



A unilaterally barbed serrated bone harpoon point from 2023 archaeological excavations at the TEL,ILĆE village site. Photo by Brian Thom.

Undergraduate Studies in Anthropology Handbook 2024-25

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University
of Victoria



UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA
DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY
UNDERGRADUATE HANDBOOK
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WELCOME TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY AT UVIC

This handbook is designed to help students in the Department of Anthropology get the most out of their undergraduate experience at UVic. It includes information on major requirements, as well as resources available to our majors and minors. You will also find valuable tips on career planning and envisioning your future. Be sure to consult the handbook as an aid to your studies in anthropology; however, the **handbook is not a substitute for advising**. We encourage you to consult the anthropology undergraduate advisor (anthua@Uvic.ca) on a regular basis to assist you in course and career planning.



WHAT IS ANTHROPOLOGY?

Anthropology is a broadly encompassing field within the social sciences that has undergone significant change over the last few decades. Formerly anthropologists focused primarily on the study of non-western societies, and most anthropologists worked in universities or museums. Today, anthropologists engage in research in a wide variety of settings, urban to rural, in Canada and beyond. The majority of professional anthropologists are employed outside the academy (universities or museums) and work in a variety of capacities in government, industry, health care, consulting, and more.

In broad terms, anthropology is the study of human populations and cultures in evolutionary, historical, and comparative frameworks. Our department's curriculum promotes an understanding of the variety of past and present human groups, the processes that underlie human biological and cultural development and change, and how human society and cultures are maintained. We attend to critical processes and ideas, from globalization, inequality, and development to art, meaning, knowledge, and the significance of place. Students learn and apply the research methods and theoretical ideas used by anthropologists in their study of humans and their primate relations, past and present. Excavation and analysis of the remains of past cultures, observation of primate behavior, examination of global social and cultural change, and deep collaborations with partner communities are a few of the approaches anthropologists use to investigate the human way of life.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A DEGREE IN ANTHROPOLOGY?

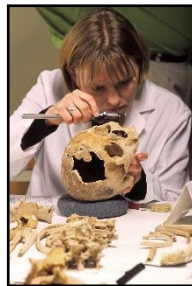
You were probably attracted to anthropology by its subject matter, but may be wondering how a degree in anthropology will prepare you for life beyond university. While many of our former students go on to pursue graduate study in anthropology, many others use their undergraduate studies in anthropology as a springboard for advanced studies in other fields. Others use their Bachelor's degree as a foundation for moving directly into the workforce. As an anthropology student, you will gain both knowledge and skills that translate into a variety of work settings.

Individuals who report being satisfied in their careers are often those who combine a passion for what they do with the knowledge and skills gained through education. As such, the career trajectories open to anthropology students are as diverse as the wide-ranging interests and passions that our students bring to their studies. We offer a few examples below but encourage you to reflect on your own interests and passions and how you might connect those to the skills and knowledge that you will acquire as a student of anthropology.

- Anthropology students learn how to analyze social relations and understand how culture influences human behaviour, as for example the cultural determinants of health and to healthcare access. This knowledge can be applied cross-culturally, providing students with the capacity to work with diverse groups in international settings. In an increasingly globalized world, the cross-cultural perspective of anthropology students is a valued skill that graduates bring to their future careers in related fields such as education, public health, and cultural resource and heritage management
- The Department's emphasis on Indigenous knowledge provides students with an awareness of Indigenous and non-Indigenous relations in Canada and abroad. This knowledge has led graduates to pursue work with Indigenous communities and others working toward reconciliation in Canada.
- Anthropology students learn how to derive, evaluate, and produce knowledge from a variety of sources including artefacts, field observation, interviews, and statistics. When combined with an emphasis on problem-solving and critical analysis fostered by anthropological coursework, these skills can be used to interpret a wide range of information. Students gain specialized skills through advanced courses in Anthropology's subfields: *archaeology*, *biological anthropology*, and *sociocultural anthropology*. UVic's Department of Anthropology is one of the few in Canada that offers training in *visual anthropology*, which can be applied to careers in museums, film, photography, design, and mass media.

