MA Social Anthropology

Programme Specification

Awarding Institution:

University of London (Interim Exit Awards made by Goldsmiths' College)

Teaching Institution: Goldsmiths, University of London

Name of Final Award and Programme Title:

Name of Interim Exit Award(s): MA Social Anthropology

Postgraduate Certificate in Social Anthropology

Postgraduate Diploma in Social Anthropology

Duration of Programme: 1 year full-time or 2 years part-time

UCAS Code(s): Not applicable

HECoS Code(s): (100437) Social Anthropology

QAA Benchmark Group: Not applicable

FHEQ Level of Award: Level 7

Programme accredited by: Not applicable

Date Programme Specification last updated/approved: July 2017

Home Department: Anthropology

Department(s) which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme:

Not applicable

Programme overview

Are you interested in a career in anthropology, but haven't studied the subject before?

Have you studied anthropology in the past, but need to consolidate this experience before moving into anthropological research?

This MA offers students from all disciplinary backgrounds the opportunity to build a solid base in social anthropology, its theoretical foundations, methodology and ethnographic diversity.

What you study

Compulsory modules will familiarise you with the most important theoretical positions within anthropology and will introduce you to key methodological questions.

In addition, you may choose from a variety of optional modules that will enable you to establish or develop your own theoretical or regional interests.

Optional modules currently cover topics including: gender, sexuality and the body, religion and symbolism, political economy, the anthropology of rights, visual anthropology.

Ethnographic modules include Europe; (post) socialist states; the Caribbean and South Asia.

Programme entry requirements

Successful applicants will have a 2:1 or equivalent from their honours undergraduate degree programme in any subject. Those without this level of qualification may make a case for consideration, and will be interviewed for admission. Applicants should be able to express their interest in the programme in the application's supporting statement.

Non-native English-speakers will normally have to satisfy the requirements of IELTS (6.5). Overseas applicants may be interviewed, where appropriate, by telephone.

Aims of the programme

The MA Social Anthropology is a conversion degree intended to provide students from a variety of backgrounds with a grounding in anthropological theory and methods as well as an opportunity to explore some more specialised themes or regions through selected optional modules. It also provides an opportunity to produce a long piece of written work which develops an interest particular to the student under expert supervision.

Over the course of a year (full time) or two years (part time) students will develop high level theoretical knowledge and skills, principally through the programme's compulsory modules, where they will be discussed in relation to a range of phenomena; complementing the compulsory modules, the students will – under guidance of the programme convenor - choose a selection of options from those available within the department. It is expected that new knowledge, understanding and writing ability at the appropriate (M) level will result.

The programme will enable students to:

- Gain critical knowledge of a range of anthropological approaches to contemporary social processes.
- Develop appropriate analytic skills by reading, discussing and writing across compulsory and option modules at masters' level.
- Plan, develop, and present original pieces of anthropological analysis in line with their interests and expertise.

- Develop forms of analysis appropriate to their written projects.
- Develop methods of enquiry appropriate to their dissertation project.

Graduates from this programme will be in a position to present critical and creative analyses in a variety of academic, professional and community contexts. They will have strong transferable skills in project development and execution, and advanced level skills in thinking and writing anthropological analysis.

What you will be expected to achieve

For the Postgraduate Certificate to be awarded, modules to the value of at least 60CATS which will normally consist of the compulsory modules Anthropological Theory and Research Methods in Anthropology, and the following learning outcomes will have been achieved:

Knowledge and understanding

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A1	To demonstrate a high level of knowledge and critical understanding of selected key theoretical texts in anthropology.	Anthropological Theory Anthropological Research Methods
A2	To comprehend and critique anthropological theories and methods in relation to socio-cultural processes in the contemporary world.	Anthropological Theory Anthropological Research Methods
A3	To analyse socio-cultural phenomena in relation to specific anthropological theories and methods across the range of fields and topics followed in your chosen option modules.	Optional Modules

Cognitive and thinking skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
B1	To conceptualise and present critical and reflective accounts of relevant theories and methods.	Anthropological Theory Anthropological Research Methods
B2	To show critical analytical skills in exploring and/or applying concepts in written work.	All modules

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
B3	To apply complex theoretical ideas creatively to other texts and socio-cultural processes.	All modules
B4	To explore socio-cultural processes in relevant anthropological terms.	All modules
B5	To articulate potential strengths and weaknesses of different anthropological approaches to socio-cultural processes.	All modules

