INTRODUCTION

ANTHROPOLOGY IS THE STUDY OF THE ORIGIN OF HUMAN RACE, DEVELOPMENT, CUSTOMS AND BELIEFS.

If you think people who live near equatorial or hot tropical regions are the only ones who are dark-skinned, think again. Tasmania, an island in Australia, more than 13,000 kilometers from Africa, had natives with dark complexion. Interesting, isn’t it? Do people and cultural varieties interest you? If they do, then anthropology is the study that suits you the best.

Anthropology is the study of human race. In simple terms it is the study of the origin of human race, development, customs and beliefs. According to Caroline B. Brettell, Professor, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, “It is a study of humans - both past and present.” The past is studied through anthropology, sub-fields of archaeology and physical (or biological) anthropology. The present is studied through its socio-cultural branch.

To understand the influence and complexity of cultures across the human spectrum,
Anthropologists use knowledge from social, biological, humanities and physical sciences. Building on this base they apply the knowledge gained to solve human problems.

**AREAS OF ANTHROPOLOGICAL STUDY**

**Sociocultural Anthropology, biological or physical anthropology and archaeology form the backbone of this study.**

Broadly speaking, anthropologists get trained in sociocultural anthropology, biological or physical anthropology, archaeology and linguistics. They also integrate these branches into their research and teaching.

**Sociocultural Anthropology:** Sociocultural anthropologists study patterns of society and practices in various cultures. They examine how people live and how their society is organized. Sociocultural anthropology looks at similarities and differences both within and among societies. Various components like race, sexuality, class, gender and nationality become part of this endeavour. They invest time in their research on areas such as health, work, ecology, environment, agriculture, education and social change. As a socio-cultural anthropologist, Prof. Brettell researched on how Indian migrants residing in Dallas-Forth Worth, Texas are

**Job Areas:** Education, Archaeology, Cultural Resource Management, Historic Preservation, Museum, Curation; Community Development, Advocacy (human rights/social justice), Social Services, International Development, Humanitarian Efforts, Govt. Depts, NGOs

**Earning Potential:** Rs. 8000 to 12,000 per month (for beginners)

**Top Recruiters:** Anthropological Survey of India, UNESCO, WHO, UNICEF, ICMR, World Bank
preserving and reinforcing their cultural identity, adopting American identity simultaneously.

**Biological or physical anthropology:** Here, the biological anthropologists try to understand how people adapt to various environments. How biological and cultural processes influence growth, development and behavior are studied in detail. Reasons for longevity, mortality rates are also part of this study. They look at human evolution and reasons for variations. To arrive at conclusions, they base their research on other primates, fossil records, prehistoric people, and genetics of the current generation. The genetic distance separating us from chimps is just 1.6 percent. This means, we share 98.4 percent of our DNA with chimpanzees. While you mull over this, also note that our larynx anatomy and altered tongue gives us fine control over spoken sounds unlike chimps, our ancestors. Studies like these involving biological evolution and genetics constitute biological/physical anthropology.

**Archaeology:** Archaeologists research on humans and cultures from the most ancient times to the present. They use evidences such as animal bones and stone tools, remains of ancient structures etc. Anthropology being a wide discipline and at the same time comparative, it integrates other subjects also. For instance, archaeology is also tied up with anthropology.

**Linguistic anthropology:** It is a comparative study of how languages impact social life, and patterns. They look at social identity and cultural beliefs in conjunction with other forms of meaning and social change. Even as you are researching on social anthropology the subject is so interconnected that you may find your field in China, gathering evidence on languages of China and researching on the eight widely spoken languages as a linguistic anthropologist.

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**ELIGIBILITY NORMS**

In India, some institutions place Anthropology under social sciences and some under science stream. You can pursue BA/BSc in Anthropology after passing 10+2 in any stream. The admissions are usually based on merit in the qualifying examination. In some colleges like Avadh Girls Degree College (Lucknow), the admissions are based on merit, interview or a written test.
COURSE CONTENT

Students are made aware of basic concepts of all branches of the discipline at the introductory level. You learn subjects such as biological, socio-cultural, archeological, linguistic anthropology, and Indian Anthropology. Theories, research methodology, field studies are part of the curriculum. Almost all institutions across India, largely stick to UGC’s curricula framework. Anthropology curriculum is a space for the creative dialogue between Humanities, Arts and the Sciences, says Raghu Trichur, Professor, Sacramento State University, Sacramento, California. Specialisations offered under anthropology are: Applied Anthropology, Business Anthropology, Physical Anthropology, Socio-cultural Anthropology, Linguistic Anthropology, Forensic Anthropology, Medical Anthropology and Visual Anthropology Prehistoric-Anthropology (See Box: Undergraduate Curriculum).

SELECTING A COLLEGE

At Bachelor’s level in India, the number of seats at colleges is anywhere between 30-35. Some colleges have entrance exam for the Bachelor’s entry as well as for enrolment in Master’s. Out of 15 colleges affiliated to Ranchi University, the course is run at only nine colleges, apprises P.K. Singh, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, Ranchi University. Out of 77 colleges of Delhi University (DU), the subject is taught only at one college. It is the same in University of Rajasthan, a NAAC-accredited A+ University. At Master’s level, the discipline is taught at 34 Central and State Universities and affiliated colleges (See Box).

Since the course is run mostly at central or state institutions, the fee levels are modest. A Ranchi University or Panjab University student pays Rs. 2000 per annum at graduate level.
WHAT AFTER GRADUATION?

