

# MA Anthropology and Museum Practice

## 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:** MA Anthropology and Museum Practice**Name of Interim Exit Award(s):**

Postgraduate Certificate in Anthropology and Museum Practice

Postgraduate Diploma in Anthropology and Museum Practice

**Duration of Programme:** 1 year full-time or 2 years part-time**UCAS Code(s):** Not applicable**HECoS Code(s):** (100436) Anthropology**QAA Benchmark Group:** Not applicable**FHEQ Level of Award:** Level 7**Programme accredited by:** Not applicable**Date Programme Specification last updated/approved:** October 2018**Home Department:** Anthropology**Department(s) which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme:**

Not applicable

## Programme overview

This degree draws on expertise in the Department of Anthropology at Goldsmiths, in partnership with The Horniman Museum and Gardens, to deliver a unique opportunity to develop both your academic knowledge and practical professional skills.

Whether you're a mid-career professional looking to expand your subject expertise in anthropology, or an anthropologist looking to move into the museum sector, the course will provide you with the skills and knowledge required to be a confident, knowledgeable and professional practitioner in the anthropology and museum sector.

## Programme entry requirements

Good first degree (2:1 or above). In exceptional circumstances equivalent professional experience may be accepted such as background working in museums or related fields.

Non-native English-speakers will normally have to satisfy the University of London requirements of IELTS 6.5 with a 6.5 in writing.

Applicants who do not have a background in anthropology will be required to take the 30 credit Methods in Anthropological Research module as their option. This will be discussed and agreed at interview.

## Aims of the programme

This programme provides students with a unique and stimulating learning experience to prepare them for a broad range of employment opportunities in the museum and heritage sectors, in research and within cultural policy and international heritage management. At the end of the programme, students carry out their own independent research project, drawing on the theoretical and philosophical traditions of anthropology, material culture and museology. Throughout the programme, students are expected to take full advantage of a large number of networking opportunities provided by guest curator lecturers, museum events in London and museum visits.

## What you will be expected to achieve

Students who successfully complete 60 Credits and choose to exit the programme with the Postgraduate Certificate in Anthropology and Museum Practice will be able to:

### Knowledge and understanding

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A1	Critically assess the ways in which material culture theory informs the work of museums today	Material Culture and Museum Anthropology
A2	Demonstrate a sophisticated understanding of museum practice in its historical context	Museum Anthropology

### Cognitive and thinking skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
B1	Articulate complex theories through grounded examples	Material Culture and Museum Anthropology
B2	Critically evaluate the impact of current research and advanced scholarship on museum practice	Material culture, Museum Anthropology

## Subject specific skills and professional behaviours and attitudes

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C1	Have a comprehensive understanding of the ecology, role and evolution of museums found throughout the world	Museum Anthropology and Material Culture Museum Practice
C2	Systematically identify the legal/ ethical considerations of museum work	Museum Anthropology and Material Culture

## Transferable skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D1	Demonstrate self-direction and original thinking when dealing with complex material	Museum Anthropology and Material Culture
D2	Identify and synthesise multiple sources of theoretical and data to produce a coherent and sustained intellectual argument	Museum Anthropology and Material Culture Museum Practice

Students who successfully complete 120 Credits and choose to exit the programme with the Postgraduate Diploma in Anthropology and Museum Practice will, in addition to the learning outcomes above, be able to:

## Knowledge and understanding

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A1	Differentiate the individual roles of museum departments, locating each professional service within the wider museum strategy	Museum Practice
A2	Deepen their understanding of anthropological knowledge in relation to a particular interest	Optional module

## Cognitive and thinking skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
B1	Reflect upon and articulate novel solutions to the challenges facing museums	Museum Practice

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
B2	Assimilate multiple theoretical perspectives drawing on a broad range of secondary material	Optional module

### Subject specific skills and professional behaviours and attitudes

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C1	Successfully network with a broad range of different museum professionals	Museum Practice and Museum Anthropology

### Transferable skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D1	Appraise and describe museum exhibitions and collections	Museum Practice

Students who successfully complete the MA Anthropology and Museum Practice, will, in addition to the learning outcomes above, be able to:

