

Master's Program in Biology, Concentration Anthropology

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Department of Anthropology: Research into the Origins of Human Morphology and Behaviour

Work at the Department of Anthropology (or the “Anthropologisches Institut und Museum”; AIM) is aimed at understanding the origins and evolution of human morphology and behaviour. For both research areas we have a dual task. First, we need to identify the unique features of humans and reconstruct their evolutionary history. Second, we then need to develop explanations for these novel features based on general biological theories, built up from studies of living and fossil primates and other animals.

Master's Program

The consecutive Master's program in Biology, concentration Anthropology, contains lectures and courses on human evolution, evolutionary genetics, morphology and behaviour of primates, modelling, and history of the anthropological sciences. These modules can be complemented by a variety of modules from other Master concentrations such as Genetics and Development, Animal Behaviour, Systematics and Evolution, Palaeontology, or Evolutionary Linguistics.

The Master's program at the Department of Anthropology consists of:

- Course work
(20 ECTS points, see below)
- Master's thesis in Anthropology
(60 ECTS points, module **BIO508**, conducted over a 12-month period)
- General exam
(10 ECTS points, module **BIO 520** 'Integrated Knowledge in Biology')
- Two oral presentations

Supervisory Arrangements

MSc students at the AIM are supervised by two academic staff (professors, '*Wissenschaftliche Mitarbeitende*', post-docs). The principal supervisor must be entitled to supervise MSc thesis according to the regulations of the Faculty of Science and by AIM. Additional external supervisors can be added. The principal supervisor acts as the main contact and is responsible for the student's fulfilment of all academic requirements set by the AIM, the Division of Biology and the Faculty of Science. Both supervisors will be listed on the learning agreement. Apart from providing academic support, the second supervisor will provide independent assessment and marks for modules BIO508 and BIO520.

Learning Agreement and Course Work

MSc students and the principal supervisor agree on an individual course program before commencement of the Master's program. The Master's Program in Biology with concentration in Anthropology requires 20 credit points of course work. For AIM students, one *Blockkurs* in statistics (such as **BIO209**, if you did not take BIO144 *Datenanalyse in der Biologie*, or **BIO220**) and *Advanced Topics in Anthropology* (**BIO217**) are compulsory.

Copies of the learning agreement need to be submitted to and approved by the AIM Master Coordinator and the Academic Support Office (*Studienkoordination*) (https://www.biologie.uzh.ch/de/Studium/Masterstudium.html#Learning_Agreement).

Duration of Master's Program

The duration for the MSc program in the Department of Anthropology is 18-24 months (including course work, 'ramp-up time' and module BIO508). The duration of the MSc thesis project is one year (full time). A written request for extension in case of unexpected, exceptional circumstances beyond personal control needs to be lodged with and approved by the MSc Coordinator not later than 2 months prior to the submission date stated in the learning agreement, and if granted also has to be approved by the Academic Support Office.

If an optional minor of 30 ECTS is chosen, the total duration of the MSc program is prolonged by approximately 1-2 semesters. Minor modules must be done outside the thesis project year. A minor can be added or dropped during the MSc program.

Introductory and Final Oral Presentation

MSc students are required to give both an introductory and a final presentation of their work at our Anthropological Project Report Colloquium (**BIO549**). Both seminars will be graded by the supervisors. The sign-up sheet can be found in Microsoft Teams (BIO 549: Sign-up Sheet Anthropological Project Reports). Enquiries can be directed to the study advisor of the AIM, Tony Weingrill (tonyw@aim.uzh.ch).

Project Proposal and Master's Thesis

Prior to commencing the practical component, a project proposal including a literature review, has to be written. Primary supervisor and student agree on the scope of the proposal.

Generally, an MSc thesis at the AIM can be written in a classical format (50-60 pages) or as a manuscript for publication in an international scientific journal. The format and scope will be agreed upon with the primary supervisor.

After completion of the MSc thesis, students are expected to hand in four hard copies at the AIM administration office (one for each examiner and two for the AIM). An additional copy has to be handed in personally at the Academic Support Office (*Studienkoordination*). An electronic copy is to be submitted to the study advisor of the AIM and the Academic Support Office (*Studienkoordination*). The final mark of the MSc will be determined by the principal and the co-supervisor, who both act as examiners of the MSc thesis.

Field Work

If you plan to conduct fieldwork, please contact Tony Weingrill (tonyw@aim.uzh.ch) to obtain and sign the proper forms ("Field Trip Waiver") at least 4 months in advance. Your supervisor will go through the forms with you in detail. One copy of the form has to be forwarded to the AIM Administrative Office (zebib@aim.uzh.ch) at least one month in advance. MSc students who undertake fieldwork are expected to have their own health, travel, and accident insurance while in the field. Furthermore, means to organise potential emergency repatriation need to be in place.

Admission Procedures

UZH students and students from other Swiss universities:

UZH biology students interested in carrying out their MSc work at the AIM are expected to apply directly to any senior AIM academic staff member (including postdocs). Biology students from other Swiss universities must apply at UZH first.

International students:

Detailed information for the admission of international students for a Master's program in Biology at UZH can be found at <https://www.uzh.ch/cmsssl/en/studies/application/master.html>. For questions, the admissions office of UZH must be contacted.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Many international students are required to complete additional course work (conditions) in a preparatory phase before they are admitted to undertake their MSc program at the UZH. Thus, international students can commence the Master's program at the AIM only if all admission requirements from UZH plus any additional stipulations by the AIM have been fulfilled. Arrangements (flights, accommodation etc.) should only be made after any potential additional course work at UZH has been identified and the enrolment in the Master's program has been confirmed by the UZH admission office. Please contact the Academic Support Office (Studienkoordination) Biology immediately after the receipt of the admission letter to obtain important information about planning your studies (studienkoordination@biol.uzh.ch).