Subject specific skills and professional behaviours and attitudes

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C1	To demonstrate convincing use of secondary data (library- based, fieldwork-based or statistical data) to develop an argument.	All modules
C2	To develop a familiarity with the compulsory methods of social science research.	Anthropological Theory Anthropological Research Methods
C3	To demonstrate the ability to undertake original independent research using Anthropological Methods.	Anthropological Theory Anthropological Research Methods Dissertation

Transferable skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D1	To survey and select appropriate primary and secondary sources for written work using library facilities.	All modules
D2	To work independently and effectively.	All modules
D3	To communicate complex ideas clearly in written form.	All modules
D4	To write within specified word limits and to deadlines.	All modules

For the Postgraduate Diploma to be awarded, modules to the value of at least 120CATS will have been passed of which 60 CATS will normally consist of the compulsory modules Anthropological Theory and Research Methods in Anthropology, and the following learning outcomes will have been achieved:

Knowledge and understanding

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A1	To demonstrate a high level of knowledge and critical understanding of selected key theoretical texts in anthropology.	Anthropological Theory Anthropological Research Methods
A2	To comprehend and critique anthropological theories and methods in relation to socio-cultural processes in the contemporary world.	Anthropological Theory Anthropological Research Methods
A3	To analyse socio-cultural phenomena in relation to specific anthropological theories and methods across the range of fields and topics followed in your chosen option modules.	Optional Modules

Cognitive and thinking skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
B1	To conceptualise and present critical and reflective accounts of relevant theories and methods.	Anthropological Theory Anthropological Research Methods
B2	To show critical analytical skills in exploring and/or applying concepts in written work.	All modules
B3	To apply complex theoretical ideas creatively to other texts and socio-cultural processes.	All modules
B4	To explore socio-cultural processes in relevant anthropological terms.	All modules
B5	To articulate potential strengths and weaknesses of different anthropological approaches to socio-cultural processes.	All modules

Subject specific skills and professional behaviours and attitudes

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C1	To demonstrate convincing use of secondary data (library- based, fieldwork-based or statistical data) to develop an argument.	All modules

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C2	To develop a familiarity with the core methods of social science research.	Anthropological Theory Anthropological Research Methods
C3	To demonstrate the ability to undertake original independent research using Anthropological Methods.	Anthropological Theory Anthropological Research Methods Dissertation

Transferable skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D1	To survey and select appropriate primary and secondary sources for written work using library facilities.	All modules
D2	To work independently and effectively.	All modules
D3	To communicate complex ideas clearly in written form.	All modules
D4	To write within specified word limits and to deadlines.	All modules

For the MA Social Anthropology to be awarded, modules to the value of at least 120 CATS including the compulsory modules AN71081B Anthropological Theory (30 CATS) and AN71089A Research Methods in Anthropology (30 CATS) and an extended self-directed research dissertation (60 CATS) will have been passed. Students who successfully complete the programme, and are awarded the MA will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A1	To demonstrate advanced knowledge and critical understanding of selected key theoretical texts in anthropology.	Anthropological Theory Anthropological Research Methods Dissertation
A2	To comprehend and critique anthropological theories and methods in relation to socio-cultural processes in the contemporary world.	Anthropological Theory Anthropological Research Methods Dissertation
A3	To analyse social phenomena in relation to specific anthropological theories and methods across the range of fields and topics followed in your chosen option modules.	Optional Modules

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A4	To choose an appropriate approach to your chosen area of study from a range of possible anthropological approaches.	All modules

Cognitive and thinking skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
B1	To conceptualise and present critical and reflective accounts of relevant theories and methods.	Anthropological Theory Anthropological Research Methods
B2	To show in-depth and critical analytical skills in exploring and/or applying concepts in extended written work.	Anthropological Theory Anthropological Research Methods Dissertation
B3	To apply complex theoretical ideas creatively to other texts and socio-cultural processes.	All modules
B4	To explore socio-cultural processes in relevant advanced anthropological terms.	All modules
B5	To articulate potential strengths and weaknesses of different anthropological approaches to socio cultural processes.	All modules
B6	To plan a critical, reflective and sustained analysis of an original dissertation-length project, and to execute that plan with guidance of a supervisor.	Anthropological Theory Anthropological Research Methods Dissertation

