The world in which we live is characterized by a multiplication of perspectives. In everyday situations, people from different cultural backgrounds meet, interact, communicate or misunderstand each other. As the study of cultural difference and diversity, anthropology is at the forefront of efforts to understand these contemporary social realities and the processes that shape them.

Carleton is an excellent place to study this exciting discipline. Our anthropologists conduct cutting-edge research on a wide variety of topics, in many regions of the world. Students can take additional advantage of the benefits offered by a joint department. With 37 full-time faculty members (24 sociologists and 13 anthropologists), the department is one of the largest and most prestigious of its kind in Canada.

The master’s (MA) program in Anthropology focuses on socio-cultural anthropology and promotes the exploration of cultural practices and social conditions in diverse contexts throughout the world. Graduate students can also gain academic credit by pursuing a placement with a community organization. This allows them to link practical work with their area of research interest, while gaining real-world experience.

Specializations in African Studies and Digital Humanities are also available at the master’s level. The PhD program focuses on “engaged anthropology”, which emphasizes methodological, social and practical engagements with the world. This unique program encourages students to move efficiently to the fieldwork stage and provides strong support for the thesis-writing process.

PhD students are normally expected to carry out extensive fieldwork away from their academic milieu, immersing themselves at length in the situations and practices they will eventually document in their dissertations. In pursuing their fieldwork, students are encouraged to engage non-academic publics by extending their ethnographic research into apprenticeship, advocacy and policy-related activities. This training in engaged anthropological theory and practice will provide students with skills and capacities that will make them well qualified for meaningful careers both inside and outside of academia.

A specialization in Political Economy is also available at the PhD level. All members of our departmental community cherish the collegial atmosphere that has grown over the years.

Degrees Offered
MA, PhD

Career Options
Since 2009, with the inauguration of the PhD in Anthropology, Carleton has contributed to the training of professional anthropologists. Alumni are pursuing successful careers with community and development organizations, businesses, universities and governments. Professionals already employed in Ottawa also find that completing an MA part-time can expand their knowledge of cross-cultural issues and provide them with additional expertise to enhance their careers.

Fall Application Deadline
February 1, in order to be eligible for funding

Admission Requirements
MA: An honour’s bachelor’s degree, or equivalent, in anthropology or a closely related discipline, with an average of B+ or higher. Previous professional experience may also be considered.

PhD: A master’s degree, or equivalent, in anthropology, with a minimum average of A- and with no grade below a B. Applicants with some academic deficiencies may be admitted to the PhD program, but will usually be required to complete additional coursework.

carleton.ca/socanth