Registration Process

Registration for the Master's program in Biology

Students who have successfully completed their Bachelor's degree course in Biology can continue their studies by choosing the consecutive Master's program in Biology (application for a direct entry via the semester enrolment).

Additional information for students with a Bachelor's degree from another university than the UZH (Swiss and international students)

- Online application form: http://www.uzh.ch/studies/application/master_en.html
- Proficiency in English is expected
- Note the extremely early application deadline if a visa for Switzerland is required. The online application for the MSc program in Biology costs CHF 100.- and should be completed as early as possible, as it may take months to be processed. Check the following web site for more information:
- http://www.uzh.ch/studies/application/master_en.html

- After formal admission, and after payment fees, students receive a student ID and Uni-Access number with password. These numbers are required to register for courses, so they should be obtained at least two months before starting your studies (*i.e.* mid July to start in September).
- Courses need to be registered in advance online. If registration dates are missed, studies may take up to a year longer.
- For any questions after admittance into the UZH Master's program in Biology, the study advisor of the department, Tony Weingrill (tonyw@aim.uzh.ch) should be contacted.

Useful Links

Ongoing projects and research groups at the Department of Anthropology:

<http://www.aim.uzh.ch>

<http://www.biologie.uzh.ch/Studium/Masterstudium/MasterStudies/Anthropology.html>

Biology curriculum:

<https://www.biologie.uzh.ch/de/Studium/Masterstudium.html>

<http://www.biologie.uzh.ch/Studium/AllgemeineInformationen/Wegleitung.html> (only available in German)

List of courses and lectures at UZH:

<https://courses.uzh.ch>

For current overview of all courses and lectures, select:

Faculty of Science, Master of Science Faculty of Science, Study Program Biology, Anthropology.

Guidelines for Anthropology Students and Supervisors

- Contact your (intended) supervisor and send him/her an application letter containing your CV, and copy of your Bachelor degree (please note supervisors are not obliged to accept you as their student). However, to choose a supervisor and be accepted by him/her, you should have at least successfully completed one lecture or course with him/her. Thus, we advise students from abroad to start with a variety of courses and lectures in their first term, but already to attend colloquia and the journal club within the Department of Anthropology. Please note that this might prolong the total duration of your Master's studies, depending on your previous knowledge and project of choice.
- When you have agreed with a supervisor on the research topic of the Master's thesis, register as a student at the Administrative Office of the department (zebib@aim.uzh.ch). The Administrative Office will issue an office key and will program access to the Department on your UZH-card. Ideally, the start of the Master's project should coincide with the beginning of the spring or fall semester.
- Sign the learning agreement, have it signed by the Master's coordinator and both supervisors, and then submit it to the Academic Support Office (*Studienkoordination Biologie*) (https://www.biologie.uzh.ch/de/Studium/Masterstudium.html#Learning_Agreement). The start and end dates of the Master's project have to be specified in the learning agreement. Usually, the duration of the Master's thesis is one year. However, if work on the thesis is interrupted by one or more block courses, a corresponding extension of the duration is possible and should be noted in the learning agreement in advance. Please be aware that projects involving fieldwork, especially abroad, may take more preparation time before the actual start of the research due to visa and other paperwork. Under these special

circumstances, the Master's coordinator can approve a delayed submission of the learning agreement no longer than 6 months after the start of the research project.

- At the end of the project, MSc students are obliged to make all raw data available to their supervisors.

Regulations concerning BIO 520 *Integrated Knowledge in Biology*

- This final exam takes place within 2 months after handing in the thesis. It comprises a 3-hour written exam and a 30 - 60minute oral exam on the same day. The written exam includes up to six questions (each question can comprise of several sub-questions) from all supervisors. The supervisors and if required the MSc coordinator will conduct the oral exam.
- Examination material for all MSc students at AIM will be the latest edition of Boyd & Silk 'How Humans Evolved' plus a second text book or a collection of research papers that will be arranged with the principal supervisor.
- The introductory and final talks are integrated into the mark of the final master exam. Students should preferably give their final talks before submitting their thesis; however, they must give the talk three weeks after submitting their thesis at the latest. Talks need to be presented during the semester.

Ongoing Projects and Research Groups

Below is a list of group leaders and researchers that can serve as supervisors of Master's projects.

Group Prof. Dr. Michael Krützen (michael.kruetzen@aim.uzh.ch):

Evolutionary genetics and genomics, and behavioural ecology

Group Prof. Dr. Andrea Migliano

Prof. Andrea Migliano (andrea.migliano@uzh.ch)

Comparative behaviour of hunter-gatherer populations

Dr. Lucio Vinicius (lucio.vinicius@aim.uzh.ch):

Hunter-gatherer networks

Group Prof. Dr. Judith Burkart (judith.burkart@aim.uzh.ch):

Primate cognition and behaviour

Group Prof. Dr. Kathelijne Koops (kathelijne.koops@uzh.ch)

African ape behaviour and ecology

Group Prof. Dr. Christoph Zollikofer: (zolli@aim.uzh.ch)

Computer-assisted palaeoanthropology, morphology

Dr. Colin Shaw (colin.shaw@uzh.ch)

Human physiology and ecology

Dr. Erik Willems (e.willems@aim.uzh.ch):

Social evolution and spatial ecology of (primarily) vervet monkeys

Dr. Tony Weingrill (tonyw@aim.uzh.ch):

Primate behaviour and socioendocrinology