

## What does the course involve?

Have you ever wondered how human societies have developed as they have? This question and many others are all addressed in the Human, Social, and Political Sciences (HSPS) degree at the University of Cambridge.

HSPS provides the opportunity to explore a variety of subjects (including some which you may not have encountered before such as International Relations or Biological Anthropology). You will have the chance to gain a broad background across the human, social and political sciences before choosing one or two disciplines to specialise in.

### Year 1 (Part I)

In the first year, you choose four subjects from:

- Politics
- International Relations
- Sociology
- Social Anthropology
- Biological Anthropology
- Archaeology
- Cultures of Egypt and Mesopotamia
- Egyptian language
- Akkadian language
- Psychology.

### Years 2 and 3 (Part II)

In your second and third years, you can choose one of the following five single-subject tracks:

- Politics and International Relations
- Sociology
- Social Anthropology
- Biological Anthropology
- Archaeology (including Assyriology or Egyptology).

Alternatively, you can take one of six two-subject tracks:

- Politics and Sociology
- Sociology and Social Anthropology
- Social and Biological Anthropology
- Archaeology and Social Anthropology
- Biological Anthropology and Archaeology
- Social Anthropology and Politics
- Assyriology and Egyptology.

## Politics and International Relations



The study of Politics and International Relations at Cambridge rests on the conviction that the political and international worlds need to be understood together and historically. We seek to explain how the political and international worlds in which we live came to be.

In the first year, we look at the foundations of modern politics and international relations. In politics we examine the nature of state and democracy, and consider how far there are alternatives in the modern world to these practices and the political ideas and arguments that lie behind them. In international relations we examine the nature of international society, the state system, the tides of war and peace, and the ethical questions that living in the international world generate.

For further information about studying Politics and International Relations at Cambridge, visit: [www.polis.cam.ac.uk](http://www.polis.cam.ac.uk).

## Sociology

Ever wonder why nationalism is such a powerful force in the modern world? Why there are protests and riots in Athens, London, Madrid, New York and other cities? Why politicians are not trusted? Why Africa is so poor? Why racism persists? Why same-sex marriage causes such controversy? How globalisation is changing our lives? Whether societies could ever be more just? Then Sociology is the subject for you.

Sociology gives you the opportunity to study the ways our world is changing, from the global financial crisis to the changing nature of personal relationships. It explores the multiple forms of power and inequality and how they affect the lives of all of us. You will be taught by some of the world's leading sociologists and will have a chance to study some of the most pressing issues facing our societies today.

For further information about studying Sociology at Cambridge, visit : [www.sociology.cam.ac.uk](http://www.sociology.cam.ac.uk).



## Social Anthropology



Social Anthropology addresses big questions of 'what it is to be human' by studying – through first-hand participation ('fieldwork') – how peoples all over the world organise themselves, think, and relate to each other.

Current research by Cambridge anthropologists includes changes to intimate lives and sexuality in Africa, India, and the UK; responses to climate change by communities in the Arctic and the Himalayas; citizenship and trade unionism in Latin America; new developments in Buddhism worldwide; and experiences of citizenship and democracy in Africa. Most Cambridge undergraduates undertake a fieldwork study of their own for a dissertation in their final year.

For further information about studying Social Anthropology at Cambridge, visit: [www.socanth.cam.ac.uk](http://www.socanth.cam.ac.uk).

## Biological Anthropology

Biological Anthropology is concerned with the understanding of humans, past and present, from an evolutionary perspective. At Cambridge this is centred around the following three themes:

- the understanding of humans in the context of other animals
- the behaviour and biology of humans throughout their evolutionary history
- the study of human populations today.

Biological Anthropology explores questions such as: how long have we been human? Is there more to evolution than natural selection? Do we choose our mates on the basis of smell? And does malnutrition stunt your growth? It therefore also connects with a range of other disciplines such as genetics, archaeology, physiology, geography and history.

For further information about studying Biological Anthropology at Cambridge, visit: [www.bioanth.cam.ac.uk](http://www.bioanth.cam.ac.uk).



## Archaeology



Archaeology is the study of past human societies through their material remains, settlements and environment. How and why did humans develop distinct patterns of behaviour? What did past humans eat, what tools did they have, what types of houses and political institutions did they invent? What rituals did they perform, and why did they create art?

Archaeologists at Cambridge are experts in a wide range of time periods, from the Palaeolithic to present day, and work in many regions, from the UK and Europe through the Middle East and Asia to Australia and the Americas. The course includes theory, practice and in-depth study of a regional area or areas. The Archaeology Division also incorporates Assyriology and Egyptology (the study of the languages and cultures of ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia).

For further information about studying Archaeology, Assyriology or Egyptology at Cambridge, visit: [www.arch.cam.ac.uk](http://www.arch.cam.ac.uk).

## More information

To find out more about the HSPS course, please visit our website at [www.hsps.cam.ac.uk/undergraduate/](http://www.hsps.cam.ac.uk/undergraduate/).

To find out more about studying at Cambridge and the process of applying to the University, please look at the Undergraduate Study website: [www.study.cam.ac.uk/undergraduate/](http://www.study.cam.ac.uk/undergraduate/).

## What are the career prospects for graduates?

The HSPS course will help you develop a range of analytical and critical thinking skills. In addition you will develop intellectual versatility, multicultural sensitivity and international outlook. These skills are all highly valued by employers, meaning that our graduates have excellent career prospects.

While some recent graduates have undertaken further study, others have used their skills and knowledge to pursue careers in the Civil Service (including the Foreign Office), museums, conservation and heritage management, national and international NGOs and development agencies. Other popular careers include journalism, teaching, publishing, the Law, management consultancy, and public relations.

## Human, Social, and Political Sciences

[www.hsps.cam.ac.uk](http://www.hsps.cam.ac.uk)

Politics and  
International  
Relations

Sociology

Social  
Anthropology

Biological  
Anthropology

Archaeology