

Graduate Information Session

October 28, 2026

Anthropology Department



Territory acknowledgement

We acknowledge and respect the Ləkʷəŋən (Songhees and Xwsepsəm/Esquimalt) Peoples on whose territory the university stands, and the Ləkʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ Peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

Hosts

- **Dr. Daromir Rudnyckyj:** Professor & Graduate advisor
- **Jindra Belanger:** Graduate & Undergraduate program assistant
- Current graduate student(s): Lydia Toorenburgh & Ryan Potter
 - Check out our current (and recently graduated) [student profiles](#)

Our anthropology graduate programs



MA or PhD

- Directly in Anthropology
 - ✓ Applications reviewed/final approval made by the ANTH graduate committee
- With concentration in CSPT (Cultural, Social and Political Thought)
 - ✓ Final approval for the concentration made by the CSPT admissions committee
- With freestanding certificate in Indigenous Nationhood (IN)
 - ✓ You apply separately for this
- In interdisciplinary studies (with ANTH as home department)
 - ✓ Applications reviewed/final approval made by the INTD admissions committee

Four integrative research areas

- Evolution & Ecology
- Space, Place, Knowledge and Power
- Culture, Health and Inequality
- Visual Anthropology and Materiality

Evolution and Ecology



This research theme connects the traditional subfields of archaeology and biological anthropology to address questions of how humans and non-human primates relate to their environments over both short and long-term time scales.

[Learn more: Evolution and ecology](#)

Space, Place, Knowledge and Power



This research theme works across anthropological and archaeological approaches to see the significance of social spaces, meaningful places and the situated nature of knowledge, through ideas of belonging, cultural landscapes, displacement, borders, land tenure, and built environments—in shaping human life.

[Learn more: Space, place, knowledge and power](#)

Culture, Health and Inequality



This research theme recognizes the significance of understanding the role of social inequality and cultural interpretations in shaping human experience and addressing pressing global issues.

[Learn more: Culture, health & inequality](#)

Visual Anthropology and Materiality



This research theme connects the work of visual and cultural anthropologists with archaeologists who are investigating human visual communication and the cultural effects of the production, circulation and consumption of images and objects.

[Learn more: Visual Anthropology and materiality](#)

Application process



- Deadline for all applications - January 15
 - Online portal opens in September
- Frequently asked application questions available on our website
 - www.uvic.ca/socialsciences/anthropology/graduate/apply/index.php
- Applications are first submitted to Graduate Admissions and Records Office (GARO), reviewed by them and only then forwarded to our department for decision

Choosing a supervisor

- Contacting a supervisor not required, but strongly encouraged
 - ✓ Find out faculty with similar research interest and reach out
 - ✓ Links to faculty profiles:
 - Quick overview of expertise (filter by department)
 - www.uvic.ca/research-innovation/our-researchers/find-a-uvic-expert/index.php
 - Full faculty profile
 - www.uvic.ca/socialsciences/anthropology/faculty-staff/index.php

*NOTE: Supervisor's agreement to take you on
does not guarantee your acceptance into the program*



Funding

- Anthropology department funding (varies)
 - ✓ TA positions (dependent on availability)
 - ✓ Graduate awards and fellowships (based on UVic guidelines – e.g. we can recommend students with low GPA)
 - ✓ Individual faculty grants (dependent on faculty)
- UVic awards and fellowships
 - ✓ Emails/opportunities shared with our current grad students
- External funding
 - ✓ Opportunities shared with our current grad students via email
- Emergency funding
 - ✓ Through SAFA (Student Awards and Financial Aid) office



Decisions

We do our best to notify students by the end of March or beginning of April.



Time to completion

- MA - 2 years
 - 1st year – coursework (min. 5 courses)
 - 2nd year – research & thesis
- PhD - 4 years
 - 2 year residency – coursework (min. 4-5 courses)
 - 3rd – 4th year – research & dissertation



For more detailed timeline see the [graduate handbook](#) (pages 31-33)

FAQs

- Can I apply before I complete my previous degree?
 - Yes – you just need to complete your previous degree before September
- How is admission determined?
 - Admissions decisions are based on a variety of factors:
 - ✓ the applicant's scholarly promise as evidenced by transcripts
 - ✓ statement of interest, letters of recommendation and written work
 - ✓ availability of faculty to supervise the applicant's research
 - ✓ number of students currently enrolled in the program
- How many students usually apply and how many are accepted?
 - We receive between 30-50 applications per year
 - We accept between 10-15 applicants per year
- How many grad students are currently in the program?
 - 44 (29 MA & 17 PhD)



Student questions from info sessions



- How does a 1-year MA program compare to UVic's program?
 - These programs tend to be course-based with no research component, so may not prepare you for a PhD
 - They may prepare you for job = good option if you don't wish to go on to do PhD
 - Best to contact the department offering those programs and ask them directly
- What do you think of completing all your degrees at the same university?
 - Understandable especially in today's world (given the high cost of living/moving)
 - Advise against three degrees (undergraduate, MA & PhD) from one school, but two are probably OK
- Can you take a year off between undergraduate and graduate school?
 - Yes –stay in touch with your potential supervisor and/or faculty who you want to write reference letters so they remember you. Also apply for the CGS-M and CGS-D (SSHRC or NSERC funding) in the fall before you start
- What if English is not my 1st language
 - English is the language of instruction at UVic. You must demonstrate English language proficiency to attend UVic.
 - More on exceptions and acceptable proof here: www.uvic.ca/graduate/admissions/language-proficiency/index.php
- Can I go from MA directly into PhD before finishing MA?
 - No, we do not allow that in our department (it is mostly US universities that allow that).