CAREER OPTIONS FOR ANTHROPOLOGY MAJORS

- Mediator
- Indigenous research consultant
- Library and archive technician
- Faunal analyst
- Social service worker
- Healthcare services researcher
- Social policy researcher
- Contract archaeologist
- Primate conservation worker
- Support worker for immigrants and refugees
- Curator/ cultural interpreter



- Technical writer
- Administrator
- Kinesiologist
- Epidemiologist
- Journalist
- Ethnographer
- Human resources consultant
- Multicultural education specialist
- Advertising specialist
- Market research analyst
- Design specialist
- Survey researcher
- Immigration officer



- Filmmaker, photographer, and other media-related occupations
- Marketing researcher
- Forensic consultant
- Editor



- Rural development officer
- Research consultant
- Public health educator

POTENTIAL EMPLOYERS

- Universities
- Museums and archives
- Parks and historical sites including Parks Canada
- Cultural resource organizations
- Refugee/ immigrant organizations
- International development agencies
- Health Canada
- Government (federal/ provincial/ municipal)
- Non-profit organizations
- Social service agencies
- Women's organizations
- Financial institutions

EXAMPLES OF OCCUPATIONS OF RECENT ANTHROPOLOGY GRADUATES

- Policy/Research Assistant, Native Affairs Secretariat
- Archivist, Institute for Human Development
- Archaeological Assistant, Parks Canada
- Market Research Representative, The Canadian Institute
- Native Services Worker, Minto Counselling Centre
- Environmental Advisor, GlaxoSmithKline
- Cultural Research Database Manager, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education
- Study Coordinator/Research Assistant, University Health Network
- Docent (Museum Educator), Bata Shoe Museum
- Historical Interpreter, City of Toronto
- Medical Underwriting Trainee, Sun Life Financial
- Project Leader, Katimavik
- Scientist - Regulatory Affairs, Kraft Canada
- Policy Assistant, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
- Toxicologist, Intertek Scientific & Regulatory Consultancy



PRACTICAL SKILLS YOU WILL ACQUIRE

Reflecting on the skills you gain through your training in anthropology will help you to communicate to potential employers the preparation that you bring to the workplace. Generally speaking, training in Anthropology contributes to an awareness of human diversity and an enhanced ability for cross-cultural and intercultural communication, an increasingly valuable skill in a globalizing world. Anthropology course work aids in the development of careful and nuanced communication and writing skills. Not only do students learn how to communicate effectively, but they also learn how to solve problems, think analytically, and evaluate information critically. Other useful skills that students can gain through anthropological training are quantitative, language, and computer skills.

Among more specific skills valued by employers, anthropology students learn the value of attention to detail; are able to collect and analyze data sets; know how to locate relevant information; combine critical thinking with an ability to communicate clearly orally and in writing; know the value of

augmenting quantitative with descriptive data from observation and interviews; and appreciate context as an aspect of understanding and problem solving.

The department offers a variety of courses on research methods, both field- and lab-based, that give students first-hand experience in how to conduct anthropological research. We encourage you to consider the skills component of courses as you plan your degree program. Meet early on with an advisor to identify courses that will best position you to achieve your career goals.

Co-op work terms can be arranged which give students the opportunity to apply anthropological skills in a work setting. Internships are another way to gain experience in a practical setting. Thus, a student who earns a degree in anthropology gains a wide range of practical skills applicable in many career areas.

For more information, see [Careers in the Social Sciences](#) and [Careers in Anthropology](#) from the American Association of Anthropologists.



Barkley Sound Field School – Summer 2017 (Photo: Emma Scott)

CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM AND CAREER SERVICES

At UVic, learning extends beyond the classroom. Through [co-operative education](#), you can alternate terms in class with paid work terms in positions related to your career development. Through this experiential and reflective learning program, you will graduate with additional competencies, a rich resume, contacts in your field, and perhaps some extra cash in your pocket. UVic Co-op is a national leader in co-operative education: one in four UVic students takes part in the program each year.

