

# MPhil IN HUMAN EVOLUTIONARY STUDIES

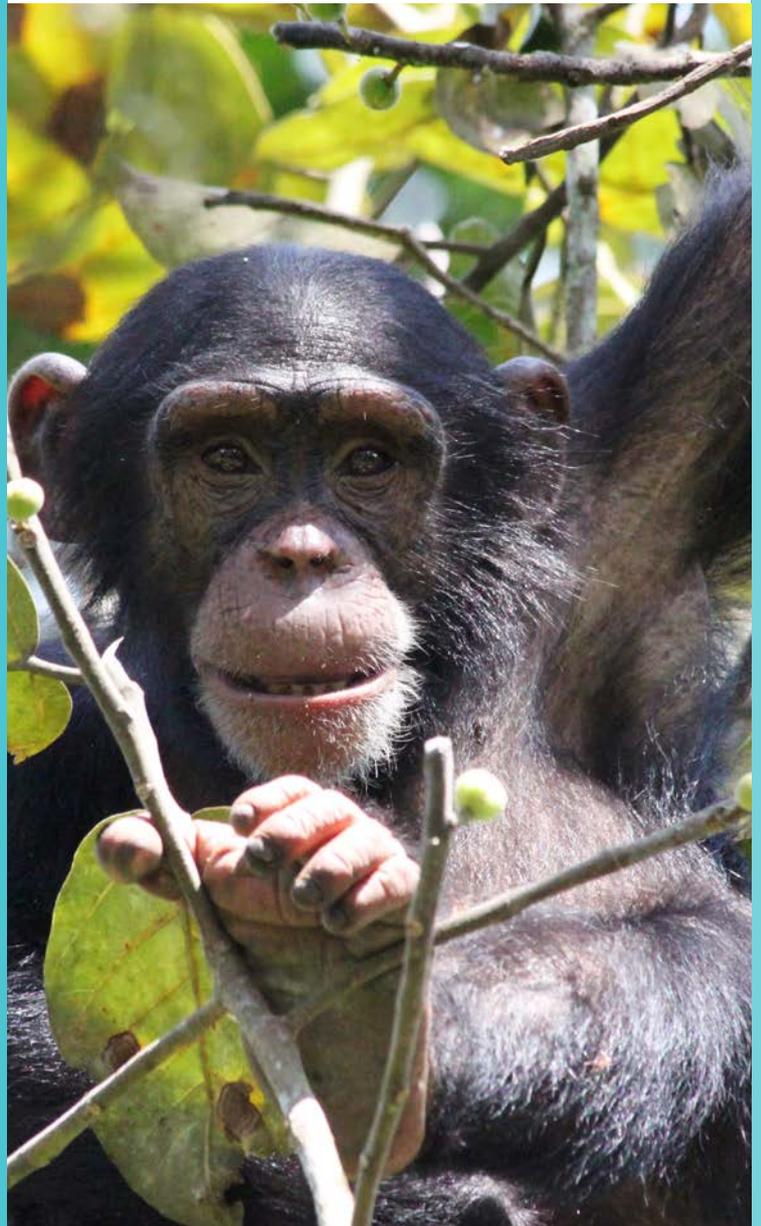
Our MPhil in Human Evolutionary Studies is a research-led, interdisciplinary programme covering evolutionary anthropology, primate behaviour and evolution, behavioural ecology, comparative human biology, and genetics.

This unique combination, taught by leading specialists in their respective fields, is achieved through a demanding programme of courses, statistical training, enhancement of communication skills, and research training, including the writing of a dissertation.

The programme will give you the opportunity to work in depth on a particular area of interest, while acquiring complementary knowledge of other areas within the broader discipline and key transferable skills.

## BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY IN CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge has a long and distinguished history of research and teaching in biological anthropology, and remains at the forefront of developments in this diverse and dynamic field. Our research involves running and collaborating with field projects across several continents, and we offer world-class facilities including 3D imaging and palaeoanthropology labs, a modern computing suite for the analysis of 'big data' and 3D datasets, as well as links to other labs and facilities in the Department of Archaeology and beyond. We are also home to the Duckworth Laboratory, one of the most important collections of human and primate skeletal remains and fossil casts in the world.



UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE

## STRUCTURE

The course lasts ten months, and includes both a taught component and a dissertation. For the taught component, you take '**From Data to Interpretation**', a practically oriented course with training from research design and theory building to the use of quantitative and computational methods of analysis, plus a selection of additional two-term and/or one-term modules.

**Two-term modules** explore core topics in biological anthropology in depth, and include:

- Human Ecology and Behaviour, which introduces the principles of ecology and behaviour, and surveys issues in human and non-human evolution and adaptation
- Human Evolution, which develops a knowledge and understanding of the evolutionary history of the human lineage
- Human Comparative Biology, examining the biology of our species in the context of non-human primate and wider mammalian variation.
- Major Topics in Human Evolutionary Studies, which examines hot topics and key questions in biological anthropology in depth, and explores how to investigate them in practice.

**One-term modules** cover advanced topics on a variety of themes, including cultural evolution, technology, osteology, genetics, and prosociality. These may include:

- Culture Evolves
- Health and Disease in Evolutionary Perspective
- Friends, Relatives and Communities: Human Social Evolution
- Genomes: Ancient, Modern and Mixed
- Our Extended Family: Primate Biology and Behaviour
- Decoding the Skeleton

For the dissertation, you will undertake an original research project, developed in discussion with and guided by a member of teaching staff.

## TEACHING

The MPhil in Human Evolutionary Studies is taught through lectures, seminars, and practicals, depending on the options chosen. The taught component is assessed through coursework, such as journal-style review papers, grant proposals or reports, and you will also write a dissertation based on original research conducted during the programme of study.

## AFTER THE MPhil

The MPhil programme in Human Evolutionary Studies prepares you for further study or research in Biological Anthropology. The programme will also appeal to those with interests in related areas such as conservation, public health, behaviour, and evolutionary biology, and provides training in research design, data analysis, and written and oral communication skills.

## WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

We are looking for applicants who are prepared for postgraduate work and wish to receive interdisciplinary training, but who do not have sufficient education in biological anthropology in their background to be considered for a research MPhil or doctoral work.

We welcome students from a range of disciplines who want to acquire both a strong knowledge-base in Human Evolutionary Studies, as well as analytical, communication, and research skills. We warmly encourage applicants of diverse backgrounds, and encourage both UK and international applications.

## CONTACT

We are always happy to hear from prospective applicants. We encourage you to contact potential supervisors from among the Biological Anthropology team if you wish to follow a particular course of research.