Student questions from info sessions (cont.)



- I don't have previous degree from ANTH? Can I still apply to ANTH?
 - As per our academic calendar *"Applicants will normally be required to have completed a baccalaureate and/or master's degree in Anthropology at recognized academic institutions"* – however – if you have a good reason to be switching from your area of expertise to anthropology make it clear in your letter of statement. You might be asked to take some extra anthropology classes, but we have students who are coming to us from various backgrounds.
- What if I need a visa?
 - If you are an international student apply for visa EARLY as this process can take very long time
 - Our department is not allowed to advise you on this, but we strongly recommend you check out this webpage for international graduate students: www.uvic.ca/graduate/info-for/international-students/index.php
- What is my GPA?
 - Your GPA is calculated not by our office, but by GARO. More on their process here: www.uvic.ca/graduate/admissions/admission-requirements/calculating-gpa-for-graduate-admissions/index.php#ipn-calculating-gpa-for-graduate-admission
- Is there support for indigenous and/or international students?
 - Yes – there are recruit officers that can provide support:
 - International Centre for Students: <https://www.uvic.ca/international-experiences> (see contacts to meet recruit officers)
 - Indigenous students: www.uvic.ca/graduate/info-for/indigenous-students

Graduate Handbook
Anthropology Department
University of Victoria
2025-2026

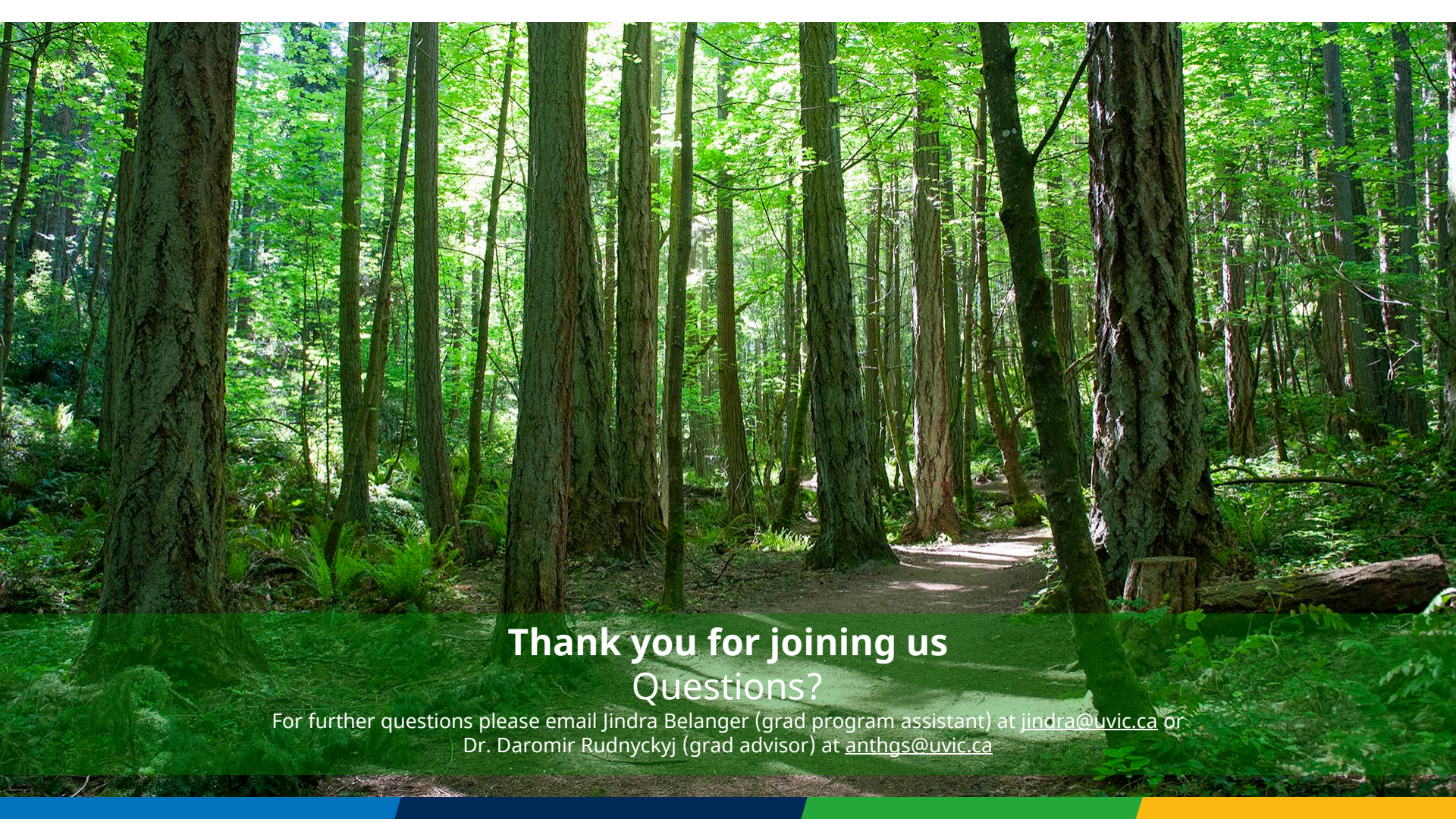


LAST UPDATED: SEPTEMBER 2025



Group of ANTH graduate students enjoying an excursion to Ruckle Provincial Park, Salt Spring Island, BC

For more details of our graduate program
please check out our [graduate handbook](#)



Thank you for joining us
Questions?

For further questions please email Jindra Belanger (grad program assistant) at jindra@uvic.ca or
Dr. Daromir Rudnyckyj (grad advisor) at anthgs@uvic.ca