

Public Issues Anthropology: MA

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology is pleased to offer an MA in Public Issues Anthropology, with an emphasis on sociocultural anthropology. Our focus is on the interface between anthropological knowledge and issues crucial to governance, public discourse, livelihoods, civil society and contemporary public issues.

uoguelph.ca/piama

PROGRAM

Students may choose one of two study options:

- 1) Thesis and complete a minimum of 2.0 credits (4 courses)
- 2) Major research paper as part of 4.0 credits of coursework (6 courses and a 1.0 credit major paper)

Students are required to complete ANTH*6700 Pro-Seminar in their first two seminars.

RESEARCH AREAS

Our program draws on the expertise of anthropologists who conduct research on a wide range of public issues, including: migration, globalization, human rights, indigenous peoples' issues, climate change, environmental ethics, food, culinary and dietary practices, agriculture and rural livelihoods, families, disabilities, social inequalities, and the anthropology of development, One Health, conservation, and primate ecology.

Faculty ethnographic areas include Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, Latin America, Madagascar, and North America.

COLLABORATIVE SPECIALIZATIONS:

All of our areas of research can be combined with a specialization in International Development Studies or One Health.

Application Deadlines:

Fall Entry (September 2026):

OUAC Application Deadline – January 2, 2026

Required Documents Deadline – January 15, 2026



A market in Paraguay (photo by Dr. Elizabeth Finniss, Sociology & Anthropology)

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- A four-year honours degree in Anthropology will be preferentially considered
- Students with degrees in other programs including the natural sciences are encouraged to apply if their background aligns with the interests of existing faculty.
- Minimum B+ average over their last two years of academic study

FACULTY AND FACILITIES

There are currently 29 faculty, including 7 anthropologists, in our department. The Department maintains Blackwood Hall, Room 214, as a common study space for graduate students.

The department has a computer lab for the exclusive use of Sociology and Anthropology graduate students including research software such as NVivo, STATA and SPSS. Graduate students can obtain computing and statistical consulting from the Departmental Computer Coordinator and through Computer Services. Other computer facilities are available in the library, and ComputerServices.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN:

- Food and livelihoods
- Human Rights and Social Justice
- Families, Aging, or Disabilities
- Indigenous Peoples' Issues
- Environmental Issues
- Primate Conservation

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:

- Primary or Secondary School Teaching
- Health and Nutrition
- Law and Advocacy
- International Development
- Cultural and Natural Resource Management
- Conservation
- One Health

CONTACT INFORMATION

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