

# Master of Arts in Social Anthropology



# The Institute of Social Anthropology

Institute of Social Anthropology

University of Basel

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# What is Social Anthropology?



**Social Anthropology** asks what being and becoming human means across different social, cultural and historical contexts. It asks: How do people inhabit the global order through particular local worlds?

This requires anthropologists to exercise their imagination and decenter common understandings of social relations, economic livelihoods and political power, among other things. They must thus strive to broaden the possible ways of perceiving and conceiving key challenges of our times.

# Prerequisites for Studying Social Anthropology

- Genuine interest in everyday life and its social and historical contexts
- "Curiosity", openness, flexibility and willingness to question your own ideas
- Enjoy reading, discussing and writing analytical texts
- Ability for critical (self-)reflection, initiative and independent work
- Good English skills

# Why doing a Master in Social Anthropology in Basel?



The MA in Social Anthropology aims to provide students with advanced and in-depth knowledge and skills in the comparative cultural, social, and historical analysis of human behavior in different societies and environments. They are guided in expanding their theoretical knowledge, delving deeper into a specific subfield, and acquiring specific knowledge about a research area. This allows students to develop their personal areas of expertise in understanding certain social behaviors in a globalized world.

Students also learn about social anthropological field research methods and acquire the ability to design and carry out an individual research project, evaluate the findings, interpret them in relation to the theoretical framework, and present them in an academic text.

# What are the focal areas of teaching and research?



Our **research and teaching** focus thematically on general anthropology; the global economy; migration, mobility and belonging; gender, sexuality and kinship; medicine, health and the body; and the politics of knowledge production; among other things.

From a **methodological perspective** the Institute of Social Anthropology represents primarily qualitative and interpretive approaches. In particular, it nurtures the development of methods that can detect current changes under globalization.

# Regional Foci



Social Anthropology at the University of Basel has had several regional and thematic foci, originating from its history. These have included Africa, Latin America, Oceania and, more recently, also Eastern Europe and the Afro-Atlantic.



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# Program Structure



# MA Anthropology

## Modules

*Theory and Themes of Social Anthropology (13 CP)*

*Ethnographic Research with Field Trip (17 CP)*

**Minor:** + Master exam (5 CP) = **Total 35 CP**

**Major:** + Master exam (5 CP) und Master thesis (30 CP) = **Total 65 CP**

The MA is taught in English. It is studied in combination with a second subject and free electives (20 CP).

# Choice of Second Subject

- **Underline** (e.g. Cultural Anthropology, Sociology)
- **Accentuate** (e.g. Gender Studies, Middle Eastern Studies, Religious Studies, Media Studies)
- **Strengthen** further by choosing courses in the free elective area (**setting priorities**) or **expand interdisciplinarily**

# Career Opportunities



# Career Opportunities

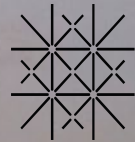
Future anthropologists often take an active role in shaping their own professional environment, which can be both an opportunity and a challenge. Thanks to the broad knowledge acquired during the study of social anthropology such as the collection and processing of complex information, writing, reading, and presentation skills, our graduates find positions in various career fields, including development cooperation; intercultural mediation; migration, refugee services and social work; media, public relations and journalism; museums, archives and independent curating; tourism; public health sector and sustainability; international enterprises; diplomacy and politics.

# More Information on Social Anthropology in Basel



<https://ethnologie.philhist.unibas.ch>  
Instagram: @baselsocialanthropology

**Thank you  
for your interest in  
Social Anthropology!**



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