



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

BSc Honours in Physical Anthropology

Faculty of Health Sciences

Fakulteit Gesondheidswetenskappe
Lefapha la Disaense tša Maphelo

2018



What is it all about?

Physical anthropology is an exciting field of research in South Africa. Every year, in Gauteng alone, approximately 5000 bodies are incinerated without a known identity, many of whom may be migrant labourers from other provinces and/or illegal immigrants. As many migrants are unlikely to access dental care or to return to the same hospital for follow-up treatment, the task of identification of an unknown person discovered in the veldt in Gauteng is difficult, and, at times, impossible. The current situation of unidentified persons in urban areas requires research into human variation of South African groups, with the need to create accurate and reliable biological profiles from skeletal remains. A biological profile, with assistance from the SAPS, provides basic information to family members who are seeking their missing relative; in doing so, other aspects of formulating a positive identification, namely ante-mortem dental records, fingerprints and DNA can be performed.

This hands-on program provides students with the knowledge and skills required to further pursue a career in academia or other public and private sectors in South Africa. Our research focuses on estimating ancestry and sex, age-at-death in juveniles as well as interpreting traumatic injury on skeletal remains. Both anthropological and archaeological methods are addressed regarding the recovery, analysis, treatment and storage of human remains.

For more information about the Forensic Anthropology Research Centre (FARC) scan the QR code or go to <https://www.up.ac.za/forensic-anthropology-research-centre-farc>.

How to apply?

Application deadlines: 12 October 2018

For applications: See the UP Website

Prerequisites for the course include:

An undergraduate degree (NQF level 7) in a biological or life sciences related field; a module in osteology.

Recommended: Anatomy, a module in Forensic or Physical Anthropology, and Palaeo-anthropology.

Prerequisites for UP students:

BSc Medical Sciences students: 65% for ANA 315

SA Archaeology students: Need to pass ANA 122 and ANA 215 and need 65% for ANA 315

A single-page writing sample expressing your interest in the course



Duration and nature of the course

The BSc Honours in Physical Anthropology is a 1-year full time course consisting of five main lecture/practical components:

Forensic Anthropology

- * Theory in Forensic Anthropology
- * Learn analytical techniques, discern between different taphonomic alterations and assess traumatic injuries to bone
- * Practical experience in archaeological methods for recovering skeletal remains
- * Work in a dedicated, well-equipped specialist laboratory (Forensic Anthropology Research Centre – FARC): receiving, processing and reporting of unidentified remains from the SAPS (Victim Identification Centre) and local forensic pathologists

Biological Anthropology

- * Theory in Biological Anthropology
- * Access to the Pretoria Bone and other skeletal collections for both education and research

Paleopathology

- * Theory in Paleopathology
- * Assess and provide differential diagnoses of possible bone pathology
- * Explore the health status of past populations

Research Methodology

- * Theory and Ethics in Medical/Basic Research
- * Construct seminars and presentations
- * Compile and execute a research project in Physical Anthropology

Statistics in Anthropology

- * Application of statistical analyses in Anthropological research
- * Interpret and discuss results of research in Physical Anthropology

Presenters of the course

Physical Anthropologists, Archaeologists and Anatomists are involved in presenting the course; the course leader is recognised both nationally and internationally in the discipline of forensic anthropology.

Contact details:

For more information, contact:

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