

WHAT IS ANTHROPOLOGY?

Anthropology is the integrated study of humankind.

Anthropologists are interested in discovering both the characteristics of our common humanity and the range of possible diversity that distinguishes people in one society from those in another.

One central concept that organizes all anthropology is culture: the knowledge, assumptions and beliefs that contribute to the unique worldview of each society.

Because this is such a big topic, anthropology in Canada is typically divided into four subdisciplines:

- cultural anthropology •

contemporary human culture and social organization

- archaeology •

reconstructing the human past from material remains

- biological anthropology •

human genetics, anatomy, primatology, and evolution

- linguistic anthropology •

language and other systems of communication in their social, cultural, and historical contexts

WHAT KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS DO ANTHROPOLOGISTS POSSESS?

Anthropologists have a broad range of knowledge in subjects as diverse as:

- human behaviour
- human biology
- ecology and the environment
- world cultures and ethnicities
- social systems: economics, politics, religion
- medicine
- crosscultural interactions and communication
- language and writing
- human prehistory and history
- material culture: art, tools, artifacts, etc.
- apes and monkeys
- human evolution

This knowledge base and training enables anthropologists to:

- understand the roots of human behaviour
- enhance crosscultural understanding
- do qualitative research
- engage in quantitative research
- write reports and papers
- analyse social issues and seek solutions
- organize and analyse data
- work with specialists in other disciplines
- organize and manage projects

SO WHAT CAN I DO WITH AN ANTHROPOLOGY DEGREE?

The study of Anthropology itself is not job training. Becoming an anthropologist involves developing skills in observation, interviewing, analysis, research, organization, writing, and critical thinking. All of these are important assets in any career.

With such skills as a base, and sometimes with additional study, you can work

- in museums, in art galleries and in art conservation
- with women's organizations
- with international development agencies
- in tourism
- as a community development officer
- with social service agencies
- with ethnic and cultural organizations
- with immigration and refugee organizations
- as a consultant to international clients
- as an educator
- as a technician or fieldworker in archaeological research
- in journalism
- for community centres and services
- with archives
- as a park guide or interpreter
- in zoos
- human resource management & cultural resource management
- as an impact assessment officer
- for historic preservation offices, historical societies, & historic sites
- for social services agencies
- as a rural development officer
- as a research assistant
- for foreign service organizations
- in laboratories
- for market research firms
- in nursing and other health fields
- in international law and in treaty negotiation
- in businesses with an international clientele