Goldsmiths
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

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: February 2022

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 Anthropological Research Methods 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. At the end of the programme, students carry out their own independent research project, drawing on the theoretical, philosophical and practice-based traditions of anthropology 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	Assess the ways in which critical theory informs the work of museums today	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	Museum Anthropology
B2	Critically evaluate the impact of current research and advanced scholarship on museum practice	Museum Anthropology, Museum Practice

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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 Museum Practice
C2	Systematically identify the legal/ ethical considerations of museum work	Museum Anthropology

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 Anthropological Research Methods
D2	Identify and synthesise multiple sources of theoretical and data to produce a coherent and sustained intellectual argument	Museum Anthropology, Museum Practice, and Anthropological Research Methods

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 sessions covering: knowledge and information management, curation, education and outreach, object handling, conservation, collections management, exhibition design, digital and social media, 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 on a topic of their own 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, written report work, and creative museum outputs.

The dissertation is a thorough critical discussion of existing knowledge in a relevant area. Students will be given regular opportunities to receive feedback in both written and oral form, both in formative and summative assessments

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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:

Museum Anthropology: This module will critically explore what it is that defines museums as institutions or sites of professional practice in order to unpack, challenge and reimagine them. We will explore how thinking anthropologically offers a particular methodology and approach to doing this, thinking through individual positionality, embedded structures of practice, and hierarchies of expertise. We will also think about how this sits in tension with the history of anthropology, its direct intersection with coloniality and its re-inscription through the idea of the public archive. The module will draw on international examples and case-studies, and will be based on real-time challenges and questions facing the sector. I

Museum Practice: The module will be made up of 10 practical sessions hosted by the Horniman Museum. These sessions will develop practical skills through workshops and an applied, public-facing student led project. They will also take a future oriented approach to address some of the questions and challenges explored in Museum Anthropology to think about practice-based solutions to these. Students will be formally made voluteers at the Horniman, able to take advantage of the volunteering scheme. The Horniman-led sessions will cover:

1. Museum management and policy
2. Knowledge and information management
3. Collections storage and care
4. Loans
5. Conservation reporting
6. Curatorial research and interpretation strategies
7. Community learning and education
8. Exhibition design
9. Web and social media
10. Marketing and comms

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 with, but it may also focus on broader theoretical and critical questions concerning museum anthropology.

Anthropological Research Methods : The aims and objectives of this module are to introduce students to the theories and methods of modern anthropology. We will introduce the methods used by anthropologists as well as exploring some key texts from the discipline and critically analysing the links between theory and methods within.

The module is designed to follow the three stages of writing a report; planning researching and writing up. Over the term we will cover a number of different types of data including surveys, the use of archives, images and film, in-depth interviews, participant observation and participatory research, conflicts of interest, ethical codes, informed consent, and other challenges. Throughout the module you will also be working on your own group research projects and you are encouraged to use this project to relate to the lectures and readings.

OR

Optional module: (for those not required to take the Anthropological Research Methods module) This is an exciting opportunity to choose a second 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 Museum Anthropology and Museum Practice 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
Museum Practice	AN71147A	30		Compulsory	1 and 2
Anthropological Research Methods	AN71089A	30	7	Compulsory	1 or 2
Optional module to the value of 30 credits. Optional modules must be chosen from approved lists.	Various	30	7	Optional	1 or 2

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Status	Term
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	AN71151A	60	7	Compulsory	1,2 and 3

Part-time mode

For the part-time route, students will be required to take the Museum Anthropology and Museum Practice modules in their first year of study and the Anthropological Research Methods module in their second year of study.

Academic year of study 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Status	Term
Museum Anthropology	AN71150A	30	7	Compulsory	1
Museum Practice	AN71147A	30	7	Compulsory	2

Academic year of study 2

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Status	Term
Anthropological Research Methods	AN71089A	30	7	Compulsory	1 or 2
Optional module to the value of 30 credits. Optional modules must be chosen from approved lists.	Various	30	7	Optional	1 or 2
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	AN71151A	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 Museum Practice and Museum Anthropology.

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

For the part-time route, students will be required to take the Museum Practice 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.

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](#).