

Frequently Asked Questions from Prospective Participants in the Graduate Program in Anthropology

Questions are continuously being updated on this document

Any questions about the application should start by looking at the document:
<http://anthropology.uwo.ca/pdf/goodapplicationhints.pdf>

The above document contains information about the application form, letters of reference, the statement of interest, samples of written work, grades (and the calculation thereof), English equivalent tests, and resumes.

This document seeks to highlight some of the essential information needed by students who are considering offers to Western's Anthropology Graduate Program and thereby to address some of the most frequently asked questions.

General Questions...

Q. Where do I find information about the department?

A. <http://anthropology.uwo.ca>

Follow the 'People' link for information about our personnel and the 'Graduate Program' link for information about the graduate program.

Our Masters program is a two year program that consists of three terms per year. Fall term starts Sept. – Dec.; Winter term is Jan. – Apr.; and Summer term is May – Aug. Normally, you would take your required courses in the first year of the program. This will leave you to work on your Research & Thesis over the remainder of the program.

Q. Where do I find information about Graduate Studies at Western?

A. <http://grad.uwo.ca>

All graduate students are members of the School of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies. Thus, the SGPS web is the primary point of contact for information about graduate life at Western.

- <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Information about student life in general can be found at the Student Development Centre's web site.

Q. Where do I find information about Western in general?

A. <http://www.uwo.ca/>

There is a convenient "Western Web Sites Directory" link off the main page that lists all the major web sites alphabetically, permitting easy navigation around the University network. The "Western Directory" link allows you to obtain contact information for faculty and students.

Q. Where do I find information about London in general?

A. <http://www.london.ca/>

This web site is the City of London's official presence on the web, and provides lots of information about London. Potential residents may find the interactive map quite useful when looking into prospective rental properties.

Q. Is there a Brochure that can be mailed to me?

A. <http://anthropology.uwo.ca/gradappnew.html>

In an effort to become a more 'Green' environment, we have eliminated the hard copy of our brochure. With that said, all the information that was contained in this brochure can be found on our website under 'Information for Prospective Students'.

More specific questions...

INFORMATION

Q. I have a major in a discipline that isn't anthropology, but the web site says you will still consider applicants from other areas of study. How do I know if my background is considered to be sufficient for admission to the program?

A. The reason to have at least some anthropology courses as an undergraduate is to prepare you for the rigors of graduate level courses and to equip you with the theoretical and methodological background necessary to undertake research at the graduate level in the discipline of anthropology. We do consider applicants who have a degree in other disciplines, but we do look for at least some anthropology background.

The best way to start is to check out the undergraduate program modules that we have: http://anthropology.uwo.ca/uprog_modules.html and see what courses you have that might map onto the most appropriate module. Details of first year courses can be found at: <http://anthropology.uwo.ca/firstyear.html>. Details of courses currently being offered can be found at: <http://anthropology.uwo.ca/ucourselinks.html>. Basic calendar descriptions can be found at: <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2009/pg886.html>.

Students who have no anthropology background are generally encouraged to take a "qualifying year", where they pick up a suite of courses to bring them up to speed with the discipline. Note however that the completion of a qualifying year does not guarantee admission into the program.

Once you have compared your courses to the undergraduate modules, contact the [graduate chair](#) for more details. Please provide the [graduate chair](#) with a detailed description of your proposed program of study and how your previous program of studies or other experience has prepared you for that program of study. If possible, also indicate potential supervisors.

Q. Can I send documents through the mail?

A. Your supporting documents can certainly come separately. However, all documents must arrive by the deadline.

Q. Is there a graduate student association?

A. Yes - <http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/>

This is SOGS – the Society of Graduate Students. SOGS administers student health plans, a variety of financial assistance plans and represents the graduate students' interests to the administration of the University. Every department has a representative to SOGS.

Q. What about international students?

A. http://grad.uwo.ca/prospective_students/

This is the international student area on the SGPS web site.

- <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/int/>.

This from the 'Student Development Service' web site. In particular, they have a link to information about Visas and so on: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/int/>.

- One important difference between international students and Canadian nationals is that international students must enroll in the University Health Insurance Plan (UHIP). This is an additional charge per year.

FUNDING

Q. What is involved in a teaching assistantship?

A. Many of our graduate students are given TA assignments. TA duties for most of our courses involve attending lecture, holding office hours and grading coursework. In addition, TAs may be asked to prepare and present individual lectures, or parts of lectures. TA assignments are made in late August and late December for the subsequent terms. TAs are all considered to be employees of the University and are represented by the Graduate Teaching Assistant Union – the GTA. Information about the GTA and about other aspects of graduate student life can be found at: <http://www.uwo.ca/gtaunion/>

Q. Is there other funding available?

A. <http://anthropology.uwo.ca/gradfunding.html>

We try to fund all students who come into the program – international or domestic. Provided one has the requisite grades (at a minimum our grad school requires a 78% or more average over the last two years of undergraduate study) we currently offer grad student financial support in the form of TAs and sometimes RAs over the two years of our MA programme. A portion of this is from TAs or RAs (Teaching Assistantship or Research Assistantship)

and the rest is in the form of scholarships that basically offset tuition fees. We also can offer extra monies to support research to outstanding applicants. In fact, we will not admit any full-time student to our program for whom we cannot provide some degree of funding. If one has an external scholarship such as a SSHRC or Ontario Graduate Scholarship, we will not offer a TA but we will still offer scholarships to cover tuition fees and such.

For information on external funding, please try visiting the following sites:

- International Student Information: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/int/> (right side menu select Financial Assistance)
- Scholarships and Awards: <http://anthropology.uwo.ca/gradfunding.html>

There is no need to apply to our internal scholarships until after you have been accepted into our program.

Q. How will funding be paid out?

A. Your funding is distributed to you each year in the first month of each term.

- Western Graduate Research Scholarships are paid at the beginning of the first month of each term and is applied towards your tuition.
- For International students, tuition differential is paid at the beginning of the first month of each term and is applied towards your tuition.
- TA or RA funds are paid at the end of each month that you work. Typically, TA's work in the Fall and Winter terms only.

COSTS

Q. How much does it cost to live in London?

A. <http://www.uwo.ca/grad/documentation/cost%20of%20living.pdf>

This document is from the School of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies' web site.

Q. How much are the tuition fees?

A. <http://www4.registrar.uwo.ca/FinancialServices/Fees.cfm>

This is the registrar's office web site. Note that the actual fees for fall have not been set yet, and the recent deregulation of Ontario tuition fees means that tuition will rise. The exact amount is not yet known – but will probably be between 2% and 5%. Students must pay these fees in full at the beginning of each academic term.

Note: all dollar amounts are in Canadian dollars. Exchange rates can be found at:

<http://www.uwo.ca/finance/finexch/index.html>

Q. Where Can I Get More Information?

Dr. Andrew Nelson is the Graduate Chair for our graduate program until Dec. 31, 2009. Dr. Andrew Walsh begins his session of being the Graduate Chair on January 1, 2010.

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Ms. Diane Belleville is the Graduate Coordinator for the program

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In order to ensure you get a quick response, please direct your email inquiries to anthro-grad-office@uwo.ca. Your message will go to both the Grad Chair and Grad Coordinator.