Subject specific skills and professional behaviours and attitudes

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C1	To demonstrate convincing use of secondary data (library- based, fieldwork-based or statistical data) to develop an argument.	All modules
C2	To develop a familiarity with the core methods of social science research.	Anthropological Theory Anthropological Research Methods
C3	To demonstrate the ability to undertake original independent research using Anthropological Methods.	Anthropological Theory Anthropological Research Methods Dissertation

Transferable skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D1	To survey and select appropriate primary and secondary sources for written work using library facilities.	All modules
D2	To plan, develop and produce sustained anthropological analyses of a range of socio-cultural phenomena to the appropriate standard.	Anthropological Theory Anthropological Research Methods Dissertation
D3	To work independently and effectively.	All modules
D4	To communicate complex ideas clearly and persuasively in written form.	All modules
D5	To write within specified word limits and to deadlines.	All modules
D6	To produce an original piece of critical and creative analytic work of considerable length (12, 000 words).	Dissertation
D7	To explain key ethical questions involved in anthropological research and to ensure your approach satisfies appropriate professional ethical standards and procedures.	Dissertation

How you will learn

Lectures. The compulsory and option modules use lectures of varying duration to summarise key concepts and developments in relevant debates. Students are required to read at least one set reading, which will be a common reference point for the lecture. The lecture will enable students to self - assess their comprehension, develop critical perspectives on the reading, place the reading within broader debates and the historical development of the field. The lecture will, additionally, provide a modelling of the way to summarise and critically interrogate ethnographic examples and other kinds of data. Each lecture will have a more extensive reading list which students are encouraged to explore, necessarily so if they choose to write their assignment in this area.

Seminars. The compulsory modules and optional modules employ seminars, of varying durations. Seminars provide students with practice in articulating their thoughts on complex theoretical texts and socio-cultural processes, and an opportunity to explore concepts in relation to examples and to test their ideas against and alongside others.

Film Screenings. Some optional modules are accompanied by film screenings and discussion groups.

Reading Groups. Some option modules are accompanied by a reading group. Close textual analysis of carefully chosen works will allow students to explore in greater depth a few key readings associated with the module and to further their collaborative learning.

Workshops. Some optional modules run student led workshops to further explore and develop ideas generated in seminars.

Consultation and feedback hours. Students are encouraged to visit lecturers outside class time to discuss ideas from the module and to plan essays.

Seminars and conferences within the Department of Anthropology as well as in other departments of the college, will complement and help enrich the students' understanding and development of ideas.

The virtual learning environment (VLE) is used to give departmental guidance and regulations, access to academic and other articles and links to websites.

How you will be assessed

Modules are assessed by a variety of methods appropriate to relevant learning outcomes, see below.

Marking criteria

Mark	Descriptor	Specific Marking Criteria
80-100%	Distinction (Outstanding/ Exceptional)	Represents the overall achievement of the appropriate learning outcomes to an exceptionally accomplished level. A mark in the 80s or even the 90s will be awarded in the case of really accomplished work, demonstrating high levels of scholarship and originality, although grades in the 90s should be reserved for work deemed to be outstanding, and of publishable quality.
70-79%	Distinction	Represents the overall achievement of the appropriate learning outcomes to an excellent level. A mark of 70-79% is awarded when candidates show evidence of an excellent application of appropriate knowledge, understanding and skills as specified the course learning outcomes. Typically this involves extensive reading and grasp of questions and their context and an exceptional degree of clarity in argument and use of evidence. Knowledge and understanding will have been presented