### Knowledge and understanding

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A1	Have confident command of anthropological and museum literature within which to locate an original research project	Dissertation

### Cognitive and thinking skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
B1	Produce a sophisticated and sustained written argument drawing on secondary data and original research	Dissertation

### Subject specific skills and professional behaviours and attitudes

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C1	Produce a sophisticated and sustained written argument drawing on secondary data and original research	Dissertation

## Transferable skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D1	Confidently interpret museum collections within their broader political and ethical context	Dissertation

## How you will learn

The Anthropology Department continuously reviews teaching and learning approaches and is committed to student-centered, immersive and innovative teaching. Some of the learning outcomes (A1, A2) will be delivered through lectures and active seminars in which students will be given specific small group tasks to help them feel comfortable with discussing complex material (B1, B2, D1).

The Museum Anthropology module will be a workshop based module using objects, virtual exhibitions, live legal/ethical cases to challenge students to link theoretical material with the real world challenges faced by museum curators (D2, C2). Students will be required to bring and discuss their own museum examples to the sessions (C3).

Teaching will be augmented by the inclusion of a number of visiting curators who will contribute guest seminars, tutorials and workshops throughout the year (D3). The Museum Practice module will include session on: documentation, curation of current exhibits, research/fieldwork, education and outreach, object handling, conservation and storage, collection management, management and funding, exhibition design, digital and interactive and fundraising and marketing (A3,D2, D3, C1).

The dissertation will be a sustained independent research project, undertaken by the student with the help of a supervisor. It will allow the student to locate and articulate their own interests and undertake work in a museum of their choice (A5, B5, C5, and D5).

## How you will be assessed

Modules are assessed by a variety of methods appropriate to relevant learning outcomes including seminar based individual and group presentations, oral presentations, written report work and on-line presentations.

The dissertation is a thorough critical discussion of existing knowledge in a relevant area that can include original research presented either as a virtual exhibition/archive or documentation of an exhibition/archive. Students will be given regular opportunities to receive feedback in both written and oral form, both in formative and summative assessments

## Marking criteria

Mark	Descriptor	Specific Marking Criteria
80-100%	Distinction (Outstanding/ Exceptional)	A mark in the 80s or even in 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.
70-79%	Distinction	A mark of 70-79% is awarded when candidates show evidence of an excellent application of appropriate knowledge, understanding and skills as specified in the module 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	A mark of 60-69% is awarded when candidates show a good application of appropriate knowledge, understanding and skills as specified in the module 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	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 module learning outcomes. Typically this involves evidence of knowledge and understanding where there is a limited development of ideas and critical comment.
30-49%	Fail	A mark between 30-49% is awarded when there is not a satisfactory application of appropriate knowledge, understanding and skills as specified in the module learning outcomes. There may be confusion and incoherence and unfocused comment on the literature.
10-29%	Bad fail	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 module work or the dissertation will be poorly organised and inadequately discussed.

Mark	Descriptor	Specific Marking Criteria
1-9%	Very bad fail	A submission that does not even attempt to address the specified learning outcomes.
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 is structured to provide a broad training in theoretical and practical museum anthropology. The modules you will be taking are:

**Material Culture:** The module will provide a comprehensive overview of the study of material culture within the discipline of anthropology. Students will be asked to reflect critically on the work of global institutions such as UNESCO, engage in debates about the current role of heritage practitioners in society, understand the inter-connected of human rights with rights to particular forms of material expression and engage with philosophical thinking about materiality and the (im)material world. Each week will examine a different aspect of material culture theory including tangible and intangible heritage, consumption, architecture and phenomenology.

**Museum Anthropology:** This module will explore the history of museums and their role in society. At the heart of the museum project is the desire to illuminate people and places. From the early Cabinets of Curiosity and philanthropic foundations, museums have multiplied and changed in to local, national and global museums, indigenous museums and cultural centers. China has seen a recent explosion in personal museums and many of the great museums of Europe are hoping to, or have, opened branches in the Arab States. The success of museums is perplexing to their critics who accuse them of being outdated, imperialist and brutal places. Supporters of museums argue that they are part of an enlightenment cosmopolitan project and that their success with audiences (that are ever growing) is testimony to their relevance in the 21st Century. Recent attempts to 'decolonise' the museum have met with mixed success and these projects will be explored in a variety of settings including Europe, Africa and North America. The politics of representation at play in a museum will be examined through a number of case studies where objects become a focus for discussion – through claims for repatriation, re-interpretation or copyright protection. The blueprint of museums is being reinterpreted in a number of exciting ways because of changes in technology, museum funding, museums' objectives and their audiences. Case studies will be used to think about the future of museums (both literal and virtual) and the future of the politics of representation within the museum's sphere.

