

# Programme Specification

## Postgraduate Programmes

<b>Awarding Body/Institution</b>	University of London
<b>Teaching Institution</b>	Goldsmiths, University of London
<b>Name of Final Award and Programme Title</b>	MA Social Anthropology
<b>Name of Interim Award(s)</b>	Postgraduate Diploma in Social Anthropology Postgraduate Certificate in Social Anthropology
<b>Duration of Study/Period of Registration</b>	1 year full-time or 2 years part-time
<b>UCAS Code(s)</b>	N/A
<b>HECos Code(s)</b>	(100437) Social Anthropology
<b>QAA Benchmark Group</b>	N/A
<b>FHEQ Level of Award</b>	Level 7
<b>Programme Accredited by</b>	N/A
<b>Date Programme Specification last updated/approved</b>	July 2017
<b>Primary Department/Institute</b>	Anthropology

<b>Departments which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme</b>
Anthropology

### 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 specialized 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 AN71081B Anthropological Theory and AN71089A Research Methods in Anthropology, and the following learning outcomes will have been achieved:

Knowledge and Understanding		Taught by the following modules
<b>A1</b>	To demonstrate a high level of knowledge and critical understanding of selected key theoretical texts in anthropology.	AN71081B Anthropological Theory AN71089A Anthropological Research Methods
<b>A2</b>	To comprehend and critique anthropological theories and methods in relation to socio-cultural processes in the contemporary world.	AN71081B Anthropological Theory AN71089A Anthropological Research Methods
<b>A3</b>	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		Taught by the following modules
<b>B1</b>	To conceptualise and present critical and reflective	AN71081B Anthropological Theory

	accounts of relevant theories and methods.	AN71089A Anthropological Research Methods
<b>B2</b>	To show critical analytical skills in exploring and/or applying concepts in written work.	All modules
<b>B3</b>	To apply complex theoretical ideas creatively to other texts and socio-cultural processes.	All modules
<b>B4</b>	To explore socio-cultural processes in relevant anthropological terms.	All modules
<b>B5</b>	To articulate potential strengths and weaknesses of different anthropological approaches to socio-cultural processes.	All modules

<b>Subject Specific Skills and Professional Behaviours and Attitudes</b>		<b>Taught by the following modules</b>
<b>C1</b>	To demonstrate convincing use of secondary data (library- based, fieldwork-based or statistical data) to develop an argument	All modules
<b>C2</b>	To develop a familiarity with the compulsory methods of social science research	AN71081B Anthropological Theory AN71089A Anthropological Research Methods
<b>C3</b>	To demonstrate the ability to undertake original independent research using Anthropological Methods	AN71081B Anthropological Theory AN71089A Anthropological Research Methods Dissertation

<b>Transferable Skills</b>		<b>Taught by the following modules</b>
<b>D1</b>	To survey and select appropriate primary and secondary sources for written work using library facilities.	All modules
<b>D2</b>	To work independently and effectively.	All modules
<b>D3</b>	To communicate complex ideas clearly in written form.	All modules
<b>D4</b>	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 AN71081B Anthropological Theory and AN71089A Research Methods in Anthropology, and the following learning outcomes will have been achieved:

<b>Knowledge and Understanding</b>		<b>Taught by the following modules</b>
<b>A1</b>	To demonstrate a high level of knowledge and critical understanding of selected key theoretical texts in anthropology.	AN71081B Anthropological Theory AN71089A Anthropological Research Methods
<b>A2</b>	To comprehend and critique anthropological theories and methods in relation to socio-cultural processes in the contemporary world.	AN71081B Anthropological Theory AN71089A Anthropological Research Methods
<b>A3</b>	To analyse socio-cultural phenomena in relation to specific anthropological theories and methods across the range of fields and topics followed in	Optional Modules

	your chosen option modules.	
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<b>Cognitive and Thinking Skills</b>		<b>Taught by the following modules</b>
<b>B1</b>	To conceptualise and present critical and reflective accounts of relevant theories and methods.	AN71081B Anthropological Theory AN71089A Anthropological Research Methods
<b>B2</b>	To show critical analytical skills in exploring and/or applying concepts in written work.	All modules
<b>B3</b>	To apply complex theoretical ideas creatively to other texts and socio-cultural processes.	All modules
<b>B4</b>	To explore socio-cultural processes in relevant anthropological terms.	All modules
<b>B5</b>	To articulate potential strengths and weaknesses of different anthropological approaches to socio-cultural processes.	All modules