Mark	Descriptor	Specific Marking Criteria
		critically, with insight and independence of thought. Argument and analysis of reading will demonstrate the candidates' own reasoning and be exceptionally clear, critical, well-focussed and cogent.
60-69%	Merit	Represents the overall achievement of the appropriate learning outcomes to a good level. A mark of 60-69% is awarded when candidates show a good application of appropriate knowledge, understanding and skills as specified in the course learning outcomes. This involves consistency and fluency in discussing and evaluating reading from a range of sources and an ability to relate this reading to the assessment tasks.
50-59%	Pass	Represents the overall achievement of the appropriate learning outcomes to a threshold level. A mark of 50-59% is awarded when there is clear evidence of a satisfactory application appropriate, knowledge, understanding and skills as specified in the course learning outcomes. Typically this involves evidence of knowledge and understanding where there is a limited development of ideas and critical comment.
30-49%	Fail	Represents an overall failure to achieve the appropriate learning outcomes. A mark between 30-49% is awarded when there is not a satisfactory application of appropriate knowledge, understanding and skills as specified in the course learning outcomes. There may be confusion and incoherence and unfocused comment on the literature.
10-29%	Bad fail	Represents a significant overall failure to achieve the appropriate learning outcomes. A mark between 10-29% is awarded when only some but not all of the learning outcomes specified for the module have been achieved. Typically a candidate in this position will not have satisfied the examiners that they have read and understood the essential texts of the module. Research involved in the writing of course work or the dissertation will be poorly organised and inadequately discussed.
1-9%	Very bad fail	A submission that does not even attempt to address the specified learning outcomes (shall be deemed a non-valid attempt and must be re-sat).
0%	Non submission or plagiarised	A categorical mark representing either the failure to submit an assessment or a mark assigned for a plagiarised assessment.

How the programme is structured

The programme structure is shown in the tables below.

Full-time mode

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Status	Term
Anthropological Theory	AN71081B	30	7	Compulsory	1
modules to the combined value of 60 CATS (normally two x 30 CATS courses) from an approved list of options available from the Department of Anthropology.	Various	60	7	Optional	1 or 2
Dissertation	AN71084A	60	7	Compulsory	1,2,3
Anthropological Research Methods	AN71089A	30	7	Compulsory	2

Part-time mode

Academic year of study 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Status	Term
Anthropological Theory	AN71081B	30	7	Compulsory	1
Dissertation	AN71084A	0	7	Compulsory	Study only
Anthropological Research Methods	AN71089A	30	7	Compulsory	2

Academic year of study 2

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Status	Term
Modules to the combined value of 60 CATS (normally two x 30 CATS courses) from an approved list of options available from the Department of Anthropology.	Various	60	7	Optional	
Dissertation	AN71084A	60	7	Compulsory	

Academic support

Support for learning and wellbeing is provided in a number of ways by departments and College support services who work collaboratively to ensure students get the right help to reach their best potential both academically and personally.

All students are allocated a Personal Tutor (one in each department for joint programmes) who has overall responsibility for their individual progress and welfare. Personal Tutors meet with their student at least twice a year either face-to-face, as part of a group and/or electronically. The first meeting normally takes place within the first few weeks of the autumn term. Personal Tutors are also available to students throughout the year of study. These meetings aim to discuss progress on modules, discussion of the academic discipline and reports from previous years if available (for continuing students). This provides an opportunity for progress, attendance and assessment marks to be reviewed and an informed discussion to take place about how to strengthen individual learning and success.

All students are also allocated a Senior Tutor to enable them to speak to an experienced academic member of staff about any issues which are negatively impacting their academic study and which are beyond the normal scope of issues handled by Programme Convenors and Personal Tutors.

Students are provided with information about learning resources, the Library and information available on Learn.gold (VLE) so that they have access to department/ programme handbooks, programme information and support related information and guidance.

Taught sessions and lectures provide overviews of themes, which students are encouraged to complement with intensive reading for presentation and discussion with peers at seminars. Assessments build on lectures and seminars so students are expected to attend all taught sessions to build knowledge and their own understanding of their chosen discipline.

All assessed work is accompanied by some form of feedback to ensure that students' work is on the right track. It may come in a variety of forms ranging from written comments on a marked essay to oral and written feedback on developing projects and practice as they attend workshops.

Students may be referred to specialist student services by department staff or they may access support services independently. Information about support services is provided on the Goldsmiths website and for new students through new starter information and induction/Welcome Week. Any support recommendations that are made are agreed with the student and communicated to the department so that adjustments to learning and teaching

are able to be implemented at a department level and students can be reassured that arrangements are in place. Opportunities are provided for students to review their support arrangements should their circumstances change. The [Disability](#) and [Wellbeing](#) Services maintain caseloads of students and provide on-going support.

The [Careers Service](#) provides central support for skills enhancement, running [The Gold Award](#) scheme and other co-curricular activities that are accredited via the Higher Education Achievement Report ([HEAR](#)).

The [Academic Skills Centre](#) works with academic departments offering bespoke academic literacy sessions. It also provides a programme of academic skills workshops and one-to-one provision for students throughout the year.