YOU CAN PURSUE MASTER’S DEGREE AT 34 INDIAN UNIVERSITIES AND AT SOME OF THE TOP UNIVERSITIES ABROAD.

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fter your Bachelor’s, if you are academic-oriented, you can go for Master’s degree. If you plan to pursue research, you really have to be self-motivated. Specialisation takes place at postgraduate level, MPhil and PhD. Long absence from the comforts of home and doing fieldwork can be challenging. Some 34 universities offer avenues for higher studies and research in the country. To select a university for higher studies, see list of Departments of Anthropology in India.

JOB PROSPECTS

A VARIETY OF JOBS AWAIT AN UNDERGRADUATE IN ANTHROPOLOGY. BUT THE JOB PROSPECTS ARE FAR BRIGHTER ABROAD.

A bright career in anthropology requires a lot of individual effort. This includes writing articles that are a balanced mix of theory and empirical data. You should learn about peer review processes and aim to get published in international journals. Raising funds to attend international conferences to share work will help you in a big way.

In India, Bachelor’s and Master’s students find opportunities in NGOs, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Research firms, journalism among others. You can also be employed at organizations like WHO, UNESCO and UNICEF (See List: Areas of Employment). As a fresher you can expect a salary of only around Rs. 8,000 to Rs. 12,000 per month in India. But as you gain experience, it could go up substantially. Your earning potential will depend on where you work and your area of interest.
The field has a good scope abroad. As an anthropologist you can get a job in a number of sectors, from colleges and universities to government departments. At universities those with higher qualifications can take up teaching. In foreign universities you can also find avenues for teaching in other schools such as business, education, design and even public health. You will also be in demand at NGOs, health and related services as well. Moreover, your contributions are valued in interdisciplinary fields like international studies, gender and ethnic studies. Beyond universities you can work in museums, independent research outfits and also agencies like UNO and the World Bank. You can also take up jobs as consultants to address social and cultural consequences of natural disasters and human rights violations. Whatever the field, the basic purpose remains the same: to be more aware of the world we live in and to respect societies.

Undergraduate Curriculum*

B.A./B.Sc. Part I
1. Introductory Social-Cultural Anthropology
2. Introduction to Physical/Biological Anthropology
3. Practical (Craniometry, Anthropometry and Somatoscopy)

B.A./B.Sc. Part II
4. Introductory Archaeological Anthropology
5. Theoretical Social-Cultural Anthropology
6. Practical:
   i. Palaeolithic tools: sketching, description, etc.
   ii. Bones of lower and upper limbs: identification, sketching, etc.
   iii. ABO blood group typing
   iv. Dermatoglyphic study of finger ball and palm prints

B.A./B.Sc. Part III
7. Introduction to Human Biology
8. Indian Anthropology or Peoples and Cultures of India
9. Practical:
   i. Technology: identification and technological description of primitive implements of food gathering, hunting and fishing
   ii. Construction of interview schedules, genealogies. Case studies/case histories
   iii. Project report based on empirical investigation under the supervision of a teacher.

*As per UGC norms
### Select Institutes Offering BA/BSc in Anthropology
- Hansraj College, Delhi
- Avadh Girl’s Degree College, Lucknow
- Deen Dayal Upadhaya Girls Govt. P.G College, Lucknow
- Dimoria College, Khetri, Guwahati
- Dr. Rajendra Prasad Memorial Degree College, Lucknow
- Ranchi College, Ranchi
- University of Lucknow
- Panjab University, Chandigarh

### Departments of Anthropology in India*
- Centre for Development Studies, Bhubaneswar
- North-Eastern Hill University
- Guru Ghasidas University, Bilaspur
- Dr. H.S. Gour Viswa Vidyalaya, Sagar
- Ravishankar University, Raipur
- Ranchi University
- Vidyasagar University, Midnapur
- Purvanchal University, Jaunpur
- Vinoba Bhave University, Hazaribagh
- Hemwanti Nandan Bahaguna (HNB), Garhwal University
- University of Delhi
- University of Pune
- Gujarat Vidyapeeth, Ahmedabad
- University of Allahabad, Allahabad
- Rajasthan University, Jaipur
- Lucknow University
- Department of Human Biology, Punjabi University
- Punjab University, Chandigarh
- Manipur University
- Pondicherry University

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*indicates departments not included in the list of institutes offering BA/BSc in Anthropology.*
### World’s Best Universities for Anthropology

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<td>University of Pennsylvania</td>
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<td>Duke University</td>
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<td>University of California-Berkeley</td>
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### AREAS OF EMPLOYMENT ABROAD

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<td>International Development/Affairs</td>
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<td>Ethnography/Cultural Anthropology</td>
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<td>Evaluation/Assessment</td>
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<td>Health (international/public health)</td>
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<td>Healthcare Management/Services/Deliver</td>
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<td>Management Consulting/Organizational Development/Training</td>
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<td>Social Impact Assessment</td>
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<td>Market Research</td>
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<td>Law/Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement</td>
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<td>Humanitarian Efforts</td>
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**Areas of Employment Abroad**

- Education/Outreach
- Archaeology
- Cultural Resource Management (CRM)
- Historic Preservation
- Museum/Curation/Project Design
- Community Development
- Advocacy (human rights/social justice)
- Human/Social Services
- Computers/Software Development/Information Technology
- Design (products and/or services)