**Museum Practice:** The module will be made up of 10 practical sessions hosted by the Horniman Museum. These sessions will be:

1. Documentation and theories of knowledge management
2. Curation
3. Research and fieldwork within the museum
4. Education / Outreach
5. Object handling and conservation
6. Storage and collection managements
7. Museum management and funding
8. Exhibition design and installation
9. Digital museum and interactivity
10. Fundraising, marketing and membership

**Dissertation:** Students will also be expected to carry out an independent research project. This project can be based at the Horniman Museum or at one of the many museums with which we already have a strong relationship through our University wide placement programme.

**Methods in Anthropological Research:** The module analyses the main methods of qualitative social research in a seminar format. Engagement with different members of staff from the Anthropology Department promotes discussion of different methods and offers insights into the process of research as experienced by different researchers. Different topics are introduced by a member of the Anthropology Department who has specialist knowledge in the particular method or theme, for example life histories, interview techniques, multi-sited, use of software for analysing interview transcripts, the mass media and social research, use of archives, discourse analysis, participatory methods, participant observation, focus groups, and data management. The discussion of these techniques or themes is aimed at drawing on the lecturers' experience to reflect on students' interests and research plans.

OR

**Optional module:** (for those not required to take the Methods in Anthropological Research) This is an exciting opportunity to choose an option from the diverse range of courses on offer throughout the University of London. With the agreement of the course convenor, you will be able to deepen your understanding of a particular aspect of anthropological theory or broaden your specialist interests.

For the part-time route, students will be required to take the Material Culture and Museum Anthropology modules in their first year of study.

## Full-time mode

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Status	Term
Museum Anthropology	AN71150A	30	7	Compulsory	1 or 2
Material Culture	AN71148A	30	7	Compulsory	1 or 2
Museum Practice	AN71147A	30		Compulsory	1 and 2
Either; Methods in Anthropological Research	AN71068A	30	7	Optional	1
Or Option from University of London College options to be made available from an annually produced optional module list	Various	30	7	Optional	1 or 2
Dissertation	AN71149A	60	7	Compulsory	1,2 and 3

## Part-time mode

### Academic year of study 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Status	Term
Material Culture	AN71148A	30	7	Compulsory	1 or 2
Museum Anthropology	AN71150A	30	7	Compulsory	1 or 2
Either: Methods in Anthropological Research	AN71068A	30	7	Optional	1
Or: Option from University of London College options to be made available from an annually produced optional module list	Various	30	7	Optional	1 or 2

### Academic year of study 2

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Status	Term
Museum Practice	AN71147A	30	7	Compulsory	1 or 2
Dissertation	AN71149A	60	7	Compulsory	1 or 2

The option from University of London would allow a student to pursue a specialised interest, e.g. Anthropology of Food, Anthropology and Law.

## 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**

The MA Anthropology in Museum Practice will give you a consolidated grounding in the theory and practice of anthropologists and museum professionals. As well as your training at the Horniman Museum, you will be able to take advantage of Goldsmiths' excellence in the arts and its relationship with a wide range of museums and institutions across London to undertake research and placements. The MA will provide you with the necessary skills for a career in museum and anthropology work. This could include roles such as curator, community education, outreach officer, exhibitions officer and so on.

## **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**

For the PG Cert to be awarded, students have to successfully complete Material Culture and Museum Anthropology.

For the PG Dip to be awarded, students have to successfully complete Material Culture, Museum Anthropology, Museum Practice and optional module or Methods in Anthropological Research.

For the part-time route, students will be required to take the Material Culture and Museum Anthropology modules in their first year of study.

## **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](http://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](#).