See the co-op website for more information: www.UVic.ca/coop and/or connect with Anaïs Holdaway, your Anthropology co-op coordinator, in COR B136 ssco@UVic.ca (250-721-7358) or Linda Marley at sscoop@UVic.ca (250-721-8689).

In addition, UVic offers all anthropology students excellent career and job search support through [Career Services](#). You can meet with a Career Educator, attend events, or access job postings and resources on <https://learninginmotion.UVic.ca/home.htm>

FIELD SCHOOLS

Anthropology has a long and rich tradition of conducting research in "the field." You will find our students digging at archaeological sites, observing primates in the rainforest, studying social processes in international settings, or conducting cross-cultural health research in downtown Victoria.

A field school consists of one or more courses that are taught in the field, during which students can learn important practical lessons of anthropological fieldwork as well as contribute to original research findings. This prepares students for subsequent courses they may take and offers valuable, practical skills for finding employment in anthropological settings. Because no one really knows if they want to be an archaeologist, say, until they have spent a week face-down in a wet pit, the hands-on experience of a field school allows students to more fully appreciate the practical side of research and data analysis.

Field schools and local field courses recently offered:

The [Cuba Ethnographic Field School](#) offers students the opportunity to discover the unique cultural and social dynamics that characterize the largest island of the Caribbean.



ANTH 393/395 - Cuba Ethnographic Field

The [Heritage and Historical Archaeological Archaeology Field Course](#) is held at the Emanu-El Synagogue Cemetery in Victoria. The course introduces students to the methods used in recording historical cemeteries and community-based research.



ANTH 367 – Heritage and Historical Archaeology field course

The [Barkley Sound Archaeology Field School](#) is held in Nuu- chah-nulth First Nation territories on western Vancouver Island. This includes 2 weeks of remote camp-based fieldwork in the Broken Islands in Pacific Rim National Park Reserve and 3 weeks at the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre in Barkley Sound.

The [Forensic Anthropology Field Course](#) is held in Victoria over three weeks in the summer term. Students learn how to search for and recover forensically significant items, as well as mapping and excavation techniques of clandestine burials.



Students in forensic anthropology field course

The [UVic-Tsawout 2023 Archaeological Field School at ȷEL, IŁĆE](#) took place on the ancient village site of ȷEL, IŁĆE in Cordova Bay in summer 2023 and brought together UVic undergraduate and graduate students as well as youth and cultural workers from W̱SÁNEĆ communities. This collaboration aimed to deepen our understanding of Indigenous histories and relationships with Cordova Bay.

Keep an eye on our [website](#) for information on any upcoming field schools. Students travelling to an international field school may be eligible for a bursary through the [Student International Activities Fund](#) or some other [funding](#).



ANTH 343/344 – Archaeological Field school – ȷEL, IŁĆE

PROGRAMS

- **BSc Major:** Combine your study for a BSc in Anthropology with a broad range of electives in anthropology and other subjects. For details, please visit our [website](#)

- **BA Major:** Combine your study of Anthropology with a broad range of electives in Anthropology and other subjects. For details, please visit our [website](#)
- **Minor:** Flexible program for students whose interests lie in other areas in addition to Anthropology. For details please visit our [website](#)
- **Honours:** The honours program is for third- and fourth-year BA and BSc major students who want to study anthropology more intensively and independently. It is ideal for students considering a professional career or moving on to graduate school. If you wish to do an Honours program, please consult with our current [Honours advisor](#). For details, please visit our [website](#).

MEET OUR FACULTY

The Department of Anthropology is an active community of collaborative teachers, learners, and researchers who are forging creative connections between anthropology’s traditional subfields of archaeology, biological anthropology, and sociocultural anthropology in relation to the department’s thematic foci: Evolution and Ecology; Inequality, Culture, and Health; Space, Place, Knowledge, and Power; and Visual Anthropology and Materiality.