<b>Subject Specific Skills and Professional Behaviours and Attitudes</b>		<b>Taught by the following modules</b>
<b>C1</b>	To demonstrate convincing use of secondary data (library-based, fieldwork-based or statistical data) to develop an argument	All modules
<b>C2</b>	To develop a familiarity with the core methods of social science research	AN71081B Anthropological Theory AN71089A Anthropological Research Methods
<b>C3</b>	To demonstrate the ability to undertake original independent research using Anthropological Methods	AN71081B Anthropological Theory AN71089A Anthropological Research Methods Dissertation
<b>Transferable Skills</b>		<b>Taught by the following modules</b>
<b>D1</b>	To survey and select appropriate primary and secondary sources for written work using library facilities.	All modules
<b>D2</b>	To work independently and effectively.	All modules
<b>D3</b>	To communicate complex ideas clearly in written form.	All modules
<b>D4</b>	To write within specified word limits and to deadlines.	All modules

For the MA in **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:

<b>Knowledge and Understanding</b>		<b>Taught by the following modules</b>
<b>A1</b>	To demonstrate advanced knowledge and critical understanding of selected key theoretical texts in anthropology.	AN71081B Anthropological Theory AN71089A Anthropological Research Methods Dissertation
<b>A2</b>	To comprehend and critique anthropological theories and methods in relation to socio-cultural processes in the contemporary world.	AN71081B Anthropological Theory AN71089A Anthropological Research Methods Dissertation
<b>A3</b>	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
<b>A4</b>	To choose an appropriate approach to your chosen area of study from a range of possible anthropological approaches.	All modules

<b>Cognitive and Thinking Skills</b>		<b>Taught by the following modules</b>
<b>B1</b>	To conceptualise and present critical and reflective accounts of relevant theories and methods.	AN71081B Anthropological Theory AN71089A Anthropological Research Methods
<b>B2</b>	To show in-depth and critical analytical skills in exploring and/or applying concepts in extended written work.	AN71081B Anthropological Theory AN71089A Anthropological Research Methods, Dissertation
<b>B3</b>	To apply complex theoretical ideas creatively to other texts and socio-cultural processes.	All modules
<b>B4</b>	To explore socio-cultural processes in relevant advanced anthropological terms.	All modules
<b>B5</b>	To articulate potential strengths and weaknesses of different anthropological approaches to socio cultural processes	All modules
<b>B6</b>	To plan a critical, reflective and sustained analysis of an original dissertation-length project, and to execute that plan with guidance of a supervisor	AN71081B Anthropological Theory AN71089A Anthropological Research Methods Dissertation
<b>Subject Specific Skills and Professional Behaviours and Attitudes</b>		<b>Taught by the following modules</b>
<b>C1</b>	To demonstrate convincing use of secondary data (library- based, fieldwork-based or statistical data) to develop an argument	All modules
<b>C2</b>	To develop a familiarity with the core methods of social science research	AN71081B Anthropological Theory AN71089A Anthropological Research Methods
<b>C3</b>	To demonstrate the ability to undertake original independent research using Anthropological Methods	AN71081B Anthropological Theory AN71089A Anthropological Research Methods Dissertation
<b>Transferable Skills</b>		<b>Taught by the following modules</b>
<b>D1</b>	To survey and select appropriate primary and secondary sources for written work using library facilities.	All modules
<b>D2</b>	To plan, develop and produce sustained anthropological analyses of a range of socio-cultural phenomena to the appropriate standard.	AN71081B Anthropological Theory AN71089A Anthropological Research Methods Dissertation
<b>D3</b>	To work independently and effectively.	All modules
<b>D4</b>	To communicate complex ideas clearly and persuasively in written form.	All modules
<b>D5</b>	To write within specified word limits and to deadlines.	All modules
<b>D6</b>	To produce an original piece of critical and creative analytic work of considerable length (12, 000 words).	Dissertation

