

# What is Anthropology?



Anthropology is the study of people, where they came from, how they live in different societies around the world and how they interact with their environment.

Anthropologists are interested in people everywhere – in people in Malta and all over the world. In all these cases, anthropologists are interested in how society works, how people live, what are their beliefs, customs, ideas, religions, myths, prejudices and aspirations. Anthropologists are also interested in how humans evolved, in the whole history of human development and in the more biological aspects of human society today, for example nutrition, genetic variation, resistance to diseases and adaptation to the environment (this is called **Biological Anthropology** as compared to **Social Anthropology**). In addition to social and biological anthropology, there is a growing number of sub-disciplines such as **Medical Anthropology** and **Environmental Anthropology**. Anthropology is distinct in that it straddles both the Humanities and the 'Hard Sciences'. It has been called the most scientific of the Humanities, and the most humanistic of the Sciences.

## Careers

Studying anthropology teaches people to think critically about their own society – to see it in relation to the many other cultures and societies there are in the world and to understand how it has come to be the way it is. Studying Anthropology is like studying mathematics without the numbers. Just as knowledge of mathematics gives you a core skill to apply to various contexts from astronomy to music to computing and engineering, studying anthropology gives a core skill to apply wherever humans are involved. It gives people a broad knowledge about the world,

about global politics, economic development, cultures and beliefs and an understanding of the realities of life in many countries. This isn't just useful for becoming a professional anthropologist! People with anthropology degrees have gone on to work in education, in government, diplomacy, advertising, NGOs, politics, international aid, museums, charities, health services, development, the media, organizations, and TV.