Visit our [website](#) for a full listing of faculty, a description of their research interests, and recent publications as well as the [community research map](#) of where our faculty are working around the world.

SEE OUR FACILITIES

The Department is home to a number of [labs and research facilities](#).

- [Zooarchaeology lab](#) - the largest and most extensive collection of animal skeletons in the Pacific Northwest
- [Biological anthropology lab](#) – GAB lab (great ape behaviour lab) & [PhASE](#) research group (phenotypic adaptability and skeletal evolution)
- [Environmental archaeology lab](#) – supports research in coastal archaeology and historical ecology.
- [Counter currency lab](#) - interdisciplinary social scientific initiative that facilitates research and teaching on money, complementary currencies and the future of payment and payment systems.



- [Ethnographic mapping lab](#) - space to support communities and scholars to engage in mapping Indigenous territories in support of Aboriginal title and rights, public education, inter-generational knowledge transfer and language revitalization
- [Archaeology lab](#) - houses research collections, workstations and provides bench space for graduate student and faculty research projects.
- [Teaching labs](#) - one lab holds the primate, fossil hominin and stone tool teaching collections. The second holds the zooarchaeology and human skeletal teaching collections.
- [Visual labs](#) - dynamic and creative environments where students and faculty work on individual as well as collaborative visual and arts-based research.

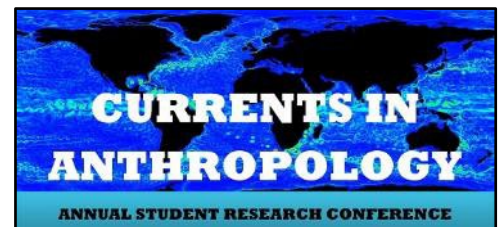


- AIR studio (Acoustic Innovative Research studio) - an innovative space to explore, research and experiment with photography, video and sound recordings
- [Visual stories lab](#) - supports the work of graduate students, faculty and post docs who produce visual media as part of their research or conduct research on existing art and media.

GET INVOLVED

While there is much to be gained from your course work in anthropology, we encourage you to become part of our anthropological community outside the classroom as well. There are a variety of ways to become involved and interact with faculty, graduate students, and other undergraduates while expanding your anthropological horizons.

- [Anthropology Colloquium series](#) - every Monday during the fall and spring term. This series welcomes speakers from UVic (faculty and graduate students) and from all over North America to the department's event. Everyone welcome. See the website for upcoming speakers.
- [Currents in Anthropology conference](#) – great place to present your research, whether a project completed for an anthropology course, research you did for JCURA, or other research experience. See the website for upcoming info as well as for past conferences.
- **Volunteer research opportunities** - faculty and graduate students can sometimes provide opportunities for undergraduate students to become involved in ongoing research projects. See our faculty and their research [here](#) and reach out directly to those you are interested in working with to see if they have any opportunity available. Any volunteer (or paid) research opportunities are usually circulated via our undergraduate mailing list. You can subscribe to the list [here](#).



- **CURRENTLY INACTIVE – IF INTERESTED IN RUNNING THIS PLEASE CONTACT anthtwo@uvic.ca**

- **B.O.A.S. (The Bureau of Anthropology Students)** - an undergraduate course union for the Department of Anthropology at UVic that organizes fun and inclusive events (social and academic) to bring anthropology students together both virtually and in-person. If you want to know more about BOAS or have any questions, please get in touch! Send us an email at UVicboas@gmail.com or dm us on our Instagram (@bunchofanthropologystudents).



- **PlatForum** - a peer-reviewed journal published by UVic anthropology graduate students and the longest-running student-organized anthropology publication in Canada, originally published in 1998 as Cultural Reflections (Vol. 1).
- **Work Study** - program funded by Student Awards and Financial Aid (SAFA) with the objective to provide additional financial assistance through on-campus part-time employment opportunities for students with documented financial need.