<b>D7</b>	To explain key ethical questions involved in anthropological research and to ensure your approach satisfies appropriate professional ethical standards and procedures.	Dissertation
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### How you will learn

**Lectures.** The compulsory and option modules use lectures of varying duration to summarize 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 critically, with insight and independence of thought. Argument and analysis of reading will demonstrate the candidates' own reasoning and be exceptionally clear, critical, well-focused 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.

### Academic Year of Study 1: MA Social Anthropology (Full -Time)

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.		60	7	Optional	1 or 2
Dissertation	AN71084A	60	7	Compulsory	1,2,3
Anthropological Research Methods	AN71089A	30	7	Compulsory	2

### Academic Year of Study 1: MA Social Anthropology (Part-Time)

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: MA Social Anthropology (Part-Time)

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.		60	7	Optional	1,2
Dissertation	AN71084A	60	7	Compulsory	1,2,3

## Academic support

Support for learning and wellbeing is provided in 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.

Students are allocated a personal tutor and a Senior Tutor in each department who has overall responsibility progress and welfare. Departments arrange regular communication to students in the form of mailings and meetings as well as regular progress reports and feedback on coursework and assignments. This is in addition to scheduled seminars, tutorials and lectures/workshops.

Every student is assigned a personal tutor who will meet with their student twice a year either face-to-face, as part of a group and/or electronically, the first of which normally takes place within the first few weeks of the first 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 way progress, attendance, essay/coursework/assessment marks can be reviewed, and an informed discussion can be about how to strengthen learning and success.

Students are sent information about learning resources in the Library and on the VLE so that they have access to programme handbooks, programme information and support related information and



guidance. Timetables are sent in advance of the start of term so that students can begin to manage their preparation and planning.

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

In depth feedback is provided for written assignments and essays via written feedback forms and formative feedback with module tutors/leads is provided to ensure that students' work is on the right track. Feedback comes in many forms and not only as a result of written comments on a marked essay. Students are given feedback on developing projects and practice as they attend workshops and placements.

Students may be referred to specialist student services by department staff or they may access support services independently. Information about support services is clearly provided on the College 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 Inclusion and Learning Support and Wellbeing Teams maintain case loads 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 throughout the year, which students can access directly at [gold.ac.uk/asc/](http://gold.ac.uk/asc/).

### **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**

#### Master's Degrees

All Master's degrees at Goldsmiths have a minimum value of 180 credits. Programmes are comprised of modules which have individual credit values. In order to be eligible for the award of a Master's degree students must have passed all modules on the programme.

#### Intermediate Exit Points

Some programmes incorporate intermediate exit points of Postgraduate Certificate and Postgraduate Diploma, which may be awarded on the successful completion of modules to the value of 60 credits or 120 credits respectively. Individual programmes may specify which, if any, combination of modules are required in order to be eligible for the award of these qualifications. The awards are made without classification.

### Final Classification

There are four possible categories of final classification for Master's degrees: Distinction, Merit, Pass and Fail. For further information, please refer to the Regulations for Postgraduate Taught Students, which may be found here: <http://www.gold.ac.uk/governance/studentregulations/>

### **Programme-specific rules and facts**

#### Progression:

Students following the part-time module will take the compulsory module (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.

### **Programme costs**

#### **General Costs**

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

#### **Specific 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 must be formally approved against national standards and are monitored throughout the year in departmental staff / student forums and through the completion of module evaluation questionnaires. Every programme also has at least one External Examiner who produces an annual report which comments on the standards of awards and student achievement.

This output is considered with other relevant data in the process of Annual Programme Review, to which all programmes are subject, and which aims to identify both good practice and issues which require resolution.

Every six years all programmes within a department are also subject to a broader periodic review. This aims to ensure that they remain 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 of these procedures are published on the webpages of the Quality Office (<http://www.gold.ac.uk/quality/>).