Distinction and 15 at Merit.

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.

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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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.

IELTS

6.5 overall, with no component below 5.5

TOEFL iBT

If you took a TOEFL test on or before 20 January 2026, you'll need 88 overall, with minimum scores of listening 17, writing 17, reading 17 and speaking 19. If you took a TOEFL test from 21 January 2026 onwards, when a new scoring system was introduced, you'll need 4.5 overall, with 4 or above in all components. TOEFL Home Edition not accepted.

Duolingo English Test

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

Pearson PTE Academic

61 overall, with no component below 59

LanguageCert Academic

70 overall, with no skill below 60

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.

Cambridge IGCSE First Language English 0990

Grade 4 overall, with Merit in speaking and listening

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.

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.

Cambridge ESOL Level 2/3 Advanced

176 overall, with no paper below 162

International Baccalaureate English A: Literature or Language & Literature

Grade 5 at Standard Level or grade 5 at Higher Level

International Baccalaureate English B

Grade 7 at Standard Level or grade 6 at Higher Level

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.

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 or online
5.5 overall, with no more than one component at 5.0	10 weeks	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.0	12 weeks	Online
5.0 overall, with no component below 5.0	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 at 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.

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