ADVISING

Planning and getting the right information at the right time are key to any successful endeavor. There are a number of people in the Department of Anthropology who are available to help you with the decisions you need to make in order to achieve your academic and career goals:

- Dr. Yin Lam (Undergraduate Advisor) anthua@UVic.ca
- Dr. April Nowell (Honours Advisor) anthhonours@UVic.ca
- Dr. Daromir Rudnyckj (Graduate Advisor) anthgs@UVic.ca

We can help you with field school opportunities, career planning, and choices related to graduate school as well as making sure you are on the right track in terms of the courses you need to satisfy your degree requirements. It is also a good idea to speak to any of our faculty members whose field of expertise interests you to get a sense of some of the career paths open to you and how best to prepare for them.

Faculty members who do not currently serve on the Undergraduate Committee are also available for student advising. We encourage you to seek advice from faculty members that you've come to know through course work or participation in a research project.



Please note that this handbook is not intended as a substitute for [advising](#). Be sure to meet with an advisor in the Department throughout your career at UVic.

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- [JCURA \(Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Award\)](#) - supports students who complete a research project under the mentorship of a faculty supervisor.
- [VCURA \(Valerie Kuehne Undergraduate Research Awards\)](#) - give first- and second-year students the opportunity to gain research experience with a faculty member.



2023 JCURA recipient Isabella Haley and supervisor Dr. Boudreault-Fournier

For more opportunities, please visit our [website](#).

FAQ

When should I see an [anthropology advisor](#) and when should I see a [tri-faculty advisor](#)?

Students are advised to speak with an Anthropology advisor for all questions concerning the Anthropology program (registration, course offerings, research opportunities, careers in anthropology, etc.). Students should consult advisors in the [Tri-Faculty Advising Centre](#) for questions related to graduation, CAPP reports, satisfying majors and minors in other departments etc., as well as for information on other University policies and procedures.

What do I do if I don't have the prerequisite required to take a class?

Course pre-requisites are designed to ensure that all students registered in a course have the appropriate preparation to succeed. If you believe that you have taken a course, or combination of courses, which provides you with a background that matches that of the listed pre-requisites, you may request a pre-requisite waiver.

Find more details on pre-requisite waiver and the form [here](#). Please email the form to the undergraduate program assistant at anthtwo@UVic.ca

What do I do if I want to register for a directed studies course or individually supervised studies?

Discuss the terms of the course with a supervisor, fill out the [Undergraduate Pro forma Course Registration form](#), sign and email to the undergraduate program assistant at anthtwo@UVic.ca. Our office will collect the necessary signatures and send on to Academic Advising. More on directed studies [here](#).

To be eligible for a directed studies course you must have declared Honours or Major in Anthropology, have fourth-year standing, cumulative GPA of 5.5 and minimum GPA of 6.5 in 300 and 400 level Anthropology courses.

What do I do if I want to audit a course?

Fill out the [Undergraduate Auditor Class Entry form](#) found [here](#) and email it to the undergraduate program assistant at anthtwo@UVic.ca. Once/if approved by the instructor the form will be sent to the Office of the Registrar (OREG) for processing. You will not be officially added into the class until after the last day regular students can add classes, but you should go to the classes and participate from the start, so you don't miss anything. More on auditing [here](#).

What do I do if I want to withdraw from a course?

Drops can be done online until the last day to drop classes (See Calendar's [Important Dates](#)). After that, you will need to request a Withdrawal under Extenuating Circumstances or an Aegrotat. More on your options [here](#).

What do I do if I cannot complete my course because of illness, injury or other affliction?

Request an in-course extension or academic concession as soon as possible. More on your options and how to submit these concessions [here](#).

Who should I speak to if I want to learn about graduate studies in our department?

Check out our [website](#), [email](#) the graduate program assistant with your questions, or make an appointment to speak to our graduate advisor, to learn more about going on to graduate studies. You can also keep your eyes open for events sponsored by BOAS for students who want to learn more about graduate studies in anthropology.



If you have any feedback on anything that is missing or incorrect please contact anthtwo@uvic.ca.

Thank you.