Links with employers, placement opportunities and career prospects

Students interested in pursuing careers in the media, research, teaching, policy and many other fields will find the programme of value. In the past, graduates have been employed by Amnesty International, Médecins Sans Frontières, and the Royal Anthropological Institute.

It also provides an excellent grounding for students interested in pursuing research in social anthropology – many have gone on to complete research degrees at Goldsmiths.

The requirements of a Goldsmiths degree

All taught postgraduate degrees have a minimum total value of 180 credits and involve one calendar year of full-time study. Some programmes may extend over more than one calendar year and, when this is the case, they have a higher total credit value. Programmes are composed of individual modules, each of which has its own credit value. Part-time students normally take modules to the value of 90 credits each year. If a programme has a part-time pathway, the structure will be set out in the section "How the programme is structured" above. Normally, all modules are at level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications.

More detailed information about the structure and requirements of a Goldsmiths degree is provided in the [Goldsmiths Qualifications and Credit Framework](#).

Modules

Modules are defined as:

- "Optional" – which can be chosen from a group of modules
- "Compulsory" – which must be taken as part of the degree

Progression

Some programmes may require students to pass specific modules prior to completion of the dissertation/major project (or equivalent). Additionally, where a programme of study extends beyond one calendar year, students may be required to pass specific modules in their first year of study before progressing to the second year. Where this is the case, these requirements will be set out in this Programme Specification.

Award of the degree

In order to graduate, students must successfully complete all modules specified for the programme, as set out within the section "How the programme is structured" above.

Classification

Final degree classification is calculated on the basis of a student's mean average mark (based on credit value) across all modules on the programme.

Masters degrees are awarded with the following classifications:

Distinction – 70%+
Merit – 60-69%
Pass – 50-59%

More detail on the calculation of the final classification is on our website.

Interim exit awards

Some programmes incorporate interim exit points of Postgraduate Certificate and/or Postgraduate Diploma, which may be awarded on the successful completion of modules to the minimum value of 60 credits or 120 credits respectively. The awards are made without classification.

When these awards are incorporated within the programme, the relevant learning outcomes and module requirements will be set out within the "What you will be expected to achieve" section above.

The above information is intended as a guide, with more detailed information available in the Goldsmiths Academic Manual.

Programme-specific rules and facts

Progression:

Students following the part-time module will take the compulsory modules (60 CATS) in the first year and options to the value of 60 CATS and the dissertation in the second year.

Intermediate Awards:

PGCert: Students who successfully complete modules to the value of 60 CATS, including both compulsory modules may exit the programme with the award of a PGCert.

PGDip: Students who successfully complete modules to the value of 120 CATS, including both compulsory modules may exit the programme with the award of a PGDip.

General programme costs

In addition to your tuition fees, you will be responsible for meeting standard costs associated with your study. Find out more information at gold.ac.uk/programme-costs.

Specific programme costs

In addition to these standard costs, you will also be expected to meet some costs which are specifically related to your programme, which are set out below:

Field Trips: Some modules will include field trips to museums or sites within the greater London area. Students are expected to cover the costs of their local transportation. On occasion, field trips may be taken to venues which charge admission, however these are always optional.

Field Work: Some students may decide to undertake fieldwork as part of their final individual project or dissertation. Students who do so are responsible for their own travel and accommodation costs.

Work Placements: Students undertaking a placement or practice-based module off-campus are responsible for their own transportation and subsistence costs while on placement.

How teaching quality will be monitored

Goldsmiths employs a number of methods to ensure and enhance the quality of learning and teaching on its programmes.

Programmes and modules are formally approved against national standards and are monitored throughout the year, such as in departmental committees, a variety of student feedback mechanisms and through the completion of module evaluation questionnaires. Every programme has at least one External Examiner who reviews comments annually on the standards of awards and student achievement. External Examiner(s) attend Boards of Examiners meetings and submit an annual written report.

Modules, programmes and/or departments are also subject to annual and periodic review internally, as well as periodic external scrutiny.

Quality assurance processes aim to ensure Goldsmiths' academic provision remains current, that the procedures to maintain the standards of the awards are working effectively and the quality of the learning opportunities and information provided to students and applicants is appropriate.

Detailed information on all these procedures are published on the Quality Office web pages.